

## **FY 2022-2023 Byrne State Crisis Intervention Program (SCIP) – Behavioral Health Deflection**

Department: Treatment Services

Program to be served by grant: Hall County Drug Court

Grant Solicitation Release Date: September 13, 2024

Grant Application Deadline: October 18, 2024

Total Budget Request: \$26,000

Match Requirement: None required

Project Total: \$26,000

### **Project Description**

Treatment Services is the umbrella agency that encompasses all the accountability court programs in the Northeastern Judicial Circuit (Hall and Dawson counties). Our circuit currently operates multiple accountability court programs in Hall County (Drug Court, Mental Health Court, Family Treatment Court and DUI Court), and operates a multi-track treatment court program in Dawson County with 4 distinct tracks (drug track, mental health track, family treatment court track, and DUI track). Between all our accountability court programs, we currently serve over 600 participants with treatment and drug testing services offered 7 days per week. Treatment Services also operates a full-time drug testing lab which analyzes over 50,000 drug screens per year.

Nearly all participants in our drug court and mental health court have been involved in serious felony crimes relating to their mental health and substance use. Our programs accept referrals for violent crimes involving domestic violence, assault, and possession of firearms where substance use and mental health are a contributing factor. Our programs boast an 80% retention rate which demonstrates our commitment to retaining participants in treatment to help reduce the chances of them becoming further involved with violent crime and criminal behavior.

Research continues to indicate that peer services are instrumental in reducing substance use, criminal justice involvement, recidivism, hospitalization rates, housing instability, while improving retention, and engagement in overall treatment. The Georgia CARES Peer Support program runs recovery groups using “Partners for Change Outcome Management System” an evidence-based practice recognized by SAMHSA to conduct recovery check-ins by supporting peers and assessing recovery capital using motivational interviewing skills to enhance the peer relationship.

We are seeking funding to provide peer support services to our Hall County program participants to strengthen our continuing care planning in the final phase of the program or aftercare. We have established a partnership and MOU with J’s Place Recovery, our local RCO to fund CARES peer support services to help promote long-term recovery from substance use for our participants. These peer support individuals will assist our courts with recovery coaching, aftercare planning, case management, support services within our community, and assist us with establishing and maintaining an active alumni group.

### **Needs Statement**

Our programs could greatly benefit from additional services of certified peer recovery specialists to encourage long-term community recovery support services. By partnering with our local RCO, we will be able to provide enhanced services to our participants and help them build connections with individuals who have a shared lived-experience and who can help them navigate struggles in their recovery journey. For these services, we would request funding for 20 hours of peer recovery services per week, provided by the RCO. Peer services would include aftercare planning, recovery coaching, facilitate peer-lead groups, and coordinating alumni support services.

### **Project Goals**

1. Successfully incorporate peer services into wider operation of all our Hall County accountability court programs. Having the ability to connect our participants to peer services will increase the likelihood of long-term recovery support, reduce involvement in criminal behavior and violent crime, and reduce recidivism. Our long-term vision for peer services is to expand our partnership with our RCO to devote a full-time peer recovery coach to work with our programs for operational sustainability.

### **Project Activities and Services**

Funding will support access to peer recovery resources for our accountability participants for approximately 20 hours per week as agreed with our local RCO. We are requesting funding totaling \$26,000 which will cover 20 hours of services per week at \$25.00 per hour for 52 weeks.

### **Resources Needed**

Funding is needed to strategically incorporate and integrate peer support into the fabric of our accountability court programs as a vital component of our services.