

## **FY 2023 BJA Language Access and Screening Tool Application**

Department: Treatment Services

Program to be served by grant: Hall County DUI Court

Grant Solicitation Release Date: January 13, 2025

Grant Application Deadline: February 27, 2025

Total Budget Request: \$94,646

Match Requirement: 25% using CACJ state-funded case manager salary

Project Total: \$

### **Project Description**

#### Category 1: Language Access

Treatment Services is the umbrella agency that encompasses all of 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 580 active 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 53,000 drug screens per year.

The Hall County DUI Court program currently has an active census of 77 participants and has been in operation since 2003. We currently have one Coordinator who manages the general operations of the program and one Case Manager who maintains the entire DUI Court caseload. The Case Manager is responsible for facilitating regular case management meetings with participants, tracking participant progress, data collection, data dissemination, and accurate and timely maintenance of court spreadsheets. We are requesting funding for a part-time bilingual case manager position to assist with our increasing number of Spanish-speakers in DUI Court. In 2024, we saw an 11% increase in our Hispanic/Latino population and this demographic now makes up 44% of our total active census. Spanish is the primary language for 17% of our program participants. Without adequate bilingual support, these participants often face significant barriers to understanding and fully participating in their treatment plans, court proceedings, and case management services. This position will play a crucial role in ensuring that non-English speaking participants have equitable access to essential services and support as they work through the DUI Court program. Additionally, we are requesting funding for Spanish-language materials, such as translating our participant handbook into Spanish. We wish to incorporate Spanish curriculum workbooks and a Spanish-speaking trauma skills treatment group to ensure these participants receive the same quality of information and support as their English-speaking counterparts.

### **Needs Statement**

Our program could greatly benefit from bilingual services to support our ever-increasing population of Hispanic/Latino individuals. Recent census data shows that 30% of the population in Gainesville, Georgia (Hall County) is Hispanic/Latino, yet our agency does not have the necessary resources to adequately ensure the success of these ethnic groups. Funding for a part-time bilingual case manager will significantly enhance the Hall County DUI Court program's ability to serve all participants effectively. This funding will ensure that Spanish-speaking individuals are provided with the tools, resources, and support they need to succeed in their rehabilitation efforts, leading to improved outcomes for both the participants and the community.

Funding for a bilingual case manager and materials in Spanish for the Hall County DUI Court program would remove unnecessary barriers and ensure all program participants have an equal opportunity to succeed. Language-accessible services will reduce drop-out rates and improve long-term recovery outcomes by ensuring that participants receive ongoing support tailored to their needs.

### **Project Goals**

1. Implement a part-time bilingual DUI Court case manager for 28 hours per week to work with our Spanish-speaking population which currently makes up 17% of our program.
2. Professionally translate our 36-page English-only version of the DUI Court participant handbook into Spanish. By accurately translating the handbook, we can ensure participants are receiving clear instructions regarding program participation to reduce the likelihood of confusion or misunderstandings that could potentially lead to sanctions.
3. Incorporate Spanish Hazelden – A New Direction workbooks for participants.
4. Facilitate a Spanish-speaking Seeking Safety trauma group one time per week to ensure that our Spanish-speaking population has access to trauma curriculum in their native language to promote greater participation and engagement in treatment.

### **Project Activities and Services**

Funding will support one part-time bilingual case manager at a pay rate of \$24.67/hour for 28 hours per week for two years, which totals \$71,839. FICA costs for two years = \$5,496

Funding will also support professional translation services of the 36-page Hall County DUI Court participant handbook at a cost of \$0.10 per word, which totals \$915.

Funding will cover the cost of 80 Spanish-language workbooks from the Hazelden – A New Direction curriculum. At a cost of \$9.95 per workbook, we would order 20 workbooks each of Drug and Alcohol Education workbook, Criminal and Addictive Thinking workbook, Socialization workbook, and Relapse Prevention workbook, which totals \$796.

Funding will allow us to incorporate a Spanish-speaking Seeking Safety trauma group for our Spanish-speaking population since we currently do not have any trauma-related treatment options for this demographic. We would pay a Spanish-speaking facilitator \$150 for one group per week for 104 weeks, which totals \$15,600.

### **Resources Needed**

Funding is needed to strategically incorporate Spanish-speaking resources into the fabric of our accountability court programs to ensure that all participants have equal access to quality recovery services. Funding for this project would help us bridge our current language and cultural gaps, ultimately leading to a more effective and inclusive program.