

Georgia Opioid Crisis Abatement Trust Grant Application – Treatment Services

Hall County, Georgia

Northeastern Judicial Circuit

June 2025



APPLICATION INFORMATION:

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Organization Name	Hall County Treatment Services
Organization Address	2318 Browns Bridge Rd Gainesville, GA 30504
Organization Phone Number	770-718-5710
Organization Website	https://www.nejcga.gov/accountability/page/treatment-services-court-programs
Organization TIN	58-6000836
Organization Business Type	Local Government - Treatment Provider

CORE STRATEGY: CATEGORY Treatment

APPROVED USE

Treatment for Criminal-Justice-Involved Individuals

Treatment services and strategies for early diversion for individuals with OUD who are incarcerated or have criminal justice involvement.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Treatment Services is the agency that oversees the accountability court programs in the Northeastern Judicial Circuit (Hall and Dawson Counties). Hall County Drug Court began in 2001 as the first accountability court program in our circuit with H.E.L.P. (MHC), DUI, Family Treatment, REACT, Parental Accountability and Veterans Courts following throughout the years. As an agency, Treatment Services provides direct case management, clinical treatment, and judicial oversight to individuals whose involvement in the criminal justice system is in direct relation to substance use or mental/behavioral health disorders. Studies show that over 20 million American adults suffer from substance use disorders with another 43+ million suffering from mental health issues. Incarceration rates for individuals with SUD are markedly high with 65% of all US inmates meeting criteria for SUD. With over \$89 billion dollars spent on incarceration in the United States annually, this trend is one that accountability courts fight to remedy.

The Northeastern Judicial Circuit is home to the largest accountability court network in the State and serving approximately 900 individuals in 2024. Our programs experienced a 9.3% increase in total individuals served from 2023, indicating a continued increase in demand for substance abuse treatment in the courts. In 2024, our retention rate was 83.4% with a total of 170 individuals graduating from our programs. Based on an economic impact study conducted by the Council of Accountability Court Judges and Carl Vinson Institute, each graduate of a felony accountability court program equates to a cost-savings of \$25,921 to the State of Georgia. When we combine this figure with the cost-savings of community service work performed by our participants, our circuit contributed over \$3.53M in positive economic impact in calendar year 2024. Treatment Services provides over 6,000 hours of treatment annually through individual and group therapeutic sessions with additional hours spent on direct case management, peer services, and supplemental resource linkage. All in all, our agency serves as one of the largest treatment providers in our region and is the top referral source to partnering agencies such as our local Community Service Board, Avita Community Partners, healthcare systems, ARSC, and local residential treatment centers.

Our circuit has a history of innovative approaches and collaboration with local stakeholders, and we continually strive to offer services and reduce barriers to treatment to as many of our citizens in need as possible. Unfortunately, despite our history of work in our circuit, Hall and Dawson counties continue to experience significant impacts related to opioid use over the past several years. As noted in the Gap Analysis Continuum of Care report, Hall County not only experienced the largest average annual growth rate of 44.5% from 2018 to 2022, but we also experienced one of the largest total numbers of opioid-related deaths in Region 1 in 2022. Grant funding will allow our agency to expand its services and continue to provide vital interventions which are so desperately needed in our region. Hall County did receive funding in the first round of applications from the trust, but the opioid crisis persists as evidenced by our increase in program census. We have identified four specific areas of need which qualify for funding through the Georgia Opioid Crisis Abatement Trust and are outlined in the narrative below.

Demonstrated Need #1 – Other - Transportation

Reliable transportation can be a lifeline for people in recovery. It ensures they can consistently attend support meetings, therapy sessions, court sessions, medical appointments, and work, all of which are crucial for stability and long-term healing. Without dependable transportation, a participant might have difficulty with the structured nature of an accountability court. These challenges are most likely to disproportionately impact those that are economically disadvantaged and those with the least resources. Compounding this, some participants may have lost their ability to provide their own transportation. Recent criminal history and substance abuse can contribute to such circumstances, creating a cycle that is difficult to break.

Collaboration - Transportation

We are proposing that Treatment Services partner with a local transportation agency to provide access to reliable transportation throughout Hall County. WeGo was initially created by Hall Area Transit as a public ride share app to serve the City of Gainesville, the county seat of Hall County. In 2021, the service was expanded to provide public transit for all of Hall County. Participants in Hall County accountability courts are required to reside within Hall County limits. Partnering with WeGo would effectively allow the program to ensure any program participants most likely to be at risk of transportation issues would not have their recovery hindered by limited mobility. This access will decrease the risk of relapse due to disrupted treatment and increase the likelihood of success.

Workplan and Deliverables – Transportation

Treatment Services will work with WeGo to secure ride share vouchers to provide for those participants with the least resources. During the program, participants provide income verification and employment data. Currently, Hall County Treatment Services participant data shows an active census of almost 600 program participants. Treatment services seeks to provide those in the lowest 10% of income with a \$25 transportation voucher per month. This will not cover all transportation costs for these participants, but it will give them a resource in times that other methods of transportation are not available to them. This will reduce the likelihood of a relapse for those who may otherwise miss appointments in times of hardship. It may also give increased access to other resources that a participant may forego, such as medical appointments.

Budget Description - Transportation

WeGo will provide ride share transportation services to our program participants.

- A \$25 voucher will be purchased for 60 participants each month = \$1500
- This \$1500 per month transportation voucher allowance would run the full 24 month award period = \$36000

Total Request Transportation: \$36000

Demonstrated Need #2 - Training

Proper training for those working in accountability courts is essential because these specialized courts handle cases involving individuals who need support beyond traditional legal consequences. Whether focused on drug recovery, mental health treatment, or veteran assistance, accountability courts are designed to reduce recidivism and promote rehabilitation. Without sufficient training, staff including judges, attorneys, case managers, and program coordinators, may struggle to implement evidence-based practices effectively. Training ensures that professionals understand addiction science, mental health disorders, trauma-informed approaches, and alternative sentencing options. This knowledge allows them to make informed decisions, provide appropriate resources, and create supportive environments that encourage recovery. Additionally, training helps court personnel recognize bias, avoid stigmatization, and maintain ethical standards.

Treatment Services employs 56 full and part-time professionals working directly with individuals whose criminal justice involvement is directly related to substance use and/or mental/behavioral health diagnosis. In addition to our direct hires, our agency is comprised of the various accountability court teams which each consist of professionals from the judiciary, legal community, law enforcement, community supervision, and others. We strive to provide ongoing training and education to all staff associated with our programs to ensure compliance with Best Practices, increase knowledge of current trends, and overall professional development.

Collaboration – Training

The All Rise Conference is the world’s premier event focused on addiction, mental health, and justice innovation. It brings together thousands of professionals, including judges, attorneys, treatment providers, and social service experts to explore solutions for individuals impacted by substance use and mental health disorders within the justice system. RISE offers hundreds of training sessions, continuing education credits, and networking opportunities, making it a vital resource for those working in accountability courts and related fields. The conference covers topics such as risk assessment, evidence-based interventions, and community supervision strategies.

Workplan and Deliverables – Training

By attending the All Rise conference staff will receive 24 hours of continuing education on the most up to date trends and best practices in the operation of accountability courts.

Budget Description - Training

- Training and registration fees for 10 accountability court staff \$1850 per person = \$18,500
- This request is for both years in the award period = \$37,000

Total Request Training: \$37000

Demonstrated Need #3 – Equipment

Telehealth has improved substance abuse treatment by increasing accessibility and convenience for individuals seeking recovery. Many people face barriers to treatment and providing a remote option can increase tools to serve those struggling with addiction. While treatment planning for long-term recovery will likely always lean heavily on in-person treatment, virtual care can provide another way to overcome obstacles that may prevent in-person appointments. It can enable treatment providers to meet with program participants in some situations that may not otherwise be possible. By integrating digital solutions with traditional methods, telehealth increases flexibility, privacy, and engagement, making it a powerful tool in substance abuse recovery.

Workplan and Deliverables – Equipment

Treatment Services will use funding to equip two small group rooms with audio visual equipment that will allow treatment staff to meet virtually with participants and/or other partner agency staff that contribute to the successful treatment of opioid use disorder. This will facilitate telehealth as a tool when appropriate and may also facilitate improved staffing among partners to create better outcomes.

Budget Description - Equipment

- 2 \$800 Displays = \$1600
- 2 \$5000 Logitech Rally Bar Cameras = \$10000
- 2 \$750 Logitech Rally microphones, mounts, and cables = \$1500
- 2 \$400 iPads = \$800
- 2 \$600 annual subscriptions to Zoom for the rooms = \$1200 (x2 years in award period = \$2400)

Total Request Equipment: \$16,300

Demonstrated Need #4 – Personnel – Program/Project Staff

The REACT Drug Court Track is an innovative partnership between Hall County Treatment Services, the Department of Community Supervision and the Department of Corrections. The REACT Track targets high-risk offenders who are returning from the state prison system and is designed to assist participants with community and recovery resources, as well as enhanced structure and accountability as they reach probation/parole status through DCS. This program facilitates improved transitions from state inmates to productive community members by better preparing participants to confront the challenges formerly incarcerated individuals face. REACT is an existing project that has seen positive results. This program supports individuals that may not otherwise be eligible for treatment through a traditional accountability court, but that exhibit a significant need to address substance use disorders, such as Opioid Use Disorder. The program previously received limited term grant funding through an innovation grant to support a full-time counselor position. That funding is no longer available, but the need to provide treatment and support to this high-risk population persists.

Collaboration – Personnel – Program/Project Staff

The REACT Drug Court Track is an innovative partnership between Hall County Treatment Services, the Department of Community Supervision and the Department of Corrections.

Workplan and Deliverables – Personnel – Program/Project Staff

Hall County Treatment Services requests funding for a full-time counselor to serve the needs of the REACT program, to include salary and benefits. At any time, this program can serve between 30 and 40 high risk individuals that have significant criminal histories and substance use disorders. These individuals represent some of the greatest need for support to ensure substance abuse, including the abuse of opiates, is treated, thereby allowing them to transition back into a productive life in society. The organization is otherwise equipped to operate this program, to include judicial support, existing policy structure and workflows, and other infrastructure.

Budget Description - Personnel – Program/Project Staff

- Salary for one full-time counselor (\$56640) for the two-year award period = \$113,280
- Benefits for one full-time counselor (\$37167) for the two-year award period = \$74337

Total Request - Personnel – Program/Project Staff: \$187,614

Total Project Request: \$276,914

Disclosures

Is the organization an existing provider with DBHDD?	Yes
Has the organization previously applied for funds through GA Opioid Crisis Abatement Trust?	Yes
Is the organization on the Excluded Provider List?	No
Does the organization have an ongoing Corrective Action Plan (CAP) related to opioid funds?	No
Is there any personal health information and/or private personal information in the application?	No
Does the organization have any conflicts of interest with major pharmaceutical distributors, to include McKesson, Cardinal Health, Cencora, Janssen Inc., or Johnson & Johnson?	No