

2027 Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) for Prisoners in Local Correctional and Detention Facilities

- A. Sub-grantee Agency: Hall County, Georgia**
- B. Type of RSAT program: Hall County Correctional Institute Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Program (RSAT)**
- C. Address: P.O Drawer 1435, Gainesville, GA 30503**
- D. Municipality/Counties Served: Hall County serving municipalities- Gainesville, Oakwood, Flowery Branch, Lula, Clermont, Gillsville and Dawson County serving municipalities - Dawsonville.**
- E. Populations: Hall County and Dawson County Correctional Institute eligible inmates identified by assessment**
- F. Congressional District: 7th and 9th Districts**
- G. Financial Contact: Director of Financial Services, Taylor Samples
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Program Narrative: Statement of Problem:

The Hall County Correctional Institute serves to meet the workforce needs of Hall and Dawson Counties and their cities while fulfilling an obligation to the Georgia Department of Corrections by providing safe and secure housing for inmates in compliance with applicable policies. Under contract with the Georgia Department of Corrections, the institution houses 172 inmates. Hall County Correctional Institute provides an inmate labor force to the county, city, municipalities and other government agencies, thereby providing a work force at a significant savings. Some 40 to 50 inmate details work daily for county departments including Parks and Leisure, Road Maintenance, Resource Recovery and Solid Waste, as well as Gainesville City Public Works and Parks departments, performing a multitude of job tasks.

The Hall County RSAT (Residential Substance Abuse Program) is a program that is implemented at the Hall County Correctional Institute. The RSAT program is an intensive six-month highly structured residential therapeutic treatment community where the participants will receive daily treatment separately from the rest of the offender population. The RSAT program, implemented by the Hall County Correctional Institute in 2015, is unique because it is the first program to be facilitated in a county operated facility with state inmates. Warden Dennis Udzenski, has worked very closely with the staff at the Georgia Department of Corrections to design a program that ensures compliance with all of the necessary requirements to make sure that safety Correctional I Therapeutic communities are composed of peer groups and counselor staff that constitute the pastoral support system in a residential facility. The operation of the community itself is the task of the participants working together under staff supervision. The program consists of process groups, psycho-educational groups, individual counseling, limited work details, On-the-Job Training (OJT), exercise, store, visitation, religious services. The offender's schedule is a demanding one that balances work with intensive individual and group counseling sessions.

Hall County REACT (Reentry Accountability Court Transition Program):

The Hall County Reentry Accountability Court Transition (REACT) Program is a reentry program that was planned and implemented in 2015 in the Hall County, GA, Correctional Institute. In order to design and implement a successful reentry program, local and state stakeholders recognized a need for a collaborative approach between state and local government, court systems, community-based programs and vocational programs when addressing the barriers that are currently impairing the justice system.

The program will continue to expand with the number of stakeholders that commit to participate in the program development. The program is designed to improve the recidivism, substance abuse, and employment outcomes of inmates returning from the Hall County Correctional Institute by connecting them with community-based services and identifying employment opportunities before they are released into the community. Current REACT program stakeholders have openly discussed and recognized that individuals have different needs. The REACT program is unique in nature because the program is an opportunity for the inmate participant and is not a sanction or a consequence. The total number anticipated to complete the program annually during this project will be 40-60 participants. The participant level is subject to change based on budget assistance, employment and programmatic availability. The inmate participants attend workshops and work with mentors in groups and one-on-one to discuss behaviors that can affect a client from succeeding in the workplace and in personal relationships. Inmate participants learn how to hold themselves and their peers accountable. Each participant is assessed upon program entry and works with both REACT team staff and volunteers to develop an individualized plan that may include assistance with emergency shelter, transportation, clothing, food, identification, work release, housing, substance abuse and a wide range of wrap around social service providers. Once the inmate is released, we develop and implement an aftercare plan with

the community supervision (probation and parole) and other community service providers depending on the level of needs determined in the post program assessment. Hall County believes this unique county focused network of service providers supports and assists the offender to becoming law abiding employed citizens.

According to the United States Department of Justice, 70-80 percent of offenders are under supervision for drug-related offenses. According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, it is estimated that for every dollar spent on addiction treatment programs, there is a \$4 to \$7 reduction in the cost of drug-related crimes. Studies show that treatment can cut drug abuse in half, reduce criminal activity up to 80 percent, and reduce arrests up to 64 percent. Treatment programs are the best alternative for interrupting the drug abuse and criminal justice cycle for offenders. (<http://www.dcor.state.ga.us/Divisions/OPT/Reentry/RiskReduction/SubstanceAbuse.html>)

The Georgia Department of Corrections has identified and is supporting Correctional Institutes and jail-based programs that are providing substance abuse treatment to an identified population of offenders who have a two year or fewer sentences and releasing them to the community with mandated aftercare is a need in all areas of the justice reform system statewide.

The Hall County Correction Institute (HCCI) RSAT program will offer up to 10 hours of treatment programming per week in addition to wrap-around services to include but not limited to education and re-entry services for six months. The CJCC funds will allow HCCI to provide services to the identified substance abuse population. The impact will be cost savings and will allow HCCI to reinvest the savings to treatment for an offender whose charge is drug possession and reduce recidivism. The program goal is to return to society a self-supporting, pro-social, law-abiding citizen. The program shall consist of psycho-educational and process groups, individual counseling and group activities. The program will offer a sustainability plan to offer mandatory aftercare linkage for program graduates.

Program Description:

The RSAT program is an intensive and highly structured residential therapeutic treatment community where the participants are housed separately from the rest of the offender population. Therapeutic communities are composed of peer groups and a counselor that constitute the community, or family, in a residential facility. This peer-to-community structure strengthens the individual's identification with a perceived, ordered network of others. More importantly, it arranges a relationship of mutual responsibility to others at various levels in the program. The operation of the community itself is the task of the participants working together under staff supervision. The social organization reflects the fundamental aspects of the rehabilitative approach: mutual self-help, work as education and therapy, peers as role models and staff as rational authorities. The Department arranges religious services and recreational opportunities. The participant's schedule is a demanding one that balances work with intensive individual and group counseling sessions. The program is organized in such a way that participants are required to show improvement and increased skills as they progress in treatment. This shall be done through the use of a phase system, with each phase denoting increasing levels of treatment success and progress: **Assessment and Orientation, Active Treatment, Re-entry (Pre-exit planning), Relapse Prevention – Exit Planning.** The Program goal is to return to society a self-supporting, pro-social, law-abiding citizen.

Program Activities

The RSAT Program is an intensive six-month, highly structured residential therapeutic treatment community where the participants are housed separately from the rest of the offender population. Therapeutic communities are composed of peer groups and counselor staff that constitute the community, or family, in a residential facility. This peer-to-community structure strengthens the

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Hall County Correctional Institute provides support and alternatives to incarceration for offenders with an identified substance abuse need. Therefore, offenders assigned to RSAT will participate in daily structures activities that consist of:

Participant Education – The offenders receive current addiction and treatment related information such as Disease model; Defense mechanisms; Self-medication; Destructive coping; Infectious diseases such as Hepatitis. HIV, TB, STD(s); Personal hygiene; Employment; Health and nutrition; Budgeting; Household management; Financial investing; Sexual abuse.

Skills Training – The offender is challenged with proven strategies to address thinking patterns common to criminals and substance abusers (*i.e. Motivational Interviewing, Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy, Psycho-Educational Training, Thinking for a Change, Moral Recognition Therapy*).

Vocational Training - Lanier Technical Institute is providing employment skills programming that compliments aspects of the RSAT program. The 12-week course is taught in conjunction with the RSAT cohort.

Offender Confrontation - is a treatment model used in the program to address the offenders' criminal thinking errors, anti-social value system, Victims' rights, and Victim empathy.

Family Dynamics- are addressed in activities to include Dysfunctional and Healthy Relationships; Gender issues; Family of origin work; Sexuality; Pregnancy and Parenting; Personal victimization; Sexual Abuse; and Family Violence.

Relapse Prevention - is the core of the program and it's used to assist the offender in addressing high risk situations, development of appropriate coping strategies, development and refinement of an individualized depiction of the cycle offending (and abuse). This cycle will document typical precursors to offending and form the basis for an understanding of each offender's offending and relapse patterns. Offenders will development and provide a refinement of relapse prevention plan that follows them through the entire treatment and supervision process. This must be a realistic and specific document that links together the participant's substance abuse patterns, lifestyle factors, criminogenic needs, thinking patterns, and high-risk situations. The plan must include specific appropriate coping methods, skills, and interventions that can be used to avert the criminal-addictive cycle. Development and refinement of this plan will be a focus of the final phase of residential treatment and will be the principle focus of both the transitional and aftercare phases of treatment.

Drug Testing - drug testing is an integral component within the program and will be conducted in all phases of the program. Drug testing will be done by HCCI staff monthly for all the RSAT participants at the Correctional Institute. If an offender is tested positive after all confirmations, he/she will immediately be terminated from the program and may reapply after a minimum of ninety (90) days, and the remainder of the program offenders must be tested at 100%. HCCI does

have staff and a nurse on site that is certified to properly conduct drug testing in accordance with compliance regulations. The HCCI will cooperate with and follow GDC policy and security procedures to ensure that testing takes place and that the test results are recorded as part of the data collection and tracking system. The substance abuse Counselor will be the link to facility management, primarily via Hall County CI's Chief Counselor or his/her designee. The Counselor will be a fully licensed certified additions counselor and will provide services to offenders in the substance abuse program at the CI. The Counselor will work closely with staff to coordinate all program services and provide information for case management/records management to the probation and parole team to create an aftercare plan with community caseworkers and stakeholders in the community to create a seamless transition for better success. Early intervention of the proposed substance abuse program will expedite the engagement of the Hall County CI staff and a Substance Abuse Counselor who will be specifically designated to the RSAT program. Warden Udzenski has placed a priority on treating participants that suffer from addictions. This will be an important first step to their success in the program. This program will work with the individual participants through counseling to address the inmate's substance abuse while developing cognitive, behavioral, social, and vocational skills to assist them as they transition back into society. By identifying these issues and helping with sustainable employment. Through design, Warden Udzenski believes he and his team have found a strategy to reduce recidivism which will result in releasing offenders who are clean from their addictions and can become productive tax paying citizens.

RSAT Counselor: The RSAT Program will be facilitated and be the responsibility of the Warden and the Deputy Warden at the Hall County Correctional Institute. The appropriate staff and Counseling team will be responsible for directing all RSAT programming at that site. The RSAT Counselor will be the link to facility management, primarily via the CI's Chief Counselor or his/her designee. The fully licensed Substance Abuse Counselor will provide counseling services to offenders in the RSAT Program at the CI and will work closely with the Georgia Department of Corrections (GDC) staff to coordinate all program services and provide information for case management/records management with the probation and parole team to create an aftercare plan with community caseworkers and stakeholders in the community to create a seamless transition for better success.

RSAT Counselor

Minimum Qualifications:

- Previous substance abuse counseling or corrections experience highly preferred.
- Certified Counselors (CAC or CADAC)

Preferred Qualifications:

Bachelor's Degree

Certified and/or licensed by approved entities referenced in the following section (Credentialing Requirements).

The Hall County RSAT program is a programming component of the REACT program. Hall County Administration and Correctional Institute staff continue to research to identify funding opportunities to support the RSAT and REACT programs. Hall County Correctional Institute will also evaluate their budget to identify potential.

Program Goals and Measured Outcomes:

The goals of the Hall County RSAT program were affirmed by community stakeholders, including the treatment services staff, correctional institute staff, and administrators. It is important for the RSAT program and the Aftercare program to share equal value, and emphasis is placed on both components, as evidenced by resources, attention, and participation in key decisions. During the first phase of residential treatment, it is important that the focus on the in-custody component of the program equally support the creativity and individual management plan for the aftercare staff.

The formal goals of the Hall County RSAT program are to reduce recidivism and drug use among substance-abusing, minimum-custody male inmates:

- **Goal:** The Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Program goal is to return to society a self-supporting, pro-social, law-abiding citizen.
- **Goal:** A six-month residential treatment component that targets the links between substance abuse, criminal thinking, and behavior, and that provides a solid foundation for the steps of recovery; and
- **Goal:** 12-month aftercare component that facilitates community reintegration, promotes continued treatment services, and assists in the creation of other forms of stability such as family support, continued education or training, and employment.

Program Objectives:

The RSAT program objectives are to provide evidence-based programming consisting of psycho-educational, process groups, individual counseling and group activities, along with aftercare linkage for program graduates. All offenders shall have a history of chronic or repeated substance abuse.

Performance Measures:

To ensure compliance with the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), Public Law 103-62. A formal data collection system to measure program success is reflected below:

1. A data collection system that quantifies the success of the Program by using performance measures such as the percentage of offenders who completed RSAT and attend HCCI aftercare.
2. Offenders who had positive drug screens, during treatment and during aftercare.
3. The percentage of offenders who successfully complete RSAT
4. The percentage of offenders who complete RSAT and not aftercare.
5. The use of standardized, valid assessment tools at pre- and post-treatment, as well as follow-up intervals.
6. Quarterly reports – these reports will provide information about program demographics, implementation, performance, and management on a regular basis, allowing for a system of continuous quality improvement and program oversight.

Hall County Correctional Institute RSAT Timeline

Dates for Activities	Activity	Person Responsible
October 2026	Grant Awarded, Grant package completed, release employment announcement	Hall County Grants Specialist & Hall County Warden
Mid-October 2026	Grant Post Award Meeting to discuss grant regulations, goals & objectives and reporting requirements	Grants Specialist & Warden
November 2026	Renew contract for services with certified addiction counselor providing instruction for the RSAT program.	Warden & Contractor
December 2026	Implement and initiate first classes under the new funding provided by CJCC.	Warden & Contractor
January- September 2027	Collect data on program success, participants completing programs and improvements of program.	Warden & Grants Specialist
January 2027	Complete quarterly statistical report (PMT) and financial reports.	Warden & Grants Specialist
March 2027	Conduct progress meeting to discuss program goals and objectives. Discuss problems and solutions. Review financial status.	Warden, Grants Specialist & Contractor
September 2027	Grant closeout data collected, review program successes and methods of improvement, complete closeout report.	Warden, Grants Specialist, Contractor.

Note: All RSAT classes will be conducted in the multifunctional; programming space at the new Hall County Correctional Institution.

RSAT grant 2027

Performance Measures/Evaluation:

Hall County RSAT Correctional Institute Intake Criteria Assessment:

The Hall County RSAT Counselor and staff will utilize an assessment tool that is currently used by the Georgia Department of Corrections that is evidence-based and has been proven to be effective when identifying participants for the RSAT program. This assessment tool is identified as the **TCUDS (Texas Christian University drug screen)**.

TCU Drug Screen (TCUDS) - is a standardized 15-item screening tool that helps identify individuals with a history of heavy drug use or dependency. The instrument is widely used in adult criminal justice and correctional settings. Items on the TCUDSI represent key clinical and diagnostic criteria for substance abuse dependence as specified in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM-IV) and the NIMH Diagnostic Interview Schedule (NIMH DISC).

The first part of the scale includes questions related to drug and alcohol use problems and the second part addresses frequency of use and readiness for treatment. One potentially important feature of the scale is its ability to distinguish between criminal offenders with documented drug dependence and those who misuse drugs but are not dependent. This distinction is important for criminal justice officials who must make decisions about which offenders should be referred to treatment and the most appropriate types of treatment interventions for different offenders.

The TCUDS takes approximately 5 minutes to complete and can be used either in an interview setting or self-administered by the offender. To promote reliable self-administration in criminal justice settings, clinical language was reworded to an eighth grade reading level.

Any inmate scoring a 5 or higher is assessed as having serious dependency or addiction issues and will be required to complete RSAT

Sustainability:

The Hall County REACT Team and Stakeholders vision the RSAT program as a vital piece of the REACT program and foresees that counselor position will be absorbed into the REACT program and will be sustained by funding or savings through the re-entry initiatives, future grants, scholarships, local stakeholder's partners, or Treatment Service Providers in future years as the program continues to grow and gain support. This solidified program is a regular part of the criminal justice system of Hall County and ensures its existence. Statewide initiative continues to grow not only in Hall County but statewide, Hall County Administration staff, Correctional Institute staff and Judicial Treatment Services staff will work together to identify funding opportunities for sharing resources across programs. This has positively impacted on some of the other already successful accountability court programs in Hall County that may benefit the REACT program. Some of these opportunities may come from Friends of Recovery (FOR), a nonprofit organization formed in 2006 to support Hall County's accountability courts.

The FOR Board currently assists the accountability court programs by providing no-interest loans to participants in need of assistance with residential program entrance fees, medical care, and emergency living expenses. In addition, funding will be continued by non-profit fundraising, state and local

appropriations, and revenue from the drug testing program as we expand services to misdemeanor probation and Hall County Human Resources (Key Component #10; Common Characteristics #11). The collaboration between accountability court programs, the REACT program, Treatment Services, Friends of Recovery, and Law Enforcement continues to improve the quality of lives for a significant percentage of citizens within Hall County. The program works to prevent the intergenerational cycle of drug and alcohol abuse and addiction by utilizing a team approach. By continuing to improve and expand the services of the program, we can continue the pattern of reinstating healthier lives, families, and communities.

From: NoReply_grantsportal@cjcc.ga.gov
Sent: Wednesday, July 22, 2026 10:12 AM
To: Grants (Finance)
Subject: RSAT-24-035 has been successfully submitted to CJCC

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hall County Sheriff's Office's application for 2024 Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Grant Program Application, RSAT-24-035 has been successfully submitted to CJCC for review.