

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: June 15, 2026

Grant Application Deadline: July 31, 2026

Total Budget Request: \$39,000

Match Requirement: None required

Project Total: \$39,000

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 55,000 drug screens per year.

Participants in the Hall County accountability courts have significant criminogenic needs, including substance use disorders, serious mental illness, and, in some cases, histories of violent offenses, domestic violence, assaultive behavior, and firearm-related charges. These participants face an elevated risk of continued justice involvement without sustained recovery support. Accountability courts reduce this risk by combining intensive judicial supervision with evidence-based treatment and support. Across all tracks, our program boasts an 80% retention rate which demonstrates our commitment to retaining participants in treatment to help reduce the chances of them becoming involved with violent crime and criminal behavior.

According to “Peer Recovery Support Services and Recovery Coaching for Substance Use Disorder: A Systematic Review,” peer support research continues to indicate that peer services are instrumental in reducing substance use, criminal justice involvement, recidivism, hospitalization, and housing instability, while improving retention and engagement. Peer recovery specialists are uniquely positioned to engage participants who are reluctant to trust traditional clinical providers because peer specialists offer lived experience and model successful recovery.

Our initial SCIP award successfully established peer recovery services within the Hall County accountability courts. Peer specialists have become integrated members of the treatment team, providing recovery coaching, assisting with treatment engagement, facilitating aftercare planning, and helping participants connect to community-based recovery resources.

Needs Statement

We are seeking funding to continue peer support services to our Hall County accountability court programs to strengthen our continuing care planning for participants in the program and aftercare. We plan to continue our partnership through an existing MOU with J's Place Recovery, our local RCO. Funding will support CARES-certified peer recovery specialists who will provide recovery coaching, aftercare planning, case management, linkage to community resources, and leadership in developing and sustaining an active alumni network.

Although participants successfully complete structured treatment through the accountability courts, many struggle during the transition from intensive court supervision to independent recovery. Without continued recovery support, participants remain vulnerable to relapse, criminal behavior, and revictimization. Peer specialists provide a critical bridge between formal treatment and long-term community recovery supports.

Project Goals

1. Continue providing 30 hours per week of peer recovery services that strengthen participant engagement, improve successful transition to aftercare, increase connection to community recovery supports, and reduce future criminal justice involvement.

Project Activities and Services

Funding will support access to peer recovery resources for our accountability participants for 30 hours per week as agreed with our local RCO. These services promote community partnerships to provide high-quality recovery support without increasing county staffing costs. We are requesting funding totaling \$39,000 which will cover 30 hours of services per week at \$25.00 per hour for 52 weeks.

Sustainability

This project builds upon an established partnership between Hall County accountability courts and J's Place Recovery rather than creating a new service. Peer recovery specialists have become integrated into our multidisciplinary treatment team and are now a vital component of participant engagement and continuing care. By maintaining this partnership, the program can continue leveraging community-based recovery resources without increasing county staffing costs. Our long-term goal is to expand peer recovery services to a full-time position as funding opportunities become available through federal, state, local, and private grant sources, ensuring continued access to recovery support services for accountability court participants.