

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The Titus County CSCD finds it in the best interest of the citizens of Titus County, that the 76th/276th Judicial District Drug Court for Camp, Morris and Titus Counties be operated for the fiscal year 2016; and

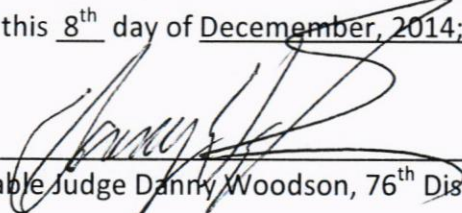
WHEREAS, Titus County CSCD agrees that in the event of loss or misuse of the Criminal Justice Division funds, Titus County CSCD assures that the funds will be returned to the Criminal Justice Division in full.

WHEREAS, Titus County CSCD designates Danny Woodson, 76th District Judge as the grantee's authorized official. The authorized official is given the power to apply for, accept, reject, alter or terminate the grant on behalf of the applicant agency.

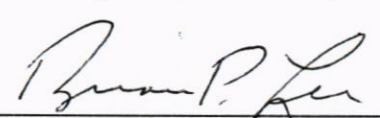
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Titus County CSCD approves submission of the grant application for the 76th/276th Judicial District Drug Court for Camp, Morris and Titus Counties to the office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division.

Passed and approved this 8th day of December, 2014;

Signed by: _____


Honorable Judge Danny Woodson, 76th District Judge


Honorable Judge Robert Rolston, 276th District Judge


Honorable Judge Brian Lee, Titus County Judge

Grant Number:

The 77th Legislature, in House Bill 1287, authorized county Commissioner's Courts to establish drug courts for persons arrested for, charged with or convicted of certain drug or alcohol offenses.

What is Drug Court?

A Drug Court is a panel comprised of a judge, defense counsel, prosecutor, treatment providers and law enforcement officers who strive to improve communities by successfully getting offenders clean and sober and stopping drug-related crime, reuniting broken families, intervening with juveniles before they embark on a debilitating life of addiction and crime and reducing impaired driving (National Association of Drug Court Professionals). The Drug Court, through the presiding Judge and the Drug Court Staffers, hold participants accountable. The Judge can sanction participants for failing to remain alcohol/drug free. The program is conducted by allowing participants to progress through 3 or 4 levels until they have remained alcohol/drug free for twelve (12) months at which time they graduate. An actual graduation ceremony is conducted. For many participants, it will represent the first time they have been given an opportunity to achieve sobriety.

Today, there are over 2,500 Drug Courts throughout the U.S. and another thirteen countries that have implemented the model. This model includes intensive supervision, mandatory drug testing, progressive sanctions and treatment to help those individuals who abuse alcohol/drugs in an effort to break the cycle of addiction and the crime that is usually associated with it.

The U.S. Department of Justice recently identified 1.2 million people in the criminal justice system who would be eligible for drug court but do not have access due to their location. (NCPA.org)

Key components of the model

- Drug courts integrate alcohol and other drug treatment services with justice system processing
- Using a non-adversarial approach, prosecution and defense counsel promote public safety. Participants must waive their due process rights to a speedy trial and sign a pre-emptive confession before being allowed to participate
- Eligible participants are identified early and promptly placed in the drug court program
- Drug courts provide access to a continuum of alcohol, drug and other related treatment and rehabilitation services
- Abstinence is monitored by frequent, random alcohol and other drug testing
- A coordinated strategy governs drug court responses to participants compliance
- Ongoing judicial interaction with each drug court participant is essential
- Monitoring and evaluation measure the achievement of program goals and gauge effectiveness

- Continuing interdisciplinary education promotes effective drug court planning, implementation and operations
- Forging partnerships among drug courts, public agencies and community-based organizations generates local support and enhances their effectiveness (Wikipedia.org)

Cost benefit

It is estimated that the average costs per inmate in prison is about \$28,817 per year. That number is dramatically reduced when that same participant enters into a drug court (\$6,985 avg. per year).

A recent cost-related meta-analysis concluded that Drug Courts produce an average of \$2.21 in direct benefits to the criminal justice system for every \$1.00 invested..... A 221% return on investment. (Bhati et al., 2008) When Drug Courts targeted their services to the more serious, higher-risk offenders, the average return on investment was determined to be even higher: \$3.36 for every \$1.00 invested. (Lowenkamp et al., 2005: Fielding et al., 2002: Marlowe et al, 2006, 2007: Festinger et al., 2002).

❖ Drug Courts Save Money

- FACT: When considering other costs offsets such as savings from reduced victimization and healthcare service utilization, studies have shown benefits range up to \$27 for every \$1 invested.(NADCP.org)
- FACT: Nationwide, for every \$1.00 invested in Drug Court, taxpayers save as much as \$3.36 in avoided criminal justice costs alone.(NADCP.org)
- FACT: Drug Courts produce cost savings ranging from \$3000 to \$13,000 per client. These costs savings reflect reduced prison costs, reduced revolving door arrest and trials and reduced victimization. (NADCP.org)
- FACT: In 2007, for every Federal dollar invested in Drug Court, \$9.00 was leveraged in state funding. (NADCP.org)

The research has proven that in the last 20 years the Drug Court program works, it's better than jail or prison. Better than probation and treatment alone. Drug Courts significantly reduce drug use and crime and are more cost-effective than any other proven criminal justice strategy. (NADCP.org)

Funding

Once we are approved by the Commissioner's Court, we will then proceed in applying for a State Grant. This grant will be used later to reimburse the Morris County Community Supervision and Corrections Department, also known as Morris County CSCD. Morris County CSCD will provide the necessary funds in order to establish the Drug Court and is then later reimbursed by that State Grant. Morris County will not be responsible for providing any monetary funds; it will solely be the responsibility of the CSCD. All money received on behalf of the grant can only be used for the purpose of the Drug Court.