

Criminal justice treatment account (CJTA)

Program overview

The Washington State Health Care Authority's Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery (HCA/DBHR) has supported substance use disorder treatment and recovery support services for drug court- and justice-involved individuals through the Criminal Justice Treatment Account (CJTA). This is accomplished primarily via authorization under RCW 71.24.580, which allocates funds to counties, behavioral health administrative service organizations (BHASOs). These funds are meant to provide substance use disorder treatment and recovery support services to justice-involved individuals with pending criminal charges or individuals enrolled in a therapeutic court program.

A report created by the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) Research and Data Analysis (RDA) division surveyed 27 drug courts in Washington State and saw a 61% decrease in the rate of re-offending for individuals who participated in Drug Court. In addition, a multi-site drug court evaluation conducted by the Justice Policy Institute indicated that drug courts produce benefits of over \$6,000 for every individual they serve and return as much as \$27 for every \$1 invested.

Eligible populations

Funding through the Criminal Justice Treatment Account (CJTA) falls under two categories, therapeutic court participants and individuals with pending criminal court charges.

Therapeutic court participants

Therapeutic Courts, as defined under Chapter 2.30 of the Revised Code of Washington (RCW), provide individuals the opportunity to obtain treatment services under a closely monitored diversion program in lieu of the traditional trial track of the criminal justice system. The Washington State Legislature has indicated that therapeutic courts may decrease re-offense, improve the safety of the community, and improve the life of the participant.

Individuals with pending criminal charges

An individual may also receive CJTA-funded services outside of a therapeutic court environment. The county, through the input of a local CJTA panel, can implement services under a local arrangement to treat legally involved individuals that are not enrolled in a therapeutic court program. These arrangements coordinate treatment services for individuals who have charges filed by a county prosecutor and meet the eligibility requirements indicated in 71.24.580.

Allowable expenses

Criminal justice treatment account (CJTA) funding may be used to provide substance use disorder (SUD) treatment in the community or in a county or regional jail, including:

- Brief intervention
- Withdrawal management
- SUD assessments
- Outpatient treatment services
- Medications for SUD
- Case management
- Temporary services
- Community outreach

Additionally, CJTA funding may be used for treatment and recovery support services include:

- Employment services/job training
- Relapse prevention
- Family/marriage counseling or education
- Peer support services
- Housing support services
- Life skills training
- Spiritual and faith-based support
- Transportation
- Childcare services
- Urinalysis supplies and testing

2021-2023 budget

The budget allocated for this timeframe with CJTA is \$21,988,000, of which \$9,000,000 is to be dedicated to Drug Court treatment.

Costs and numbers served

- For SFY 2018, 3,775 offenders received alcohol and drug treatment services via CJTA.
- The benefit-cost ratio for Washington State Drug Court is estimated to be approximately \$4 in benefits for every \$1 spent.
- Sixty-one percent of Drug Court participants remain free of a new criminal conviction within 36 months after starting treatment.
- There is a cost-benefit of \$7 for every dollar spent on recovery support services for drug court participants.

Partners

Statewide partnerships include:

- The State Criminal Justice Treatment Account Panel, that develops the distribution formula and policy recommendation for CJTA funds
- Residential and outpatient providers to provide services under the county's local CJTA plan
- Drug Courts, and other Therapeutic Courts, for monitoring offenders receiving treatment services
- DSHS Research and Data Analysis for Drug Court data collection, program monitoring, and evaluation
- Washington State Association of Drug Court Professionals
- Washington State Association of Counties
- Washington State Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs
- Washington State Department of Corrections

BHASOs and counties assume the authority, in cooperation with DBHR, for purposes of local planning and implementation of county CJTA

plans. This is done in cooperation with each county's local criminal justice planning process.

Oversight

Health Care Authority contracts with BHASOs and counties that, in turn, subcontract with providers. Each region provides oversight in accordance with their contract as the contract managers. DBHR staff often provide technical assistance to individual providers and counties.

For more information

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¹<https://www.dshs.wa.gov/ffa/rda/research-reports/drug-court-participants-recidivism-and-key-outcome-measures>