

Criminal Justice Treatment Account (CJTA)

Overview

The Washington State Health Care Authority (HCA) Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery (DBHR), through appropriations authorized under RCW 71.24.580 RCW- Criminal Justice Treatment Account (CJTA), allocates funds to counties and behavioral health administrative services organizations (BH-ASOs) to provide substance use disorder (SUD) treatment and recovery support services to individuals in the criminal court system with pending criminal charges or those who are enrolled in a Therapeutic Court program.

CJTA program justification

According to forthcoming data reports regarding statewide Adult Drug Court participation, analyzed by the Research and Data Analysis Division of the Department of Social and Health Services, new convictions of any crime within 18 months of completion of drug court dropped 10% between 2015 and 2021. Additionally, 36-months following drug court start date, recidivism dropped 16% in the same timeframe. Similarly, participant employment 18 months after drug court start date rose 5% also within the same timeframe.

Eligibility requirements

Funding through the Criminal Justice Treatment Account (CJTA) is provided for individuals that fall under one of two categories: therapeutic court participants and individuals with pending criminal court charges. Individuals in either category are eligible.

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 court system. The Washington State Legislature has indicated that therapeutic courts potentially decrease recidivism, improve the safety

of the community, and improve the life of the program participant.

Individuals with pending criminal charges

An individual may also receive CJTA-funded services outside of a therapeutic court environment. The county or region, 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 had charges filed by a county prosecutor and meet the eligibility requirements indicated in RCW 71.24.580.

HB 1983, passed in the 2024 legislative session, made permanent the ability to spend CJTA funds to support eligible court participants for an additional 180 days following graduation from their drug court program.

Budget for SFY 24 and SFY 25

\$22,001,000 from the state treasury is appropriated for the Criminal Justice Treatment Account for State Fiscal Years 2024 and 2025, with \$9,000,000 of that amount being solely for the maintenance or expansion of therapeutic court services.

Allowable expenses:

CJTA funding may be used to provide Substance Use Disorder (SUD) treatment and recovery support services in the community or in a county or regional jail. Treatment services may include:

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

Additional 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

Partners

Statewide partnerships support this program. The following are key partners:

- Residential and outpatient providers to provide services under the county's local CJTA plan
- Drug Courts and other Therapeutic Courts, for monitoring individuals 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

BH-ASOs and counties assume the authority, in cooperation with DBHR, for purposes of local planning and implementation of county CJTA plans. This is done in alignment with each county's local planning process.

Oversight

Internal

The Washington Health Care Authority contracts with BH-ASOs and counties that subcontract with providers. Each region provides oversight in accordance with their contracts as the contract managers. DBHR staff often provide technical assistance to individual providers and counties.

External

The State Criminal Justice Treatment Account Panel develops the distribution formula and policy recommendation for CJTA funds.

For more information

Contact: HCADBHRInformation@hca.wa.gov

Becca McNeil, Criminal Justice BH Administrator

Zach Lynch, CJTA Manager