



Planning and Implementation of a Dane County Community Court Initiative

Award # 15PBJA-22-GG-03874-DGCT

FY2022

Presented to Community Justice Council – Community Court Advisory subcommittee

April 18, 2023

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- FY 2022 Community Courts Initiative
- Category of Support: Planning and Implementation
- To establish community courts: “Community courts are neighborhood-focused court programs that combine the power of the community and the justice system to address local problems. They connect persons committing less serious crimes — often misdemeanor cases — to judicially supervised substance use disorder treatment, alternative sanctions, and other community-based services”

Six Principles of Community Courts

- Enhanced Information
- Community Engagement
- Collaboration
- Individualized Justice
- Accountability
- Outcomes

Description of original award

- Dane County will implement a community court. Partnering with community and service providers to address root causes of inequity and to improve quality of life.
- An outgrowth of the successful Dane County Community Restorative Court (CRC), the Community Court Initiative will implement judicial oversight to offenses and clients not appropriate for the CRC caseload.
- The model will include a community court, wrap around social support services, pretrial monitoring and sanctions (when necessary), procedural fairness, and community voice.
- This initiative will not duplicate services for the eligible candidates for the Community Restorative Court, nor the Deferred Prosecution Unit or Drug Treatment Court, but rather take a data informed approach to addressing the root cause of the alleged crime.

Implementation

- 3 phases
 1. Planning
 2. Pilot Implementation
 3. Full Implementation

Implementation

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 1. Planning ← *We are here*
 2. Pilot Implementation
 3. Full Implementation



Community Justice Initiative

Timeline for Planning and Implementation

Dane County accepted BJA Award#: 15PBJA-22-GG-03874-DGCT to plan and implement a Community Court Initiative. The award was accepted in October, 2022.



Planning phase goals

April – September 2023

1. Define eligible offense list and finalize demographics target
2. Finalize a fiscal and supervision home for the Community Court Initiatives
3. Secure community location and space
4. Develop benchmarks for each phase of implementation including:
 1. Increase the types of charges
 2. Number of respondents
 3. Increase available court time

Pilot implementation Goals

October 2023 – April 2025

1. Initially 2 afternoons per month, increasing up to four opportunities per month.
2. Court officials and community engage in feedback loop for process improvement.
3. Data and performance measures to inform approach to full implementation

Full implementation goals

May 2025 – April 2027

1. Serve 600 respondents over the entire grant period.
2. Expand services across the county with more frequency
3. Well-developed procedures to link respondents with wrap services and monitoring
4. Court officials and community engage in feedback loop for process improvement continues.
5. Data and performance measures to inform approach drive system improvements

Next Steps

- Review 6-month workplan
- Benchmark Success Indicators
- Community and System Data Reviews
- Determine Dates for visit to Cook County, IL – Restorative Justice Community Court (Avondale)