

Alexandria Treatment Court Program Abstract

The Alexandria Treatment Court (ATC) is seeking a Category I implementation grant for the creation of a pre-adjudication adult drug court. Alexandria is a suburb of Washington D.C. with a population of just over 150,000 persons. The ATC will operate through the Circuit Court for the City of Alexandria at 520 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314. The designated ATC judge is the Hon. Lisa B. Kemler, Chief Judge for the Alexandria Circuit Court. The ATC coordinator will be Senior Asst. Commonwealth's Attorney David A. Lord. The ATC will begin operations in January of 2019, following the finalization of state approval of the ATC drug court application.

The ATC is seeking a federal grant of \$496,553 over a two year-operating period. In the absence of federal funding, it is estimated that the ATC would be able to serve no more than five participants during its first year, because all costs would have to be absorbed within existing agency budgets. The federal grant would enable the ATC to serve twenty participants at any time with at least fifty being fully served over the life of the grant. Additionally, the grant will enable the ATC to provide more comprehensive services to participants, thus maximizing the potential for full rehabilitation and reduced chance of recidivism. The ATC is designed to take a minimum of one year for a participant to successfully complete the program and a maximum of two years.

The ATC is designed to reach individuals who are diagnosed with substance use disorder and who have been charged with a felony offense in Alexandria that is rooted in substance abuse (either drug crimes or property/larceny offenses committed in order to finance a drug habit). Individuals who successfully complete the program will receive a more beneficial judicial outcome than would otherwise occur (for example dismissal of their charge or a sentence that does not include active incarceration). Potential participants will be identified immediately upon charging and will be brought expeditiously before the court to begin evaluation for potential participation, as well as substance abuse testing and treatment. Participants will be screened by the program's therapist, using a validated screening tool. The target population are those individuals who would be classified as "high-risk, high-need." The ACT has sought to incorporate each of the NADCP Adult Drug Court Best Practice Standards as discussed in Page 12 of the narrative. Examples of this include the target population, eliminating differentially restricted access for historically disadvantaged groups, the design of the judge's role, and the program's incentive/sanction/therapeutic adjustment models.

Participation in the ATC involves a series of progression through four phases. During each phase, participants will have benchmarks that must be fulfilled to progress. These bench marks will include elements pertaining to abstinence from drugs and alcohol, therapy, and pro-social occupational activities including employment, education, and community service. In addition to therapy, participants will receive wrap-around services, aimed at addressing individual circumstances in their life that may act as barriers to success. This will include housing assistance, health benefits, job training, etc.

The drug court coordinator, working in conjunction with the program's therapist and the statistical division of the Alexandria Police Department, will seek to collect and report extensive data on program participation, program success and recidivism rates by participants. The ATC

has not received or applied for other grants at the present time. While members of the ACT have not previously participated in the Drug Court Planning Initiative, several members will be attending the annual conference for the NADCP and we have contacted the National Drug Court Initiative about receiving additional training upon final approval of our state application.

Contact Information for Drug Court Coordinator

David A. Lord
Senior Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney
520 King Street #301
Alexandria, VA 22314
(703)746-4100
david.lord@alexandriava.gov