

## **Alexandria Treatment Court Project Abstract**

The Alexandria Treatment Court (“ATC”) is seeking a Category 2 enhancement grant in order to increase the capacity and quality of our program and to bring deficient areas of the program into full-compliance with the NADCP’s best practices for adult drug courts. The ATC is a post-adjudication adult drug court. The program began operating after an extensive planning period that culminated in participating in the NADCP/NDCI Drug Court Planning Initiative. This application seeks \$499,112 over the course of a 36-month period. By obtaining this grant, the capacity of our program will triple by increasing from 10 participants to 30 at any given time. The ATC is a five-phased program. The minimum period of time that it takes a participant to graduate is 14 months. We impose no maximum time for participation/completion of the program. The expected average length of the program is 18 months.

The ATC utilizes expedited practices to identify and quickly admit participants. Individuals involved in this program meet with a therapist once a week, participate in group counseling once a week as well, attend three community support meetings a week and have regular home visits by law enforcement officers in addition to meeting with a probation officer. Participants receive “wrap-around” services including case management, that seeks to help the individual access ancillary services that are necessary for recovery including housing assistance, medical care, and education. Our program also supports and provides medically assisted treatment whenever it is needed.

The ATC has not previously received any federal assistance. The funding sought would be applied towards hiring an additional full-time therapist, preferably with bilingual skills, a professional and independent treatment court coordinator, expanded drug testing to bring this into compliance with NADCP best practices, and conference training for up to three team members. We are leveraging local funding from two sources to assist with this program. The first is the cost of all existing ATC personnel for the portion of their time that is dedicated to the ATC. Additionally, we have received consent from another grant that the Department of Community and Human Services has to repurpose \$60,000 annually towards hiring the additional therapist.

The areas of the NADCP Best Practices that will be addressed by the grant include: A) Equity and Inclusion (we are striving to hire a bilingual therapist so that we are able to serve Spanish-speaking clients); b) Drug and Alcohol Testing (we have not been able to provide sufficient frequent, random, and observed testing with rapid results – this grant funding would change that by enabling us to utilize a contractor to supplement existing testing); c) Multidisciplinary Team (by hiring a professional drug court coordinator who can help expand the program and operate independently as opposed to our current model which utilizes the ATC prosecutor in this function); and d) Monitoring and Evaluation (by having a full-time drug court coordinator, we can meaningfully use our reporting and monitoring forms to generate statistics on program effectiveness).