



Veterans fought for our freedom; now it's our turn to fight for theirs

## Veterans Treatment Court Planning Initiative

The Veterans Treatment Court Planning Initiative (VTCPI) is designed to assist jurisdictions in the planning and development of Veterans Treatment Court programs. Justice For Vets (JFV) staff and a cadre of treatment court practitioners work with planning teams to shape programs, develop policy and procedure manuals, and build team unity.

Each session has been designed to familiarize participants with the building blocks of Veterans Treatment Courts.

### Training Topics

- The 10 Key Components of Veterans Treatment Court
- Development of Veterans Treatment Court Structure, Target Population, Entry Process, Phases and Court Requirements
- Psychopharmacology, Combat Operational Stress Reactors, Drug Testing, and Responding to Participant Behavior
- Community Supervision, Ethics and Confidentiality, and Sustainability

The [Bureau of Justice Assistance \(BJA\)](#), in partnership with JFV, developed the content of each VTCPI program. In offering training and technical assistance through VTCPI, BJA demonstrates a commitment to working with local jurisdictions to prevent and control substance abuse and crime. A representative from JFV and an expert practitioner from within the Veterans Treatment Court system will attend all VTCPI events.

Using VTCPI, JFV will serve up to 30 jurisdictions. Once capacity is reached, JFV will place jurisdictions on a wait-list and accept them into VTCPI as space becomes available. Funding for VTCPI is contingent on the availability and amount of that fiscal year's funding for the Adult Drug Court Discretionary Grant program.

Selected jurisdictions will participate in a facilitated 6-month planning process. Each jurisdiction will be required to complete pre-training worksheets, participate in pre-training webinars, attend a three-day training program, maintain routine correspondence with program staff, and submit a Veteran Treatment Court implementation plan and draft policy and procedure manual. JFV will notify jurisdictions of training dates and locations upon the acceptance. The three-day session has been designed to educate participants with the building blocks of Veterans Treatment Courts and develop a solid VTC implementation plan.

## Required Commitment

BJA's investment in this training initiative is dependent upon active participation of all approved VTCPI team members. In addition to completing the pre-training webinars all required team members must attend the entire three-day training program, team members must work with project staff throughout the planning process and complete a number of pre- and post-training activities at their home jurisdiction. Upon acceptance into the training program, each participating team member must commit to the following:

- Pre-training webinars
- Attend the three-day training session
- Actively participate in all discussions and training breakouts
- Identify an appropriate substitute if the need arises
- Complete all homework assignments and webinars.
- Respond to all requests for information
- Sign a letter of commitment



*I've been attending seminars for years and can say without a doubt that this was the most practical and thought provoking week I've experienced.*  
~Training Participant

In addition, the Treatment Court Coordinator must serve as the team point of contact for all VTCPI coordination activities. The coordinator will ensure all relevant information is disseminated to team members in a timely fashion, respond to requests for information, and coordinate with all VTCPI staff and faculty.

VTCPI participants will have regular contact with JFV during the course of the 6-month planning process. Upon acceptance into the training program, each participating team member and/or agency must sign a letter of commitment that includes the following information:

- Agreement that approved team member will attend the required training in its entirety
- Agreement that all team members will complete the pre-training webinars including pre-and-post test.
- Agreement to complete the pre-training homework sheets.

Jurisdictions that are unable or unwilling to fully participate in VTCPI may forfeit their eligibility for future JFV-BJA training events.

## Training Costs

There are no costs associated with the training. However, each team is required to provide local training space to host the three-day training, at no cost to JFV. JFV requests that the training site have a projector and screen. If unable to provide a projector and screen, this will not preclude your team from receiving the training. Each approved jurisdiction is requested to provide to JFV staff a hotel recommendation near the training site.

## Contact Us

For further information regarding the VTCPI application process and training program please contact us: <http://www.justiceforvets.org/2015-vtspi>

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