

OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS
Program Name: Veterans Treatment Courts

FY 2017 Request

Total Funding: \$6.0 M
Vs. FY 2016 Enacted: No change



Judge Russell ensures veterans in court receive the treatment and services they have earned

Program Description

Purpose: To help veterans break the cycle of substance abuse and criminal behavior by providing necessary support and services. Veterans courts help ensure public safety and personal accountability.

This program provides grants, training, and technical assistance to help state, local, and tribal governments develop veteran treatment courts.

Authorizing Legislation: Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Reauthorization and Improvement Act of 2008 (42 USC 3797aa(i))

Administering Agency: Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA)

DOJ Strategic Objective 3.4: Reform and strengthen America's criminal justice system by targeting only the most serious offenses for federal prosecution, expanding the use of diversion programs, and aiding inmates in reentering society

Who Can Apply for Funding: States and U.S. territories, state courts, local courts, units of local government, and tribal governments

How Funds are Distributed: Through a competitive process, awards are made as grants for up to \$300,000 for a three year period. The applicant must pay 25% of the project costs.

Program Goals:

BJA would like to support those jurisdictions on the waiting list to implement veteran's treatment courts in their communities as well as maintain and expand services at existing courts.

Accomplishments:

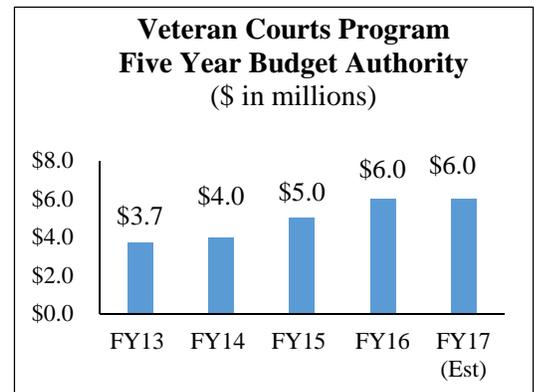
As of December 31, 2014 there were 264 veterans treatment courts in our country with hundreds more in the planning stages.

Research over the past decade has shown lower rates of recidivism and a higher return on financial investments with drug courts than with traditional courts. A recent report on the Bexar County (San Antonio, Texas) Veteran Treatment Court reported a graduation rate of 94% and a three-year recidivism rate for graduates of only 13%.

In partnership with the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and the Department of Veterans Affairs, BJA has invested in the development of a Veterans Treatment Court curriculum.

FY 2017 Proposed Policy Changes to the Program: N/A

FY 2017 Proposed Funding Changes to the Program: N/A



Application and Award History

(\$ in millions)	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017
Amount Appropriated	\$3.7	\$4.0	\$5.0	\$6.0	\$6.0 Requested
Total Funding Awarded^	\$2.8	\$2.6	\$2.8	TBD	TBD
Number of Applications	178*	163*	96*	TBD	TBD
Number of Awards	7	4	12	TBD	TBD

*These are numbers of applications to the Drug Courts Solicitation. Veterans Treatment Court projects are funded from this pool of applicants.

^ Total Funding Awarded does not include funds used for management and administration, peer review, or other authorized purposes.

For additional information, please visit: [BJA Veterans Treatment Courts](http://justiceforvets.org/what-is-a-veterans-treatment-court) and <http://justiceforvets.org/what-is-a-veterans-treatment-court>.