

FY17 JUVENILE JUSTICE Addendum

Submission Instructions: Email completed addendum file to cjapplications@nctcog.org no later than
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Agency Name: Collin County / Collin County Teen Court

Application title: Teen Court – Substance Abuse and Mental Health Evaluation and Treatment

Application #: 2657204

CJD amount requested for this project: \$20,730

AGENCY HISTORY:

Location of Agency Headquarters:

Collin County Teen Court is headquartered along with Collin County's Administration at 2300 Bloomdale Road, Suite 4192, McKinney, Texas 75071.

Mission Statement:

Collin County Teen Court provides alternative sentencing by a jury of their peers for first-time youth offenders while placing an emphasis on the impact to the victim and establishing responsibility for their actions.

Experience: Explain how your agency is qualified to provide proposed services.

Collin County Teen Court was established in late-2006 as a voluntary program for juvenile offenders to "pay" for their citation through community service and involvement in the judicial process. With Court and parental approval, juveniles (ages 12 to 18) charged with Class C misdemeanors may plead guilty and be referred to the 90-day Teen Court program. Each year between 250 and 300 teens are referred to the Teen Court program. Since 2010, Teen Court has conducted 318 hearings for 1,790 cases with an 85% success rate.

Describe how long your agency has been providing this service and what funding is currently used to operate the project. Describe what additional funds you have applied for to support the project, and why CJD funds are necessary at this time.

Using OOG CJD grant funds, Teen Court has screened all participants using the MAYSI-2 tool and referred those indicated as potentially having substance abuse or mental health needs for evaluation and/or treatment since 2014. Prior to grant funding, any participants that the Teen Court Coordinator identified as potentially needing services had to bear all the costs for evaluation and treatment. In many cases, families were unable to afford the expenses and thus dropped out of the program. No other funding has been designated to continue services; therefore, we are requesting CJD funds. Without CJD funding, substance abuse and mental health service needs and expenses will revert back to the family's responsibility.

1. LOCAL PRIORITIES (Up to 20 points): Select which local priority(ies) this project will address.

- ☐ Programs that improve life skills and/or family stability (including parent education)
- ☒ Prevention / intervention programs focused on reducing the use of alcohol, tobacco, and illicit drugs
- ☒ Counseling/therapy programs to address mental health issues in juveniles
- ☐ Drop-out prevention programs and/or diversion programs
- ☐ Programs focused on employment skills/job training for juveniles

Thoroughly describe how this project addresses the priority(ies) selected.

One of the most important first steps to respond to the mental health and substance abuse treatment needs of youth is to systematically identify those needs among youth at their earliest point of contact with the juvenile justice system. Increased awareness of youth mental health needs, along with recent scientific research demonstrating the prevalence of youth with mental health needs, has led to the development of a wide range of easy-to-use mental health screening tools for juvenile justice. Of these, the Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument-Second Version (MAYSI-2), a 52 question self-report screening tool that identifies potential mental health and substance abuse problems, is the most widely used. This screening tool has been examined in more than 50 research studies, and it may be the only tool with national norms. Additionally, the State of Texas, has adopted the MAYSI-2 as the mandatory mental health screening tool for all youth referred to local juvenile probation departments.

Collin County Teen Court provides a distinctive opportunity to identify and treat potential substance abuse and/or mental health (SAM) disorders earlier than other, formal juvenile justice programs. Many times youth are first charged with minor (theft, disorderly conduct, assault) or status (truancy, alcohol possession, curfew violations) offenses prior to progression to more serious offenses; however, these charges usually result in payment of fines/fees to the appropriate jurisdiction and/or community service without any additional interaction with the judicial system. Unfortunately, any of these teens, whose offenses may be attributed to SAM disorders, miss being screened and evaluated until they escalate further into the formal criminal justice system.

Collin County Teen Court incorporates the early detection of mental health and substance abuse needs through screening of all participants using the MAYSI-2 screening tool. Persons identified by the screening tool as potentially having additional needs are referred for professional evaluation and mental health or substance abuse treatment as part of the 90-day program requirements. Utilizing grant funds, individualized treatment is provided by licensed professionals, and participants are connected with community-based programs to maximize successful service linkages and improve rehabilitation. The early identification, diagnosis, and treatment of teens with substance abuse and mental health disorders has proven to decrease risk of social problems, violence, and engagement in other delinquent behaviors thus reducing risk for future criminal justice system involvement.

2. PROBLEM STATEMENT (up to 20 points): Respond to the three sections below:

Describe the target population.

Any juvenile (between 12 to 18 years of age) who has plead guilty or no contest to a Class C misdemeanor, been referred to the Collin County Teen Court, and exhibits a need for mental health and/or substance abuse evaluation and treatment.

Describe the geographical target area to be served by the project.

Collin County Teen Court receives referrals from three Justice of the Peace precincts, serving within the 841 square miles of Collin County, as well as and three municipal courts, including Frisco and Little Elm, which are in part or in whole outside of Collin County. Most Teen Court participants reside in Collin County; however, not all do. Charges are heard against persons cited within the jurisdictions served, some of which may be visiting. Justices refer juveniles who are in proximity to attend and participate in Teen Court hearings.

Describe the problem and its negative impact on the community to be served.

Substance abuse and mental illness frequently occur together in juveniles (under 18 years), and a complex relationship exists between mental illness and substance abuse. Drug abuse can cause a mental illness; mental illness can lead to drug abuse; and/or drug abuse and mental disorders can both be caused by other common risk factors.

While teenagers frequently engage in acts (truancy, petty theft, criminal mischief, fighting, etc.) that could be the basis for contact with the criminal justice system, teens with SAM disorders are far more likely to have increased contact with law enforcement resulting in detention. Left untreated, juveniles with SAM disorders have an increased risk of social problems, violence, and engagement in other delinquent behaviors. Additionally, research

suggests most adult mental health disorders emerge in childhood and adolescence and persist throughout life. Within the criminal justice system, the incidence of adults with SAM disorders is disproportionately high, lending credence that, left untreated, juveniles with SAM disorders feed into the adult justice system and highlighting the need for early intervention and treatment. Unfortunately, early identification can be difficult and treatment is frequently cost prohibitive.

Identifying and treating juveniles upon their first, usually minor, offense can help teens successfully navigate the challenges that come from experiencing SAM disorders and prevent further involvement with the justice system. However, leaving these early offenders untreated will likely lead to escalating and more serious criminal activity, increased law enforcement contact, detention with longer sentences, and progression into the adult justice system.

3. SUPPORTING DATA (up to 5 points): Provide at least three (3) years of locally relevant and verifiable statistical data. Describe how the data supports the problem to be addressed.

Research has shown that one in every 4 to 5 juveniles meets the criteria for a lifetime SAM disorder associated with severe role impairment and/or distress; over 40% of those are diagnosed with multiple classes of disorders, and approximately 8-10% of US teens meet the current criteria for having a serious emotional disturbance. However, fewer than half of youth with current disorders receive treatment.

Collin County's population increased 80% since 2000. Over the same time period, the juvenile population has more than doubled – rising from 98,889 to 240,785 – resulting in an increase of more than 140,000 juveniles. Correspondingly, juvenile crime has risen. Per Collin County Juvenile Probation Services, between 2000 and 2015, the number of juveniles adjudicated more than doubled from 121 to 269.

Common indicators for potential SAM disorders in adolescents include, but are not limited to, excessive fear, anger, anxiety, or feelings of worthlessness; severe mood swings; extreme difficulties concentrating and impulsive behavior; exercising unusually poor judgment; and/or little to no care or concern for others. Teen Court offenses that may be indicative of potential SAM disorders include drug/alcohol related offenses, disorderly conduct, and/or assault. Since FY 2009, 17.1% of all offenses referred to Teen Court have been related to these 3 categories. Each month in 2015, an average of 1 to 2 teens were referred to Teen Court after pleading guilty or no contest to aggressive, disruptive, or substance abuse charges. Since the end of July, Teen Court has collected parental responses to surveys. Of the 70 responses received, 16 (22.9%) responded the teen would benefit from both drug testing and counseling, while another 13 (18.6%) responded the teen would benefit from counseling and 1 said the teen would benefit from drug testing but not counseling. Altogether, of the 70 responses, 30 (42.9%) of the respondents indicated the juvenile Teen Court participant would benefit from the services proposed in this project.

In 2012, the Collin County Teen Court Coordinator referred one particular participant charged with assault to be professionally evaluated; the participant was diagnosed as bipolar and schizophrenic. The teen's parents paid for the \$600 evaluation, but in many cases the teens and their families cannot afford testing, much less treatment. Of the 30 survey respondents who indicated a need for counseling and/or drug testing, 36.7% had an income level under \$40,000 to provide for an average of 3 children in the household. Unfortunately, participants who are identified as potentially needing intervention commonly drop out of the voluntary Teen Court program and pay their misdemeanor fines to the originating Justice of the Peace or Municipal Court, which is less expensive than evaluation and treatment.

4. GOAL STATEMENT (up to 5 points): In 100 words or less, describe the overall project goal.

The goal of this project is to use the Collin County Teen Court to identify and diagnose teens with substance abuse and mental health disorders early and provide access to treatment improving behavioral outcomes and preventing further involvement with the justice system.

5. PROJECT DESCRIPTION (up to 20 points):

Using the table below, list activity(ies) to be performed with grant funds. Describe the activity's planned flow of services for individuals served by the project.

eGrants Activity	<p>Flow of Services – Describe the planned flow of services for individuals served by each activity. Descriptors may include but are not limited to: type of client to be served, explanation of target levels for new project, function of grant-funded staff in carrying out the project, frequency services will be provided, length of time a person remains in the program, how long a client receives a specific service, involvement of other entities, how budget items associated with this activity are necessary and will be used in carrying out services.</p> <p>Within each activity’s description, explain how the activity avoids duplication or overlapping of existing resources or programs available within the project’s proposed service area and target population.</p>
Professional Therapy and Counseling	<p>Teen Court is an ideal way to identify early SAM disorder indicators before comprehensive criminal justice involvement is required. It is a 90-day program that provides alternative sentencing to first-time juvenile (ages 12 to 18) offenders charged with Class C misdemeanors who have been referred to the Collin County Teen Court by either a Justice of the Peace or Municipal Court. The program generally has between 250 and 300 participants each year that have plead guilty or no contest to offenses such as truancy, theft, disorderly conduct, assault / physical contact, alcohol or illegal substance violations, speeding and other diving offenses, criminal mischief, and curfew violations.</p> <p>At the original misdemeanor sentencing hearing, the Justice of the Peace or Municipal Judge may include participation in the Teen Court program as part of probation. After referral, a Teen Court hearing is set. At the hearing, defendants explain and admit their wrongful acts before a jury of peers their own age, accepting whatever sentence is imposed. Sentencing options usually include community service, apology letters, research papers/essays, and future Teen Court jury duty. Sentences are meant to be constructive, enable offenders to understand the harm caused by their behavior, make amends to the person(s) affected by their actions, and improve relationships with victims and the community. Following completion of the program, the misdemeanor is dismissed from the adolescent’s record.</p> <p>After being referred, but before the Teen Court hearing, the Teen Court Coordinator ensures all (approximately 250-300) participants complete the Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument (MAYSI-2), which is a short behavioral and substance abuse screening tool which can be quickly scored by a non-mental health professional. The Coordinator utilizes the results to identify participants who exhibit potential indicators for SAM disorders. Additionally, the Teen Court Coordinator may identify the potential need for substance abuse and/or mental health evaluation or treatment through post-hearing discussions with the Judge, mandatory follow-on contact with the teen’s school, or parental meetings</p> <p>While the youth “jury” volunteers may include drug testing as part of the sentence, the requirement for evaluation and/or treatment will be assigned by the Teen Court Coordinator after the hearing is over. The sentencing process begins the 13-week (90-day) program period, and the Coordinator will refer participants, as needed, for professional evaluation to be paid using grant funds. The program anticipates that approximately 15 participants will need professional evaluations. Following evaluation results, participants with treatment needs will have 1-hour weekly treatment sessions with a licensed professional for 10 weeks paid using grant funds. Teen Court estimates that 5 participants will need substance abuse treatment and another 5 participants will need mental health treatment. It is our objective to have at least 80% of participants attend all treatment sessions. As an incentive to attend treatment, the participant’s community service hours will be reduced by the corresponding number of treatment hours. Drug testing will be conducted on participants in need of substance abuse treatment. The Teen Court Coordinator will survey the participants, using self-reporting and completion of the MAYSI-2, at the end of the program and again 6 months post-program to determine if the teens have had any further law enforcement interactions, show improved/positive mental health, and/or remain drug free. It is our objective to have at least 80% of participants not reoffend and show improved or maintained health.</p> <p>Collin County Teen Court provides a distinctive opportunity to identify and treat potential SAM disorders earlier than other, formal juvenile justice programs. The program works closely with schools and local non-profit and service agencies to connect participants with existing community based programs, reducing duplication and maximizing successful service linkage to improve rehabilitation.</p>

Using the table below, describe proposed grant-funded staff (including contracted services): provide title, and indicate new or existing position. Describe the experience, education, and knowledge required of the grant-paid position.

Title	New/Existing Position (N or E)	<i>Describe experience/education/knowledge required of grant-paid position (not of the person currently in that position).</i>
NA		

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6. **MEASURES, PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT AND DATA MANAGEMENT (up to 10 points): DO NOT TYPE IN THIS SECTION – COG WILL INSERT INFORMATION FROM EGRANTS IN ADDENDUM**
7. **BUDGET (up to 15 points): DO NOT TYPE IN THIS SECTION - COG WILL INSERT EGRANTS BUDGET IN ADDENDUM**