



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
INTERNAL AFFAIRS
JUDICIAL COLLEGE OF MARYLAND
OPERATIONS
PROGRAMS

Questions/Responses No. 1 to the Request for Proposals (RFP) K17-0093-25C Mental Health Court Evaluation

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The following questions for the above referenced RFP were received by e-mail and are answered and posted for all prospective Offerors. The statements and interpretations contained in the following responses to questions are not binding on the Maryland Judiciary unless the RFP is expressly amended. Nothing in the Maryland Judiciary's response to these questions is to be construed as agreement to or acceptance by the Maryland Judiciary of any statement or interpretation on the part of the Offeror asking the question.

1. **Question:** What is the basic program description?

Response: The Mental Health Court programs in Baltimore City and Prince George's County are diversion programs in Maryland's limited jurisdiction District Court. A mental health court is a specialized court docket established for defendants with a primary mental health diagnosis that substitutes a problem-solving approach for the traditional adversarial criminal court processing. Participants are identified through mental health screenings and assessments and voluntarily participate in a judicially supervised treatment plan developed jointly by a team of court staff and mental health professionals. The overarching goal of the mental health court is to decrease the frequency of participants' contacts with the criminal justice system by providing them with judicial oversight to improve their social functioning with respect to employment, housing, treatment, and support services in the community. Mental health courts rely on individualized treatment plans and ongoing judicial monitoring to address both the mental health needs and public safety concerns of communities in which they reside. These courts also seek to address the underlying problems that contribute to criminal behavior and to assist with the avoidance of recurring correctional visits, as well as to lower the overall recidivism rate of this population.

2. **Question:** How many locations to evaluate?

Response: Two: Baltimore City District Court and Prince George's County District Court

3. Question: what are the number of consents/intakes a year?

Response:

**Mental Health Court Statistical Summary
July 1, 2015—June 30, 2016**

County	Location	Year Est.	Entered Program	Discharged Program	Total Served in FY 2016
Baltimore City	District	Oct-02	131	153	408
Prince George's	District	Jul-07	136	148	311
Total			267	301	719

4. Question: What database is used or would be available?

Response: Records are maintained in several databases. Mental Health Court records are maintained in one database and court records are maintained in a separate court case management system. The Mental Health Court database may have information relating to ancillary and support services (participant demographic and characteristics upon admission and discharge, referrals and services obtained), drug testing results, number of court hearings, incentives, and sanctions. Access to treatment data would not be available without consent from other agencies and consent from defendants.

5. Question: What are the typical cases heard in Mental Health Court?

Response: The Prince George's County Eligibility Criteria states defendants are "charged with a crime in the jurisdiction of the District Court." Typical crimes are:

- Assault 2nd Degree
- Malicious Destruction of Property
- Trespassing
- Prostitution (non-human trafficking)
- Theft (Felony and Misdemeanor)
- Minor Traffic Offenses (DWI, Suspended License, etc)
- Burglary (Misdemeanor)
- Possession of CDS (non- distribution)

- Violation of Peace/Protective order (Non-Domestic Violence)
- Possession of CDS paraphernalia
- Arson/Malicious Burning (non- felony)
- Disorderly Conduct
- Concealed deadly weapon (Non-Handgun)
- Resisting Arrest
- Failure to Appear
- Other civil citations (Urinating in Public, Open Alcoholic Beverage, failure to pay fare, etc)
- Some charges may begin as a felony, however the states attorney will drop the more serious charges and go with the misdemeanor (for example Assault 1st degree dropped top Assault 2nd Degree)

The Baltimore City Eligibility Criteria states defendants are “charged with a misdemeanor or felony of a non-violent nature within the jurisdiction of the District Court – Baltimore City.” Typical charges are very similar to that of Prince George’s County, however they allow for certain felonies that Prince George’s County doesn’t such as Burglary 2nd degree, Arson second degree, Forgery, etc. Baltimore City Mental Health Court also has more civil citations.

Issued by Yashica Forrester
Procurement Officer
May 27, 2017