

Opioid-Related News and the Courts

Weekly Review

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National

[Justice Department Awards More Than \\$340 Million to Address Substance Use Disorders and Fight the Overdose Epidemic](#)

Department of Justice

Below is a list of awards made in Fiscal Year 2022 to address the opioid and stimulant crisis and meet the needs of individuals with substance use disorders. Descriptions of individual awards can be found by clicking on the links.

- BJA is awarding \$140.1 million under its [Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant and Substance Abuse Site-Based Program](#), which will help communities address the prevention, diversion, treatment and recovery needs of those affected by substance use disorders. Another \$8.75 million is funding for training and technical assistance to support grantees and organizations in the field. Training and technical assistance funds will also support peer-to-peer mentoring initiatives and demonstration projects, including a focus on rural communities.
- \$52 million under BJA's [Adult Drug Court Discretionary Grant Program](#) will help states, state courts, local courts, and federally recognized Tribal governments implement and enhance the operations of adult drug courts. Another \$4.5 million is funding related to training and technical assistance.

Arkansas

[\\$1M from opioid settlement will bolster drug treatment courts in Arkansas](#)

Arkansas Advocate

Arkansas will direct \$1 million of the \$5.4 million it received from last year's multi-state settlement with consulting giant McKinsey & Co. to the state's 49 drug treatment courts, Attorney General Leslie Rutledge announced Tuesday.

"With this additional funding, it is my hope that the Administrative Office of the Courts can continue to successfully rehabilitate Arkansans and restore hope in the lives that have been impacted by addiction," Rutledge said in a news conference.

[Adult Drug Courts](#) are voluntary intervention programs for adults "involved in the criminal justice system due to underlying, unmanaged substance use disorders and are at increased risk of reoffending," according to the Arkansas Judiciary website. The programs last 14 to 18 months and are an alternative to incarceration.

Wisconsin

[The Most Radical Drug Court Judge in America](#)

Spin Magazine

Dane County’s drug court program takes a notably holistic approach to addressing addiction-related crime—combining some of the more standard judicial system elements, like regular drug tests, with extensive support-based components.

Provided a person meets specific qualifications—the crime you’re charged with can’t be violent, for instance—a participant, in addition to potentially avoiding a prison sentence, receives access to counseling, medically assisted treatment options, and other resources.

Case managers, for example, may identify a way a program participant can enter treatment faster by changing insurance providers or connect the individual with an organization that will help fund the first month of rent for an apartment.

In general, the program’s five phases focus on stabilizing participants and encouraging them to engage in social and support-based activities, according to Alternative Sanctions program coordinator Brittney Pederson.

Wisconsin

[New vending machines in Rockford deliver free opioid overdose medicine](#)

Rock River Current

The health department and the Winnebago County Sheriff’s Office partnered to setup the machines which were provided through a National Center for State Courts grant.

There have been an average of 145 opioid deaths each year in Winnebago County over the past three years, according to health department data.

“We administer Narcan in our patrol division on a regular basis,” Winnebago County Sheriff Gary Caruana said. “So, I’m very happy that we were able to get these machines to be able to assist the public in the effort to save lives.”