



## 2013 Statewide Accountability Court Funding Use and Needs Survey Final Report

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## Executive Summary

In 2012, the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) was legislatively charged with managing the fiscal aspects of the Accountability Court program with oversight from the Accountability Court Funding Committee. In the interest of effectively allocating resources, the Committee tasked the CJCC Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) with creating a survey to assess the needs of Accountability Courts. The purpose of the survey was to identify how courts are spending their funding and to identify the operational and fiscal barriers courts encounter that directly affect programming.

### Methods

Surveys were distributed to all CJCC-funded accountability courts, of which there are six categories: Adult Felony Drug, Veterans, Mental Health, DUI, Family Treatment Dependency, and Juvenile Courts. The survey was distributed to 195 accountability court judges and program coordinators. Respondents completed 151 surveys for an effective response rate of 83%.

After analyzing the results from the online survey, the CJCC SAC conducted a series of in-person interviews to obtain a more in-depth assessment of the online responses and get specific information about issues related to each type of court. Ten courts – five of which had completed the survey and five non-respondents – were randomly selected to participate in the interviews. The average interview length was 45 minutes.

### Survey Objectives

The survey was divided into six sections and comprised of 59 questions. The objective of the survey was to obtain information regarding each court's funding

uses and needs, training needs, program operations, community outreach, and satisfaction with CJCC's Accountability Courts grant management team.

### Major Findings

Personnel salaries and fringe benefits were the most frequently cited areas for which additional funding is needed. Other areas included treatment provider fees or salaries and program participant housing assistance. In addition, 72% of respondents reported that allowing funding for program participant incentives would be beneficial for their program. Staff turnover was found to be an issue for 37% of accountability courts surveyed.

While the majority of courts reported satisfaction with the National Drug Court Institute training for current staff, 40% of courts do not participate in any additional training besides that provided by the Accountability Courts Funding Committee. However, 84% of respondents indicated they would like to receive additional training on subjects not currently funded or mandated.

With respect to court capacity and solvency, survey findings are promising. Seventy percent of courts reported receiving federal and private/nonprofit funds. Client fees were also cited as a source used to support court operations. According to respondents, the availability of funds for transportation is limited, especially in rural areas. As such, courts reported providing assistance when possible.

Community partnerships were reported to be essential to the success of many accountability courts. Sixty-two percent of courts surveyed partner with non-profits in the community, followed by faith communities (57%) and local officials (55%). Communication between accountability courts and their community and partner agencies was strongest with

probation officers and weakest with parole officers and the Department of Family and Children Services.

### Innovative Practices

With little funding available to directly address transportation issues, accountability courts could partner with local community groups and agencies that have the resources to assist participants without a reliable form of transportation. The goal for accountability courts is to assist their program participants in returning to their community. Therefore, helping them seek employment has become a substantial need for all courts. Courts should encourage their program participants to attend Offender Job Fairs

hosted by State Board of Pardons and Paroles. Also, courts are encouraged to establish partnerships with local government or nonprofit agencies, such as Department of Labor workforce development offices and Goodwill.

A number of accountability courts have indicated that they would benefit from funding to conduct comprehensive program evaluations. Training has become a hot topic for accountability court personnel especially for courts that have a relatively high turnover rate. A “Train the Trainer” program would be helpful to courts so that staff can conduct regional or local in-service training for their colleagues.

## Introduction

During the 2012 legislative session, Governor Nathan Deal appropriated \$11.6 million to support new and existing accountability court programs. By Executive Order, an Accountability Court Funding Committee was established to provide oversight and make award determinations. CJCC was legislatively charged to manage the fiscal administration of the grants. The committee made the first round of grant awards on October 1, 2012 to 99 courts for the remainder of the 2013 state fiscal year ending June 30, 2013. Continued support of the Accountability Court grant program resulted in 103 awards to local courts for SFY 2014. Courts supported by the program include adult felony drug courts, veterans' courts, mental health courts, family treatment dependency courts and juvenile courts. A breakdown of the awards by court type is as follows:

**Table 1: Number of State-Funded Accountability Courts (SFY 2013)**

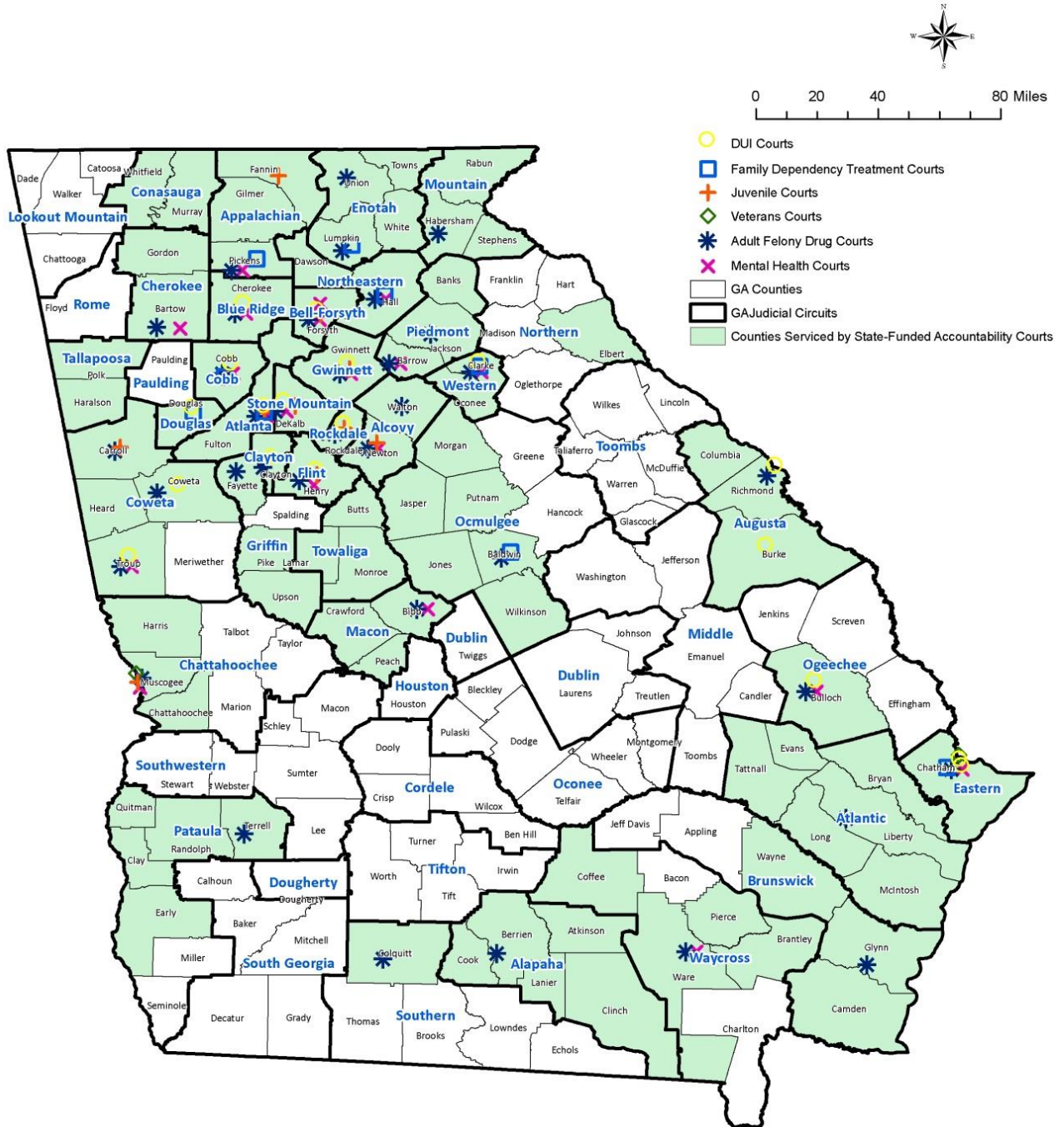
Court Type	Operational Court	Implementation Court	Total
Adult Felony Drug Court	35	7	42
Veterans Court	2	0	2
Mental Health Court	11	7	18
DUI Court	17	2	19
Family Treatment Dependency Court	7	1	8
Juvenile Court	9	1	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>99</b>

**Table 2: Number of State-Funded Accountability Courts (SFY 2014)**

Court Type	Operational Court	Implementation Court	Total
Adult Felony Drug Court	35	10	45
Veterans Court	2	0	2
Mental Health Court	11	7	18
DUI Court	17	2	19
Family Treatment Dependency Court	8	1	9
Juvenile Court	9	1	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>103</b>

At the beginning of the SFY 2014 grant year, a CJCC distributed a survey to funded courts to assess how courts are spending their money, what barriers they are encountering to covering costs and other questions related to court operations. The map below demonstrates the SFY2014 state funded accountability court locations and counties they served.

Figure 1: SFY2014 State Accountability Court Locations and Counties Served



This map was created using the FY 2014 Directory of State Funded Accountability Courts. This map does not include Child Support Courts, Domestic Violence Courts and other problem-solving courts across the state that do not receive state funds. Map created by Ren Yang Hafner, Operations Analyst, at the Statistical Analysis Center at the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council. Map date January 22, 2014. For questions or concerns please contact: Ren.Hafner@cjcc.ga.gov.



## Methodology

### Online Survey

CJCC created a survey instrument that was distributed to judges and program coordinators in the entire population of accountability courts receiving state funding. There are six main types of state-funded accountability courts, including Adult Felony Drug Court, Veterans Court, Mental Health Court, Driving under the Influence (DUI) Court, Family Treatment Dependency Court and Juvenile Court. CJCC sent out 195 surveys to accountability court judges and program coordinators. However, several respondents were disqualified from the sample for the following reasons: two were from implementation courts, two were from courts that are no longer operational, and another five no longer worked at the accountability courts and were thus ineligible to complete the survey. Five respondents indicated that they completed the surveys as a team – i.e. the judge and project coordinator answered the survey together. The effective population size was thus determined to be 181 accountability court judges and program coordinators.

The survey was divided into six sections and all respondents were asked questions about the funding their accountability courts receive, the training efforts in which their courts engage, the program their courts operate, the community outreach in which their courts engage, and their experiences working with CJCC's Accountability Courts' grant management team. (See Appendix "A" for the complete survey questionnaire).

### Semi-Structured Interviews

In an effort to obtain a more comprehensive understanding of court operations, CJCC randomly selected ten courts from the original survey respondent pool to participate in face-to-face interviews. Additionally, CJCC programmed the selection process to ensure at least one of each court type was represented. Because of the unique characteristics of the Family Dependency Treatment Court, CJCC interviewed more Family Treatment Dependency courts than other court types to gather additional information. Two more Family Dependency Treatment courts were randomly selected for a total interview pool of three courts. The last two interview spots were randomly selected from all of the court types. In total, staff interviewed judges and program coordinators from three Family Treatment Dependency courts, two Juvenile courts, two Mental Health courts, one Adult Felony Drug court, one DUI court and one Veterans court.

Thereafter, CJCC's Executive Director composed a letter notifying court representatives that they had been randomly selected for an in-person, semi-structured interview. Courts were assured that their answers would remain confidential and would in no way be tied to any specific court by name. All interviews took place in-person from September 5 to October 1, 2013. Interviews averaged 45 minutes in length and included at least the judge and program coordinator from each court. After all the interviews were completed, the data from each interview was recorded and analyzed.

## Response Rate

Of the 195 surveys that CJCC distributed, 181 respondents were eligible to respond and 151 surveys were completed. Fourteen respondents started the survey, but did not complete the survey before the closing date. The remaining 30 never started the survey. Accounting for the effective sample size (181 accountability court judges and program coordinators) discussed previously, the actual response rate was 83%. The chart below

summarizes the types of courts and their personnel that completed the survey and provides effective response rates by court type.

**Table 3: Number and Type of Courts Personnel Completed the Survey**

Court Type	Number of Court Personnel Who Completed the Survey	Effective Number of Courts Personnel Who Received the Survey	Percent of Court Personnel Who Completed the Survey
Mental Health Court	26	27	96%
DUI Court	35	37	95%
Family Treatment Dependency Court	10	11	91%
Adult Felony Drug Court	63	79	80%
Juvenile Court	16	25	64%
Veterans Court	1	2	50%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>83%</b>

The 181 eligible respondents are from 101 accountability courts. If responses were counted based on each individual court, then CJCC received at least one survey from 89% of the eligible courts. The chart below indicates the types of courts that completed the survey by court type.

**Table 4: Number and Type of Courts Completed the Survey**

Court Type	Number of Courts That Completed the Survey	Effective Number of Courts That Received the Survey	Percent of Courts That Completed the Survey
DUI Court	18	19	95%
Mental Health Court	15	16	94%
Adult Felony Drug Court	40	45	89%
Juvenile Court	12	14	86%
Family Treatment Dependency Court	4	5	80%
Veterans Court	1	2	50%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>89%</b>

CJCC used various communications methods to ensure we received responses from most of the accountability courts surveyed. Pre-survey notice letters were sent via US Mail to alert courts that they would receive an email with a username, password, and survey link to complete the survey. The survey was released in July 2013, two weeks after the pre-survey notice letters were sent. The initial survey deadline was extended to increase the response rate. Survey participants were sent two email notices with updates and reminders about the survey. Thereafter, Ms. Jody Overcash, Seventh Judicial District Court Administrator on behalf of the Accountability Court Funding Committee sent a “last call” email to notify survey

participants about the number of surveys completed and encourage judges and program coordinators to add their voice to the cohort. The survey closed at 5:00pm on Friday August 2, 2013.

## Findings

### Courts Characteristics

Adult Felony Drug Courts comprised a substantial proportion of the sample (42%). The second largest group of courts represented was DUI Courts (23%), followed by Mental Health Courts (17%), Juvenile Courts (11%), Family Treatment Dependency Courts (7%) and Veterans Courts (1%).

**Table 5: Types of Courts Represented in the Sample**

Court Types	No. of Courts	Percent of Sample
Adult Felony Drug Court	63	42%
DUI Court	35	23%
Mental Health Court	26	17%
Juvenile Court	16	11%
Family Treatment Dependency Court	10	7%
Veterans Court	1	1%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>100%</b>

Participants of the online survey responded to several questions regarding the operations of their courts. Specifically, participants were asked whether they are involved in the operations of more than one accountability court. For example, a veteran's court coordinators may manage two or more court types – such as the veterans and drug courts in the circuit. In over 60% of the cases, the respondent was not involved in the operations of multiple accountability courts. According to the survey, 80% of the Family Treatment Dependency Court management teams were only involved in their type of courts, DUI Courts (65.7%) and Mental Health Courts (65.4%) followed closely behind. Interestingly, the single respondent from a Veterans Court reported involvement in the operations of multiple accountability courts.

These findings vary somewhat from the semi-structured interview data. Many of the court management team members interviewed stated that they were involved in the operation of multiple Accountability Courts. Offenders, for the most part, are not involved in multiple Accountability Courts. Each offender's needs are assessed and they are placed in the court most appropriate for their situation.

### Funding Section

#### Additional Funding Needs

At the beginning of the survey, courts were asked about the top three items most in need of additional funding in their programs. Consistently, and for all court types, the number one most stated item was personnel salaries and fringe benefits. Treatment provider fees or salaries were second, and program participant housing assistance was third. Accounting for the specificity of each court type, their additional funding needs are

slightly different from one court type to the next. For example, the number one item for which DUI Courts need additional funding is drug testing supplies; however, the most necessary item for Juvenile Courts is treatment provider fees or salaries. Program evaluation was one of the top three needs for Family Treatment Dependency Courts and Juvenile Courts. The table below summarizes the top three items which need additional funding for each type of court.

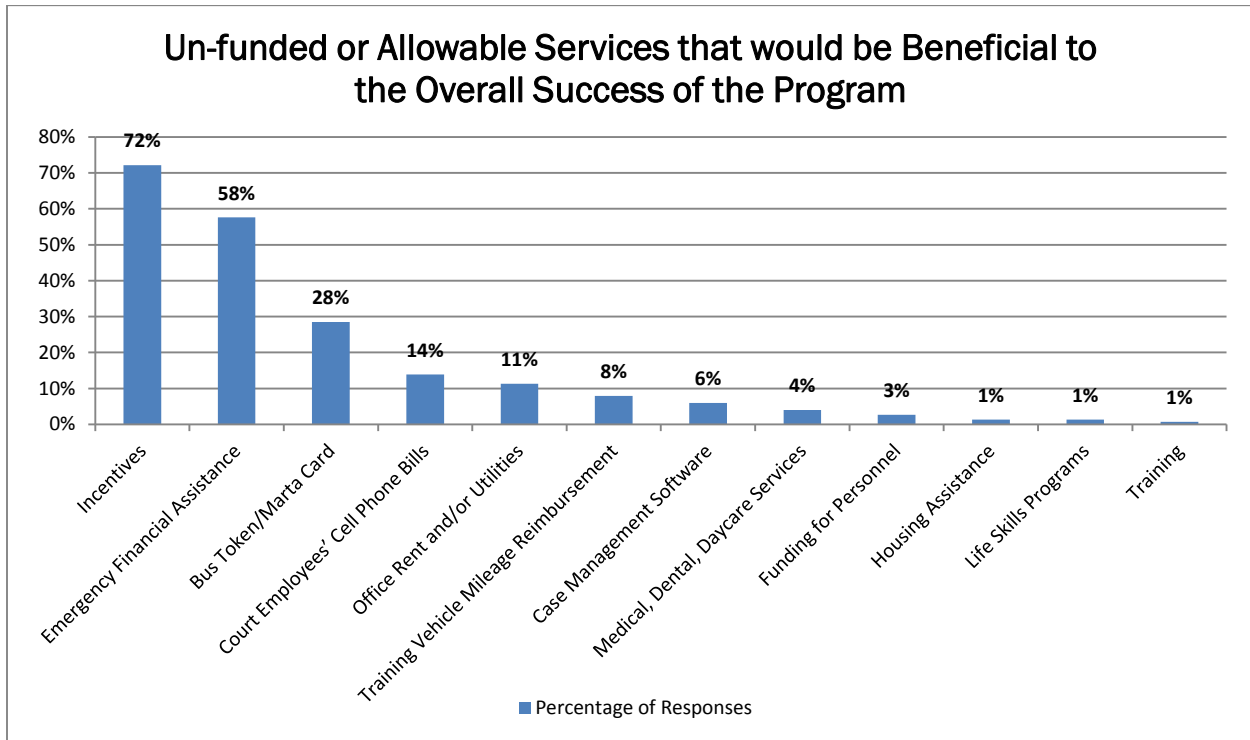
**Table 6: Top Three Items That Need Additional Funding by Court Type**

Court Type	Item 1	Item 2	Item 3
<b>Adult Felony Drug Court</b>	Personnel Salaries and Fringe Benefits	Treatment Provider Fees or Salaries	Program Participant Housing Assistance
<b>Veterans Court</b>	Personnel Salaries and Fringe Benefits	Computer Software Upgrade/License	Program Participant Housing Assistance
<b>Mental Health Court</b>	Program Participant Housing Assistance	Personnel Salaries and Fringe Benefits	Treatment Provider Fees or Salaries
<b>DUI Court</b>	Drug Testing Supplies	Personnel Salaries and Fringe Benefits	Treatment Provider Fees or Salaries
<b>Family Treatment Dependency Court</b>	Program Participant Housing Assistance	Personnel Salaries and Fringe Benefits	Treatment Provider Fees or Salaries/ Program Evaluation
<b>Juvenile Court</b>	Treatment Provider Fees or Salaries	Personnel Salaries and Fringe Benefits	Psychiatrist Fees or Salaries/ Program Evaluation

Data from semi-structured interviews tells a similar story. Popular areas in need of additional funding included transportation, housing, additional staff members, and additional treatment and incentives for program participants. Many courts are located in counties with limited or no public transportation system. Getting participants to attend court, treatment, and any other required activity becomes a barrier when the participant has no form of transportation. Housing for participants was also a common issue among Accountability Courts. This is especially common in Adult Felony Drug, Family Treatment Dependency, Mental Health and Veterans Courts. Additional money for treatment and drug testing is a need for DUI courts, and several other courts need money for additional staff members or a case management system to track their participant's history and progress in the program. The state is planning on providing money to the accountability courts to use towards a case management system.

Under the current state funding program, there are a number of services that may not be considered allowable expenses and, as such, are reviewed on a case-by-case basis by the Committee. In the online survey, courts were asked whether any of these services would be beneficial to the overall success of their program. Based on their responses, 72% of respondents cited incentives for program participants as a great need, followed by emergency financial assistance for program participants (58% cited as a need), and bus token/Marta cards or other transportation assistance for program participants (28% cited as a need).

**Figure 2: Un-funded or Allowable Service that would be Beneficial to the Overall Success of the Program**

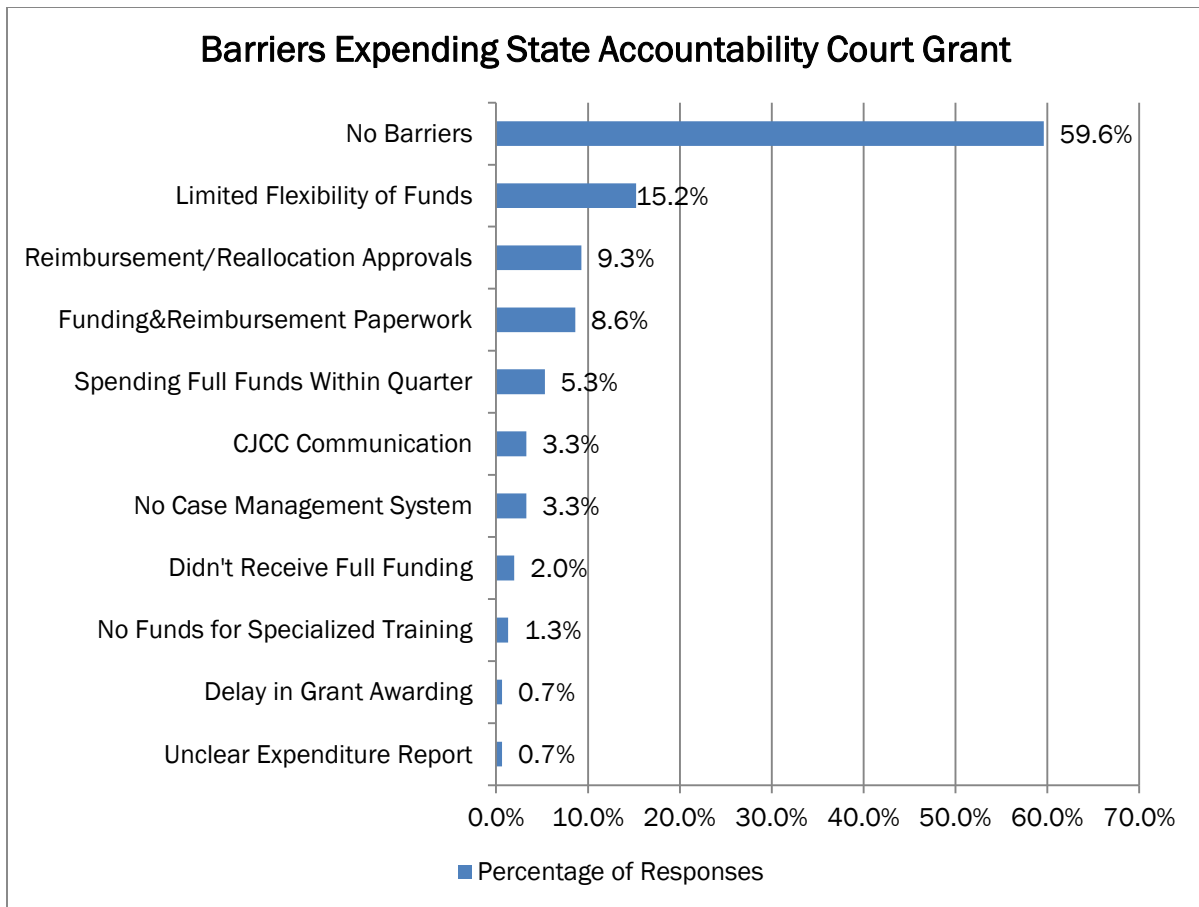


Based on court type, program incentives for participants are most necessary for Adult Felony Drug Courts (41% cited as a need), DUI Courts (19% cited as a need) and Mental Health Courts (18% cited as a need). Comparatively, vehicle mileage reimbursement when court members attend training is most necessary for DUI Courts (42% cited as a need) and Adult Felony Drug Courts (33% cited as a need).

### **Barriers Courts Encountered to Spending their State Grant Funds**

Courts were asked to describe any barriers they encountered when expending the State Accountability Court grant. Nearly 60% of the respondents did not experience delays in spending the grant money. For the remaining 40% of respondents, the most frequently reported barrier included the limited flexibility of funds, with 23 respondents reporting problems with flexibility. Reimbursement and reallocation approvals also topped the barriers list, with 14 respondents reporting a burdensome approvals process. Thirteen respondents spoke about barriers with the funding and reimbursement paperwork, while 8 respondents reported that spending the full amount of grant funds within the quarter was a barrier. Additional barriers included administrative processing, lack of a case management system, failure to receive full funding, lack of funds for specialized training, delay in grant awards, and unclear expenditure reports.

**Figure 3: Barriers Expending State Accountability Court Grant**



As stated in the special conditions, the state-funded accountability courts must spend 25% of the grant each quarter. Any unexpended funds are returned to the Accountability Court funding pool for reallocation. This system allowed the state to fund 2 more accountability courts in SFY14. During the interviews, a few courts stated that it was difficult to meet this special condition. In some instances, less money is required in one part of the year, whereas additional money is necessary at another time. For example, the courts usually purchase a large amount of drug testing supplies at the beginning of the grant cycle. The Funding Committee is aware of the courts' concerns, and implemented a solution by offering a waiver to allow the courts keep the left over funding across quarters.

**Staff Turnover**

In the previous grant year, 56 courts reported staff turnover, totaling 37% of all accountability courts surveyed. Of those 56 courts, 46% reported losing only one staff member, 29% reported losing two staff members and the additional 25% lost three or more staff members. More than half of the employees lost were grant-funded. Courts, on average, took about three months to fill the vacant positions and 80% of courts felt they had a sufficient qualified pool of applicants to choose from to fill the position. Turnover of grant-funded personnel may also decrease the rate at which courts expend their funds. As a procedural matter, if courts wanted to reallocate the funds devoted to personnel during the time the position is vacant, they have to complete a budget adjustment with CJCC. The

request must be approved before funds can be expended in other categories, which may slow the rate of expenditure.

## Training Section

### Current Training

Approximately 70% of courts reported satisfaction with the National Drug Court Institute (NDCI) training provided by Georgia Accountability Court Funding Committee. During SFY13, the Committee offered 9 sessions on 4 categories including court specific training, risk/needs assessment training, treatment curriculum/ methodology training, and optional training. All state-funded accountability court personnel are required to attend these training sessions based on their court type. Twenty-one percent of courts reported being neither satisfied nor dissatisfied, while 9% of courts reported dissatisfaction with the training. Out of the 151 court personnel surveyed, 39% do not attend additional training beyond what the Accountability Court Funding Committee provides and requires. Out of the remaining courts, 38% attend additional training at least annually and 23% attend additional training either semi-annually or quarterly. Please see the additional training information listed below.

**Table 7: Additional Non-Mandatory Training Attended by Accountability Courts Personnel**

Additional Non-Mandatory Training Attended	
Administration of Courts (AOC) Annual Conference	Trauma Training
National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP) Training	Program Evaluation Webinar
Tune-up Training	Veterans Court Summit
Juvenile, Family Court Specific Training	Ethics Training
Court Judges Conference	Continuing Education Units
Drug Additional Training	Case Management Training
Mental Health Court Enhancement Training	SFY2013 Legislative Session
Co-occurring Disorder Training	DWI Enhancement Training

Accountability courts reported having 10 people on their court team on average. Team sizes ranged from 3 to 30 members. On average, 8 members of each court's team attended training in the previous grant year, (Oct. 1, 2012 - June 30, 2013). For individual types of courts, on average 8 Adult Felony Drug Court team members attended, an average of 4 Veteran court team members, an average of 7 team members for Mental Health and DUI Courts, an average of 9 team members for Family Treatment Dependency Courts, and an average of 8 team members for Juvenile Courts.

**Table 8: Number of Court’s Team Attended Training in SFY2013**

Court Type	Average No. of Court Members Attended Training in SFY2013	Percentage of Court Team Trained
Adult Felony Drug Court	8	77%
Veterans Court	4	50%
Mental Health Court	7	72%
DUI Court	7	77%
Family Treatment Dependency Court	9	86%
Juvenile Court	8	66%

When asked about training during the interview process, courts had mixed responses as to whether they think the training they received is adequate. In many cases, courts said both yes and no. Some courts have high turnover with their staff and need training to be held more frequently. Other courts need additional funding to send all of their staff to training, rather than just one person. Family Treatment Dependency court representatives expressed a need to ensure that the Department of Family and Children Services (DFCS) staff and attorneys on their team receive training on addiction-related issues. Family Treatment Dependency, Juvenile Mental Health, and Veterans courts stated that training related specifically to the populations they serve is needed for their respective courts.

**Additional Training**

Survey participants were asked if there were any non-mandatory training programs that would be beneficial for their courts to attend. Respondents also suggested Moral Reconciliation Therapy (21%) and Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy (23%), as two of the trainings that would prove most beneficial for their court. Level of service inventory-revised training (19%) was also suggested. Further, of the courts surveyed, 43% would like to receive training on improving court outcomes for individuals with co-occurring disorders. Veterans Courts, Family Treatment Dependency Courts, and Juvenile Courts in particular expressed interest in training on this issue. The chart below further illustrates the percentage of courts that expressed their interest in receiving this training.



**Table 9: Number of Courts Interested in Attend Additional Training**

Training Sessions	Adult Felony Drug Court	Veterans Court	Mental Health Court	DUI Court	Family Dependency Treatment Court	Juvenile Court
<b>Cognitive Behavioral Intervention</b>	25%	0%	15%	23%	10%	38%
<b>Moral Reconciliation Therapy</b>	22%	100%	15%	17%	10%	31%
<b>Level of Service Inventory - Revised</b>	24%	0%	4%	23%	10%	18%
<b>Improving Court Outcomes for Individuals with Co-Occurring Disorders</b>	30%	100%	46%	40%	90%	63%

Overall, 84% of the responding courts indicated they would like additional training on subjects not currently provided with accountability court funds. Ninety-three percent of courts intend on sending at least one core team member to training on an annual basis. The courts also suggested that each specific court type should have the opportunity to network with other courts around the state. An overwhelming majority of courts would like to have an online forum or web platform to communicate with fellow accountability court judges (94%).

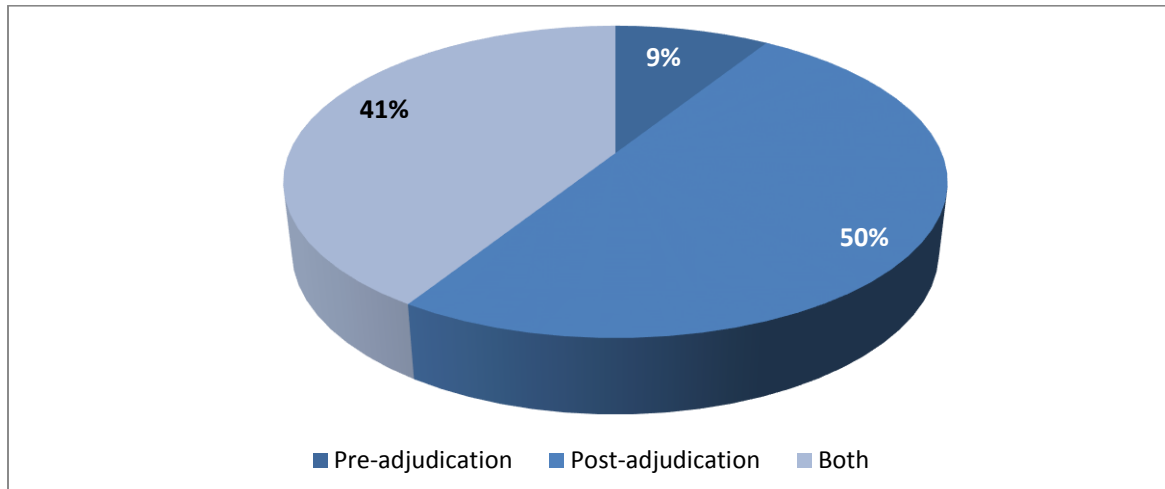
### Program Operations Overview

In the online survey, respondents were asked if cases were accepted into the program pre-adjudication (offenders who have not yet been formally adjudicated for the incident/offense that led to their assignment and who was placed in community correction while awaiting action by the court<sup>1</sup>), post- adjudication (offenders placed in the accountability court program as a disposition which does not involve placement on probation and who were not on probation at the time of the disposition<sup>2</sup>) or both. Courts who accept only pre-adjudication cases are the smallest portion of the population (9%). Half of the courts, (75 participants) reported they accept only post-adjudication cases. The remaining 41% of the participants reported that they accept both pre- and post- adjudication cases into their program.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.laportecounty.org/departments/corrections/definitions.html>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.laportecounty.org/departments/corrections/definitions.html>

**Figure 4: Is the Court Pre- Or Post-adjudication or Both?**



**Rules around Offender Criminal History**

To determine whether courts had criteria or thresholds for admitting offenders with previous criminal histories, courts were asked how many first-time offenders they served in the previous year and whether they had a maximum threshold for prior arrests. During the previous grant year (Oct. 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013), CJCC-funded accountability courts reported serving 773 first-time offenders. The majority of the first-time offenders participated in the Adult Felony Drug Courts (66%), followed by Juvenile Courts (12%), and Mental Health Courts (11%). However, Veterans Courts did not serve any first-time offenders during the past grant period.

**Table 10: Number of First Time Offenders Served by State-Funded Accountability Courts (October 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013)**

Court Types	No. of First Time Offenders	Percent of Total First Time Offenders Served
Adult Felony Drug Court	509	66%
DUI Court	41	5%
Mental Health Court	82	11%
Juvenile Court	96	12%
Family Treatment Dependency Court	45	6%
Veterans Court	0	0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>773</b>	<b>100%</b>

With respect to prior arrests, the average number of prior arrests courts are willing to allow for participant admission is 17. The lowest number of previous arrests that courts reported was 1 arrest, and the highest number was 100 arrests – though this high number is an artifact of the survey software. In fact, the court reporting this figure does not have an arrest max. On average, Family Treatment Dependency Courts and Juvenile Courts have a lower cap for prior arrests. Adult Felony Drug Courts, Mental Health Courts and DUI Courts

take participants with high prior arrests number as well as first time offenders.

**Table 11: Average Prior Arrests Cap by Court Type**

Court Types	Average Prior Arrests Cap
Adult Felony Drug Court	18
DUI Court	34
Mental Health Court	17
Juvenile Court	6
Family Treatment Dependency Court	3
Veterans Court	0

**Mission, Goals and Assessment**

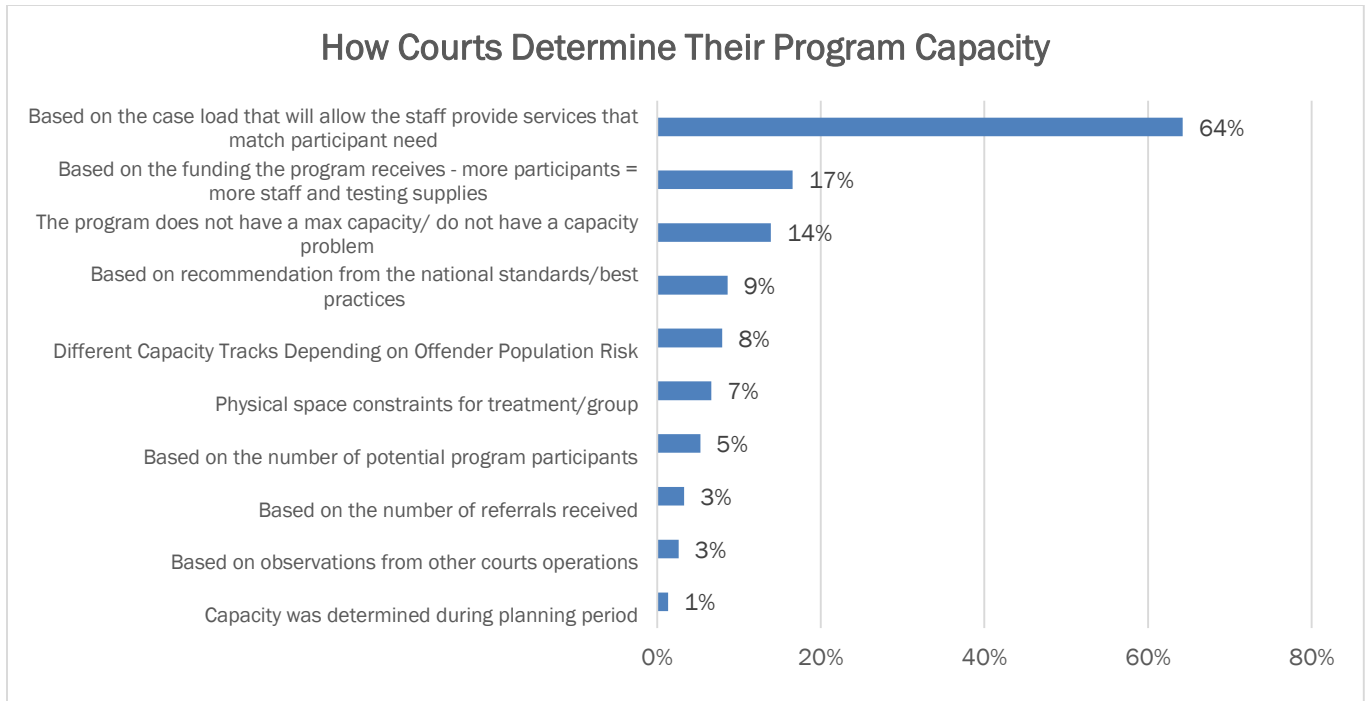
The majority (93%) of the surveyed courts reported that they have a mission statement in place, and 80% of the courts have a clearly defined set of goals with timelines for when they want to achieve them. Over 64% of the courts believe that a mid-year assessment to compare the court’s stated goals to its actual activity would be helpful to the court’s operations.

**Program Capacity and Per Participant Costs**

Based on the data retrieved from the FY2013 State Accountability Court Applications and SFY2013 Accountability Court Output Reports, accountability courts are currently operating at 85% of their projected capacity. There is a significant difference in the capacity and active participation of Mental Health Courts (306 persons), Juvenile Courts (266 persons) and Family Dependency Treatment Courts (250 persons). However, DUI courts are operating slightly above capacity. When asked whether service targets for offenders were established by the court for any given time period (e.g., monthly, quarterly, semi-annually, or annually), a little over half of the participants reported having service targets (54.3%).

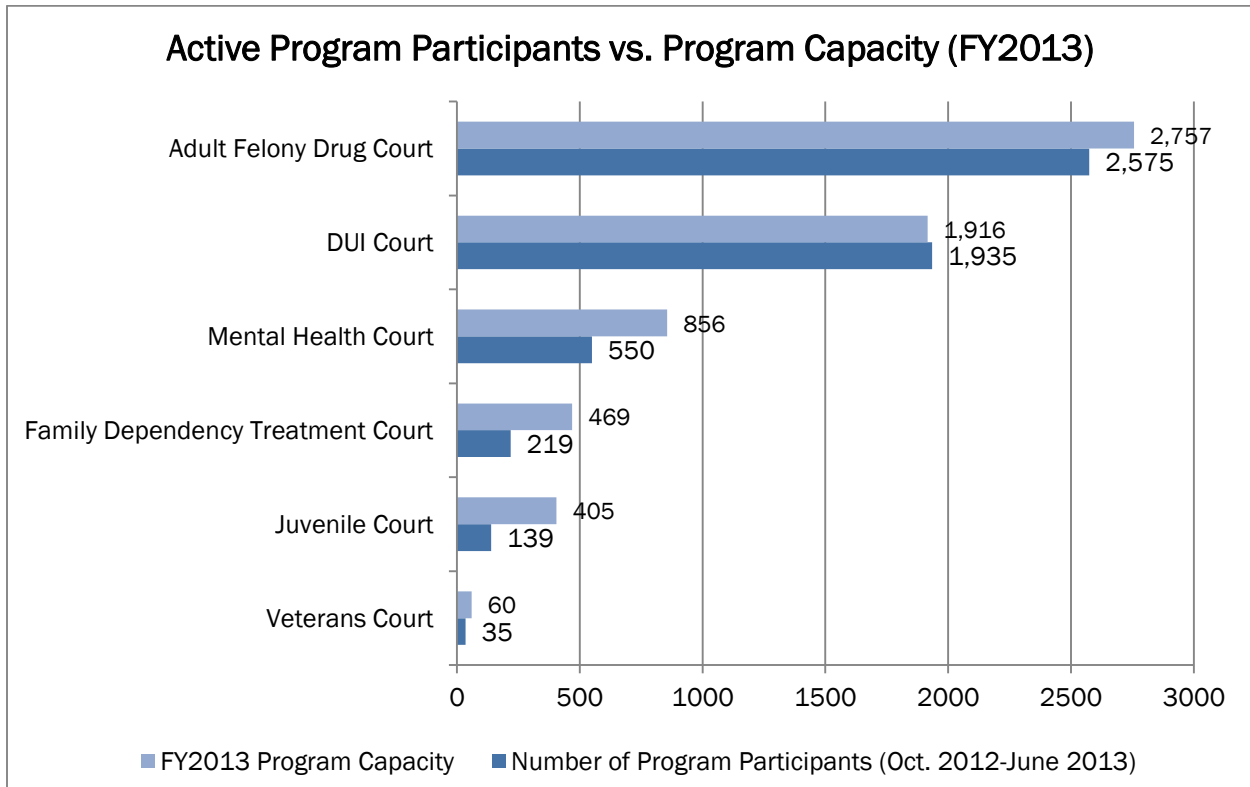
The majority (64%) of the surveyed courts reported that they determine their program capacity based on the case load that will allow the staff provide services that match participants need. For example, a licensed full time counselor can serve 30 participants, and the court has 2 counselors working in the program, therefore, their program capacity is 60 participants. Nearly 17% of the surveyed courts determine their program capacity based on the funding the program receives. The more participants they serve, the more staff they have to hire to provide treatment services and the more testing supplies to purchase. Around 14% of the surveyed courts indicated that their program does not have a maximum capacity or does not have a capacity problem at the moment. Other program capacity determination factors include: national standards and best practices (9%), Different capacity tracks depending on offender population risk (8%), physical space constrains for treatment or group counseling (7%), the number of eligible participants in the potential program population (5%), the number of referrals the courts received (3%), and capacity was determined during planning period of establishing the court (1%).

**Figure 5: How Courts Determine Their Program Capacity**



On average, accountability courts spend \$3,057 per participant per year. Specifically, Adult Felony Drug Courts have the highest per-participant cost (\$3,493) and Mental Health Courts have the lowest per-participant cost (\$2,301).

**Figure 6: SFY2013 Active Program Participants Enrolled in State-Funded Accountability against Their Projected Program Capacity**



The addition of new courts and reorganized funding priorities<sup>3</sup> in the upcoming state fiscal year increased capacity by 11%. If the rate of service does not change (85% capacity) and no additional funds are allocated to program or treatment staff in the coming fiscal year, we can expect accountability courts to serve approximately 650 participants more than the previous fiscal year.

**Table 12: SFY 2014 State-Funded Accountability Courts' Projected Program Capacity**

Court Types	FY 2014 Program Capacity
Adult Felony Drug Court	3,357
DUI Court	1,949
Mental Health Court	815
Juvenile Court	440
Family Treatment Dependency Court	534
Veterans Court	85
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,180</b>

<sup>3</sup> In SFY13, the Accountability Court Funding Committee decided to move Family Dependency Treatment Court into the same funding pool as Adult Felony Drug Court, Mental Health Court and Veterans Court to increase funding capacity for Family Courts.

**Additional Funding Sources**

Over 70% of Accountability Courts reported that they receive funding from sources other than CJCC. However, the responding Veterans Court representatives stated that they only receive funding from the State Accountability Courts grant. For those courts receiving additional funding, the most common type of funding comes from their residing county. Almost 60% of Adult Felony, Mental Health, DUI, and Family Treatment Dependency courts receive money from their respective counties and over 40% of Juvenile courts also receive county funds. Almost 60% of Adult Felony and over 40% of DUI courts also reported using client fees to fund some operations. Substantially fewer courts receive funding from non-county sources. Only 30% or fewer of the 109 courts that receive external funds cited federal grants or private/nonprofit foundation grants as a source.

**Table 13: Additional Funding Sources for Accountability Courts by Court Type**

Court Types	County Funds	Federal Funds	Private/Non-Profit Funds	Client Fees
Adult Felony Drug Court	62%	30%	21%	59%
DUI Court	63%	11%	17%	43%
Mental Health Court	58%	15%	15%	12%
Juvenile Court	44%	13%	25%	25%
Family Treatment Dependency Court	60%	20%	30%	30%
Veterans Court	0%	0%	0%	0%

Client fees appear to be a substantial funding source for Adult Felony Drug Courts. Almost 60% of those that receive funding from non-CJCC sources reported that client fees were part of their funding portfolio. A similar, substantial proportion of DUI courts also reported that client fees were part of their funding portfolio. Client fees for the 62 respondents who reported that their courts received revenue from client fees range from \$1 to \$8,100. Courts were further asked what percentage of their overall funding is derived from client fees. On average, DUI courts have the highest percentage of their funding coming from client fee revenues (42%), followed by Adult Felony Drug Court (21%). Only 10 of the 62 respondents who charge client fees reported that they were on a sliding scale. Exactly 50% of the 62 participants reported the client fees can be waived by between 5% and 100% if the program participant is indigent.

During the interviews, several courts stated that they have the ability to apply for additional grants besides the CJCC state grant. Although there is a member on staff able to write grants, most of the time this staff member is not designated to solely writing grants. In many cases, the coordinator has the skills and ability to write grants, but they also have several other duties and priorities. Courts that do receive other funding aside from the state grant typically receive federal funding, county funding, or various grants found through their own research.

**Drug Screen**

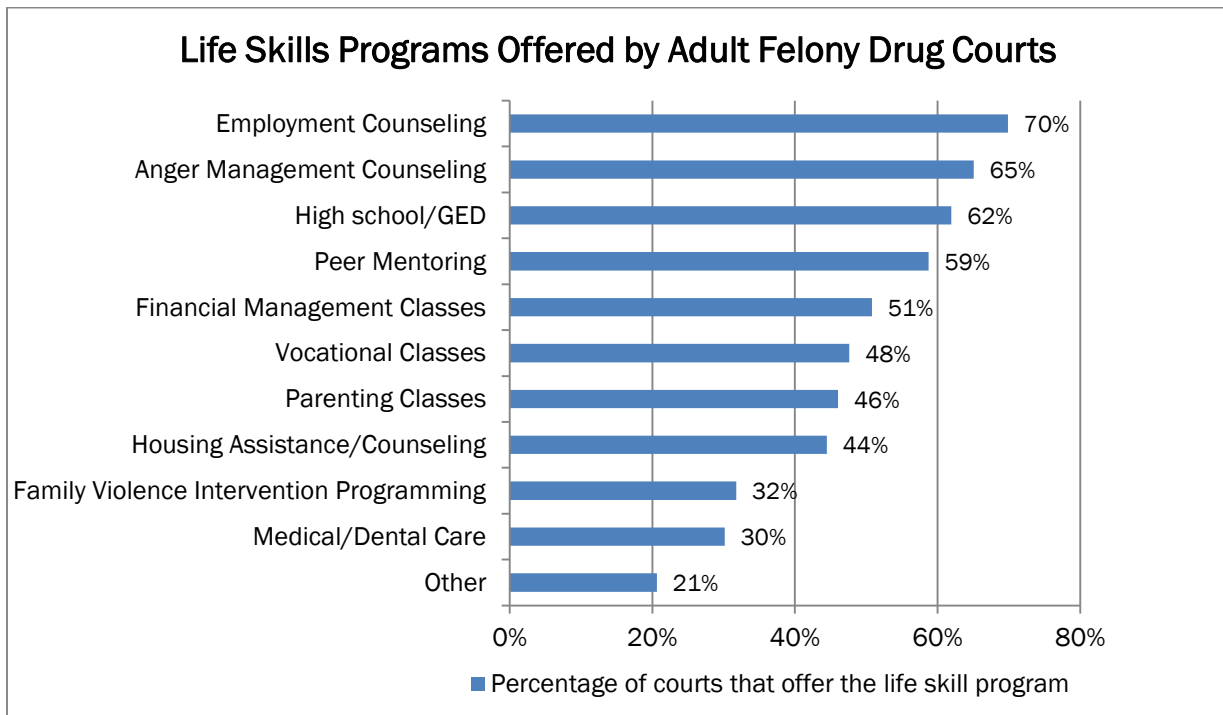
Seventy-four percent of the 151 respondents indicate their courts require program participants to pay for re-screening of drug tests when both the original drug screen and the pre-screen are positive. On average, re-screens cost participants \$71, but charges can go

up to \$2,500.

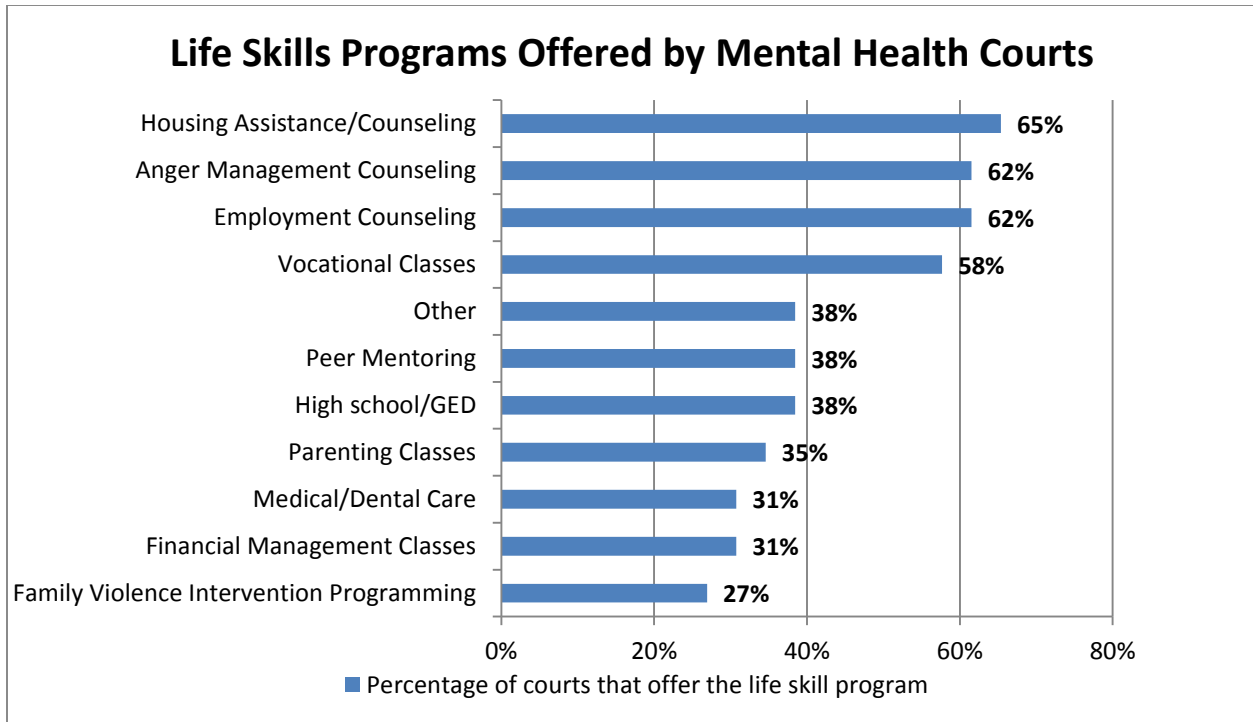
**Life Skills Programs**

CJCC asked courts about the type of life skill programs that they offer to their program participants. Courts determine which life-skills programs to provide by focusing on the needs of each individual participant. Adult Felony Drug courts most commonly offer Employment Counseling (70%), Anger Management Classes (65%), and High School/GED courses (62%). The chart below summarizes the life skills programs that Adult Felony Drug Courts offer.

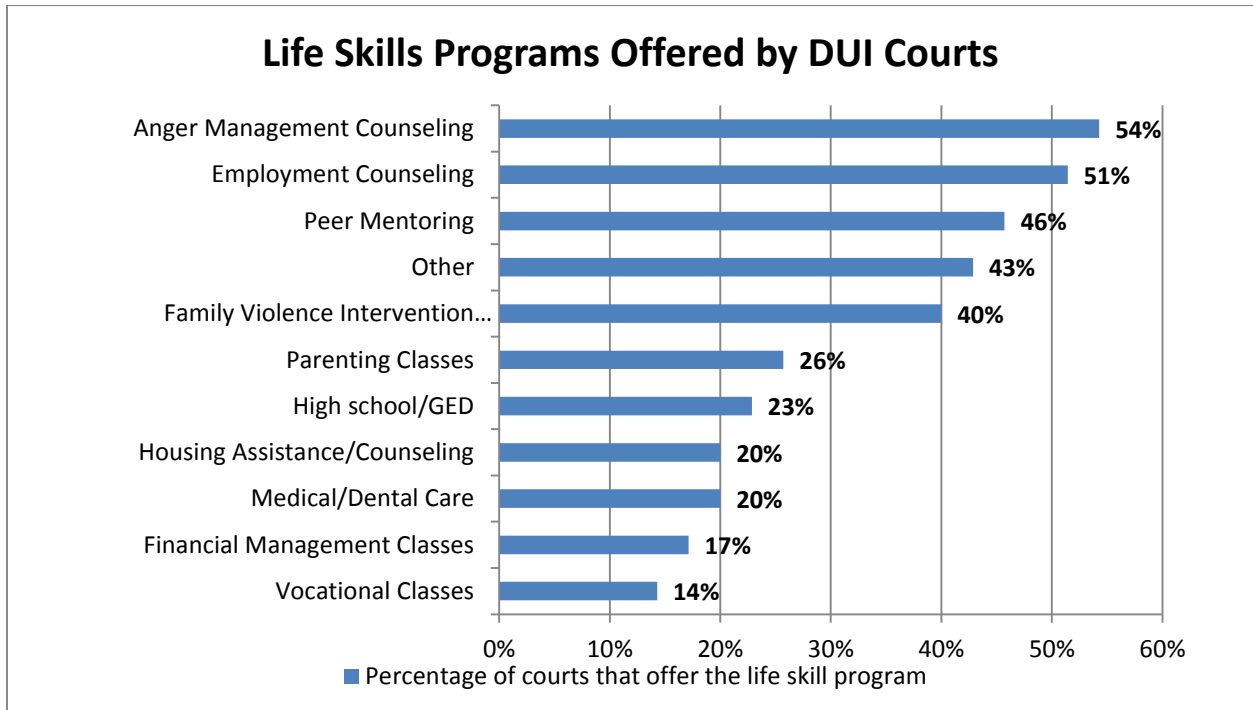
**Figure 7: Life Skills Programs Offered by Accountability Courts by Court Type**



Only one Veterans court responded to our survey, and this court offers Anger Management Counseling, Housing Assistance/Counseling, Peer Mentoring and Vocational Classes. Mental Health courts most commonly offer Housing Assistance (65%), Anger Management Counseling (62%) and Employment Counseling (62%).



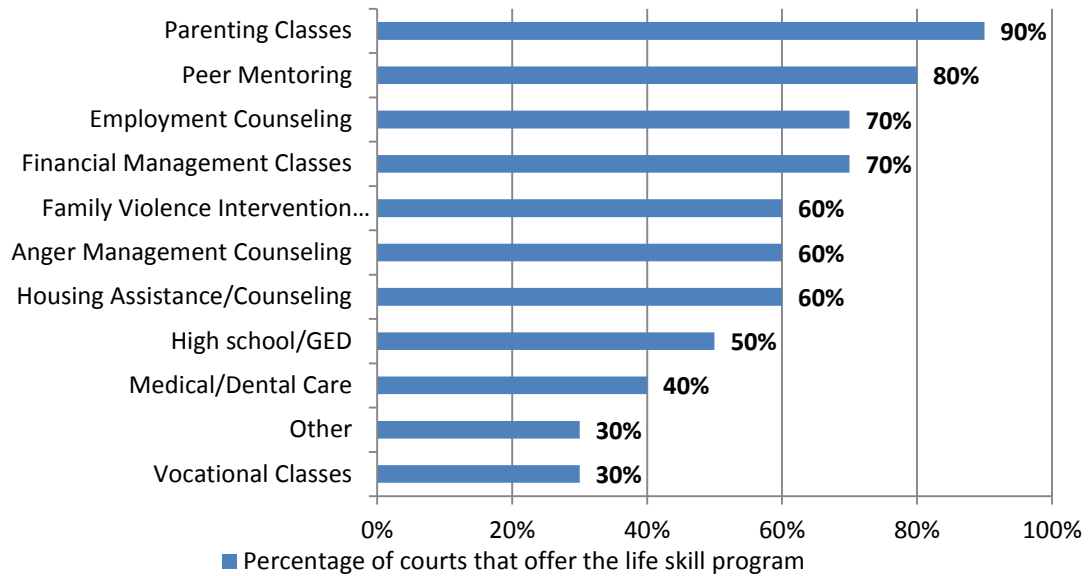
DUI courts most commonly offer Anger Management Counseling (54%), Employment Counseling (51%) and Peer Mentoring (46%).



Family Treatment Dependency courts most commonly offer Parenting Classes (90%), Peer Mentoring Classes (80%), Employment Counseling (70%) and Financial Management Classes (70%).

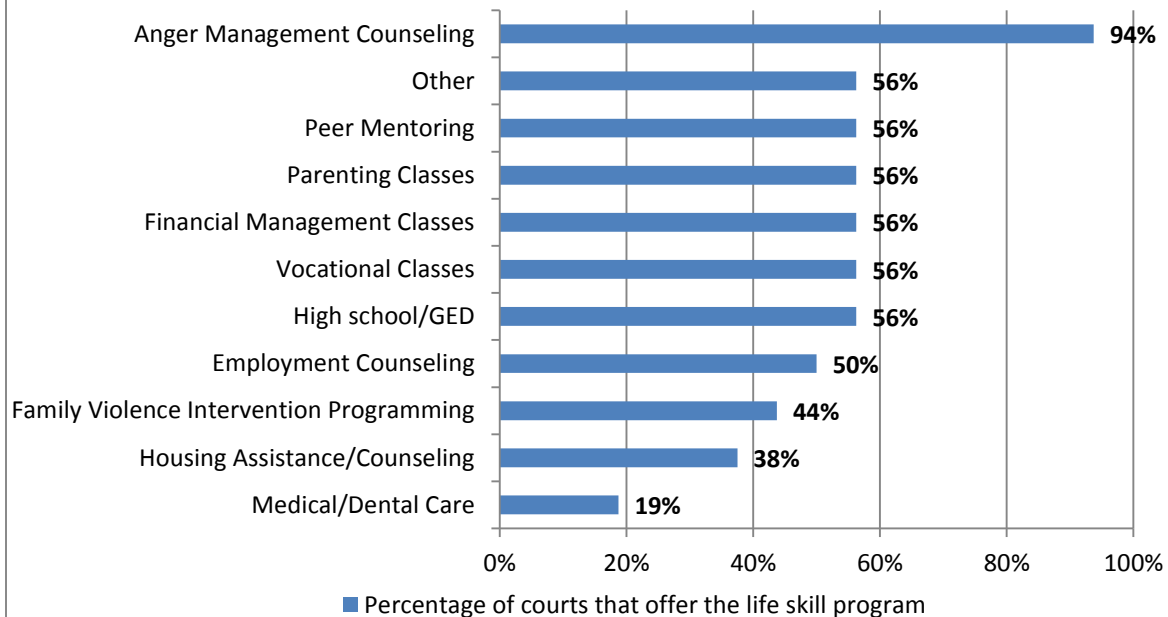


### Life Skills Programs Offered by Family Treatment Dependency Court



Juvenile courts most commonly offer Anger Management Counseling to their program participants along with other classes, including Peer Monitoring (56%), Parenting Classes (56%), Financial Management Classes (56%), Vocational Classes (56%) and High School/GED Classes (56%).

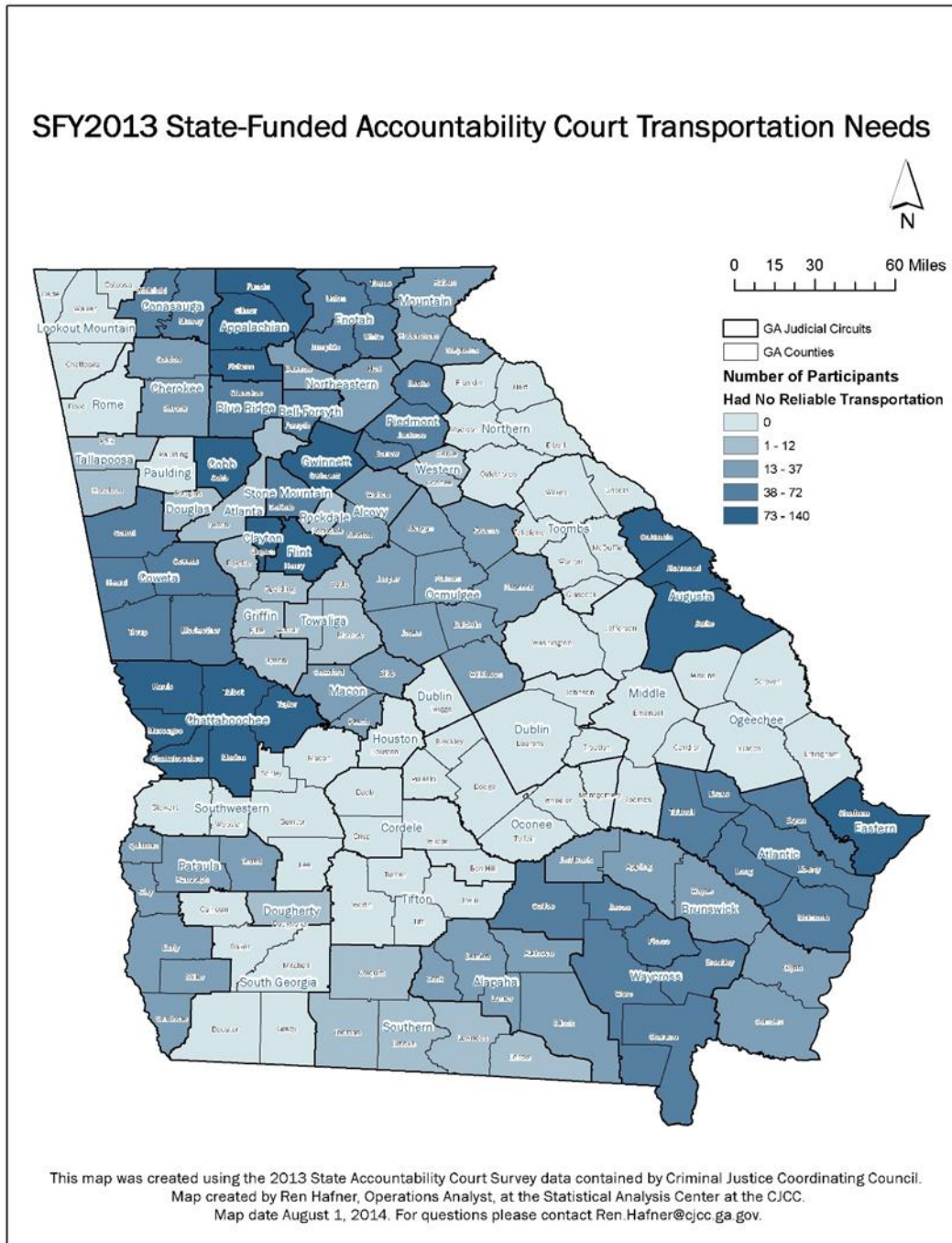
### Life Skills Programs Offered by Juvenile Courts



**Transportation Assistance**

Respondents were asked to report how many of the participants they served during the previous grant year had reliable transportation to get to and from the program on time. Answers ranged from 0 (meaning no clients had transportation issues) to 85 program participants who had transportation issues. For the SFY 2013, a total of 1,673 of the accountability court program participants did not have reliable transportation (57% of the participant population).

**Figure 8: SFY2013 State-Funded Accountability Court Transportation Needs**



This map indicates the number of program participants from the state-funded accountability courts did not have reliable transportation in SFY2013. Since some of the courts provide services to multiple counties in their judicial circuits, the map was created by using judicial circuit level data. The highest transportation assistance needs come from North Georgia Mountain Area (Appalachian circuit), West Georgia (Chattahoochee circuit), and southeastern region (Augusta, eastern circuits).

Respondents were also asked if they assist with transportation needs. Fifty-four percent of respondents reported that their program does assist with transportation issues in a variety of ways. The most common ways are gas cards (37%), public transportation passes (37%), or referrals to other public transportation (32%). Courts are able to assist with transportation issues with the help of the State Accountability Courts Grant, county funds, federal grant funds, private/non-profit funds, and other funding sources.

During our interviews, courts expressed their concern with transportation issues as well, especially in rural communities with no public system. Many courts try to help participants with transportation issues, but many times their options for doing so are very limited. Common strategies to assist participants include providing bus passes or tokens, providing bicycles, and partnering with agencies in the community who are able to assist with transportation. One court stated that they pick treatment providers who are on a bus route and easily accessible. Sometimes, treatment providers assist in providing transportation to and from the treatment locations.

### **Housing Assistance**

Affordable housing for participants is also a key issue for many courts. Some courts have community partnerships with local organizations and housing authorities. However, many rural areas have limited public housing or other affordable housing resources to assist participants in need. Mental Health and Veterans courts in particular reported a lack of housing for their target populations.

An additional barrier is finding housing that is willing to accept persons with criminal histories or even active criminal cases. To apply for benefits such as Section 8 or housing vouchers, participants must demonstrate that they have completed the accountability court program and are thus ineligible to apply while they are attending court.<sup>4</sup>

### **Referral Sources**

Courts were asked to report their top three sources for referrals into their program. Overall, accountability courts receive most of their referrals from the Prosecutor's Office, Public Defenders, and Probation Officers. Accounting for the specificity of each court type, their referral sources vary slightly. For example, all courts receive most of their referrals from the Prosecutor's Office except for the Veterans Courts. Their most common referrals come from Public Defenders followed by Jail and Self-Referrals. The table below shows the referral sources by different court types.

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<sup>4</sup>Regional Counsel, 7AC. (2010, February 4). Subject Redacted. Kansas City, KS: Thomas J. Coleman, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Retrieved from: [portal.hud.gov/hudportal/documents/huddoc?id=criminalbgscreening.pdf](http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/documents/huddoc?id=criminalbgscreening.pdf).

**Table 14: Referral Sources by Court Type**

Court Type	1 <sup>st</sup> Referral Source	2 <sup>nd</sup> Referral Source	3 <sup>rd</sup> Referral Source
Adult Felony Drug Court	Prosecutor's Office	Public Defender	Probation Officer
Veterans Court	Public Defender	Jail	Self-Referrals
Mental Health Court	Prosecutor's Office	Public Defender	Probation Officer
DUI Court	Prosecutor's Office	Public Defender	Self-Referrals
Family Treatment Dependency Court	Prosecutor's Office	Public Defender	Probation Officer
Juvenile Court	Prosecutor's Office	Public Defender	Probation Officer

### Participant-Related Challenges

During the interviews, mental health courts were asked to describe the biggest challenges they face when working with mentally ill offenders. One court described having more challenges with the referral system than the actual offenders. Many participants coming into their court have never had formal treatment and/or have resorted to self-medicating. The court has no specific strategies in place to address these challenges, but they rely on resources from the community and weekly residential staff meetings to discuss and work through these challenges.

Another mental health court said that determining whether a participant's negative actions are behavioral or symptomatic was a challenge for their court. This particular mental health court also said watching participants naturally cycle through the phases of their illness and self-sabotage are also significant challenges. Finally, they cited the lack of jobs for the mentally ill population as a challenge to working with these offenders. To address these challenges, the court relies on treatment providers and encourages participants to attend job fairs and work with supportive employers.

The third mental health court we interviewed stated that their biggest challenge is working with an adolescent population that is going through hormonal transitions in addition to mental illness. Keeping families engaged in the program is also a challenge since they work with youth. The court has begun recognizing parents for being involved in the program and taken a holistic approach in the treatment of their participants. This includes providing a variety of classes and life skill programs, such as etiquette classes, relationship classes, and pro-social experiences to give the participants a well-rounded and complete treatment experience.

### Treatment Providers

The top three substance abuse treatment providers that accountability courts use are community service boards (42%), non-profit providers (31%) and private rehabilitation facilities (25%). Additionally, 66% of courts reported partnering with their local community service board for treatment other than substance abuse. Over 75% of those courts do not pay for these additional treatment services.

CJCC asked courts to report what criteria they use to evaluate providers with whom they contract for services. The most frequent response was "Training of Professionals Providing Services," with over 80% courts reporting that credentials are an important factor when choosing a contract provider. For therapy providers, the use of evidence-based therapeutic interventions is important, with 80% of courts reporting that they use this

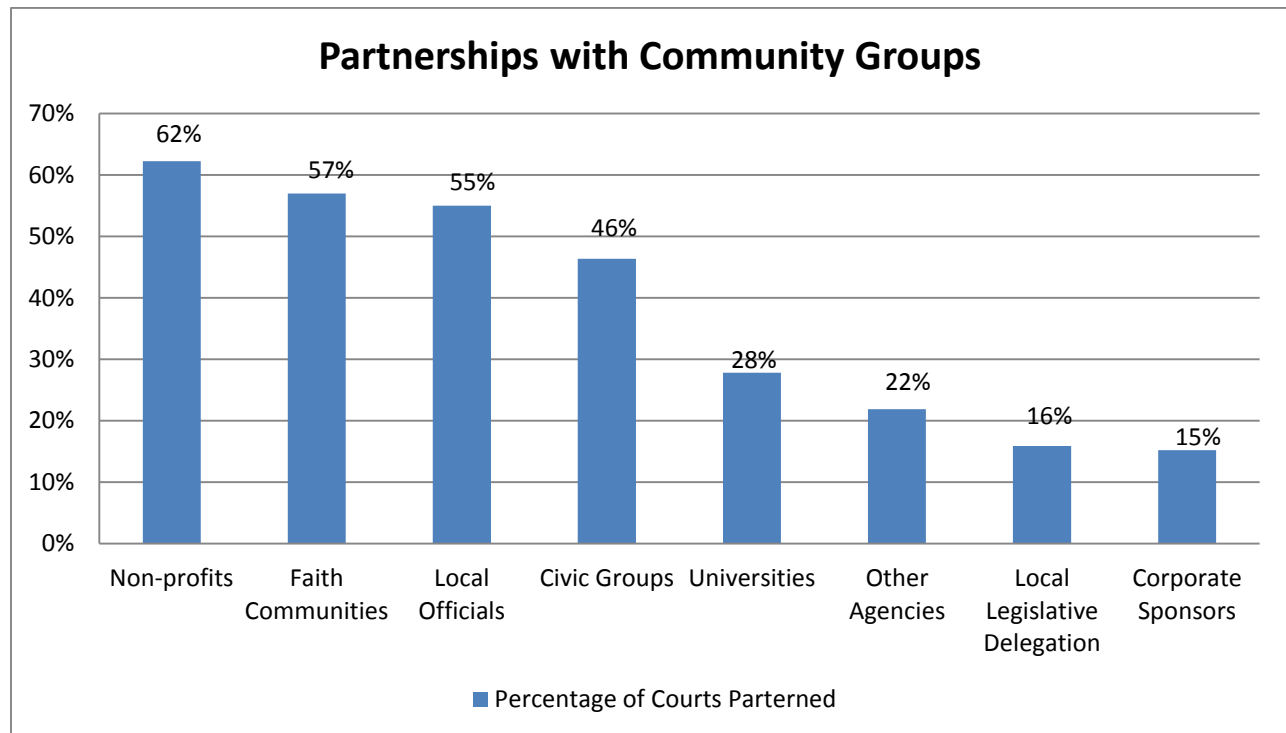
criterion when evaluating providers. “Location and accessibility” and “Experience or History Servicing (court’s population)” also prove to be strong factors with 78% of respondents reporting these to be important. “Licensure of the providers” was the fifth most frequent answer with 72% of courts saying they use licensure to evaluate a provider.

## Community Outreach Section

### Partnerships with Community Groups

Participants were asked to report on their relationship with the local community. Over half of the respondents reported having support from local businesses or employers to aid their accountability court program participants in employment searches (84 courts, 55.6% of total). How did the courts establish the partnership? In addition to local businesses or employers, the accountability courts partner with a number of community groups, including Civic Groups, Faith Communities, Universities, Corporate Sponsors, Non-Profits Organizations, Local Legislative Delegations, Local Officials, and Other Agencies. The top three community groups with which accountability courts partner are Non-profits Organizations (62%), Faith Communities (57%) and Local Officials (55%). Among the accountability courts who partner with universities, 40% of them receive assistance on classes or education for offenders. Additional projects for university partners includes program implementation research (29%), program impact research (29%), data collection (26%), training or technical assistance for court staff (21%) and grant writing (14%).

**Figure 9: Partnerships with Community Groups**

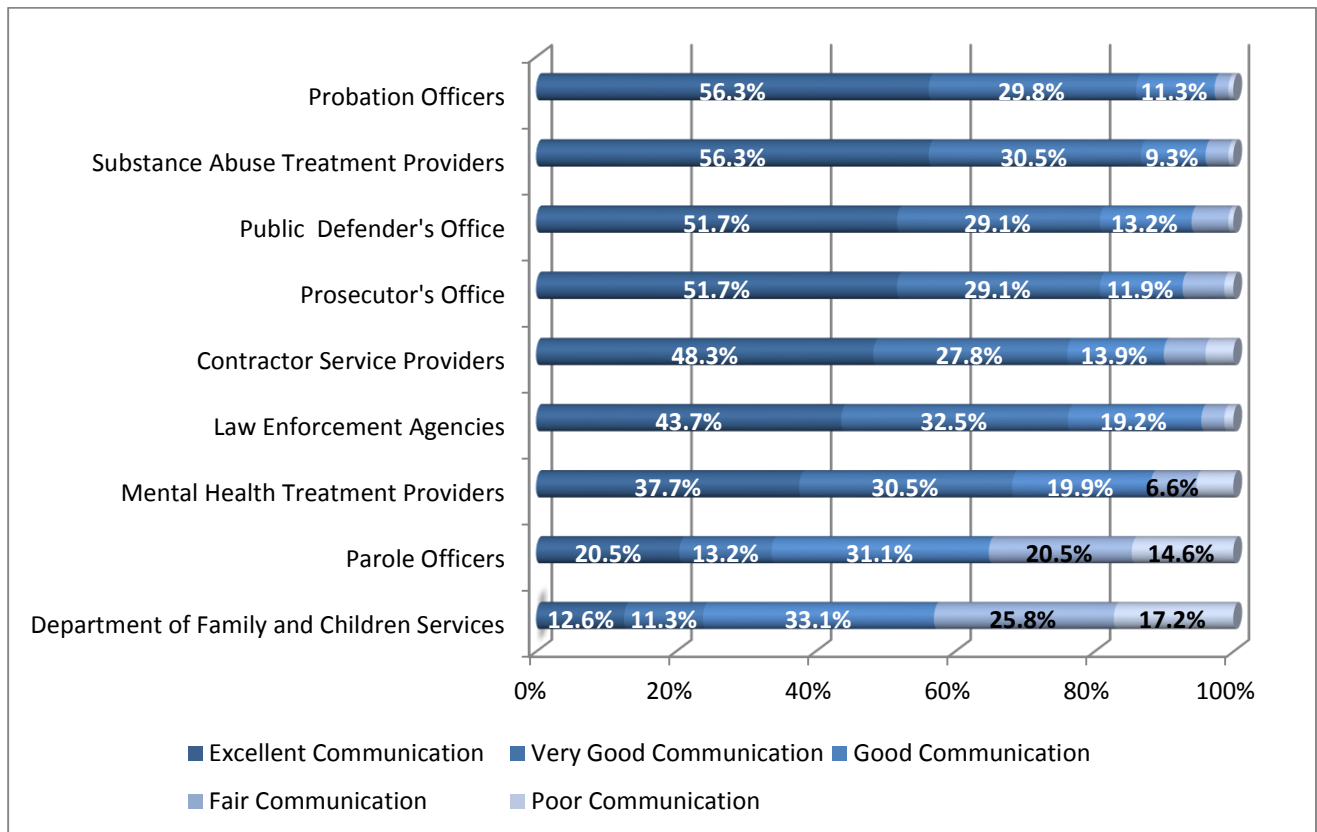


### Communication with Community Groups or Partner Agencies

Respondents surveyed were asked to rate their level of communication with core partners on the accountability court team on a five point scale (from poor to excellent). Over

97% of respondents rated their communication between the core partners as good to excellent. CJCC was also interested in measuring the level of communication between the accountability courts and their community or partner agencies. In general, the communication between accountability courts and their community or partner agencies is good. Probation Officers were rated the best (97%) among 9 agencies which included Department of Family and Children Services (DFACS), Parole Officers, Mental Health Treatment Providers, Contractor Services Providers, Prosecutor’s Office, Public Defender’s Office, Law Enforcement Agencies, Substance Abuse Treatment Providers, and Probation Officers. Other than DFACS and Parole Officers, the majority of the courts (over 90%) feel they have good to excellent communication with the other seven agencies. Additionally, with regard to the specific court types, around 90% of the Family Treatment Dependency Courts and Juvenile Courts feel their communication with DFACS is good to excellent. On the other hand, a substantial proportion (42.3%) of the Adult Felony Drug Courts rated their communication with DFACS as poor. Veterans, Mental Health, Adult Felony Drug and Juvenile Courts all rated their communication with Parole offices as poor to fair in substantial proportions.

**Figure 10: Accountability Courts Communication Rating with Their Community or Partner Agencies**



**CJCC Section**

As part of the compliance with CJCC fiscal regulations and the grant conditions from the Accountability Court Funding Committee, all accountability Court sub-grantees must

submit monthly and/or quarterly reporting documents to CJCC. These documents include Court Output Reports, expenditure reimbursement requests, and travel reimbursement requests. In the CJCC section of the survey, respondents were asked about their reporting experiences.

Of the surveyed courts, 96% reported that they have a particular staff member assigned to complete the monthly/quarterly Court Output Reports. Additionally, 72% of the courts reported that the same staff member completes the sub-grant expenditure reimbursement requests, and 77% of courts designated the same staff member to complete the travel reimbursement requests.

The majority of Accountability Courts' reported a preferred frequency of submitting their Court Output Reports on a quarterly-basis. Of the 151 respondents, 84 (56%) reported they preferred to submit the reports quarterly, 36 respondents (24%) prefer to submit the reports monthly, and 24 respondents prefer to submit these semi-annually. Respondents stated that "a web form similar to the application process" would be an easier submitting tool for the Court Output Report.

As the State Accountability Courts grant management agency, CJCC provides technical and fiscal assistance to the awarded accountability courts in Georgia. Therefore, survey participants were asked to rate their interaction with CJCC regarding the grants they receive. Eighty percent of the respondents indicated the travel reimbursement instructions that CJCC provided were "clear" to "very clear." A total of 64% of the respondents reported that CJCC's assistance with grant expenditure and reporting requirements was "helpful and very helpful." As the accountability court grants moved into their second fiscal year, 92% of the respondents reported the 2013 application process as being easier than the 2012 process.

## **Innovative Practices**

### **Transportation**

Several accountability courts mentioned transportation issues as a major barrier for their participants' success in their program. In some cases, courts screen participants before entering the program on whether they have reliable transportation to and from court and/or required treatment and meetings. If participants do not have reliable transportation, they may be considered ineligible for the program. Based on CJCC's semi-structured in-person interviews, some accountability courts already have strategies in place to resolve their participants' barriers to transportation. For example, several courts partner with local non-profit organizations, most commonly churches, to assist in getting participants to and from treatment and court. Some courts reported paying the local church a flat fee for transportation assistance. Another solution interviewees mentioned was to have program participants do their community service at the local public transportation hub. In exchange for cleaning and detailing the buses, participants are provided with free bus tokens or passes. Some courts ensure that their treatment providers are near a bus or train stop so they are easily accessible for participants who are reliant on public transportation. Additional solutions included providing bikes to participants as an alternative way to get to and from required treatment.

CJCC also conducted research into transportation solutions deployed in small towns or cities around the country, since many of the courts that reported transportation issues were located in rural or small town areas. In Berkshire County, Massachusetts, the public transportation system, Berkshire Regional Transit Authority (BRTA), applied for a federal

Department of Transportation grant to update their technology and establish a one-click call center to provide riders with real-time information on bus schedules. In turn, BRTA has partnered with a local non-profit agency supporting veterans to employ workers for the call center.<sup>5</sup> Federal Department of Transportation funding may be one way to enhance transportation services in rural or small town areas where court many participants reside.

With little funding available to directly address transportation issues, accountability courts could also partner with local community groups and agencies that have the resources to assist participants without a reliable form of transportation. At a recent CJCC criminal justice forum, a mental health court judge worked with his county to obtain transportation assistance. After conducting a cost analysis, the judge demonstrated to the county how helping participants with transportation to and from court and treatment was cheaper than housing them in the county jail.

## **Housing**

A majority of accountability courts expressed concern with housing resources, especially mental health and adult felony drug courts. Most courts have trouble obtaining affordable, permanent housing and/or public housing resources for their participants. For many offenders, their prior criminal history and pending case with the accountability court are barriers to obtaining housing subsidies or access to public housing. Even if accountability courts have partnerships with their local housing authority, which controls access to public housing and subsidies, many are told their participants must wait until they graduate from the program to apply. Two Georgia agencies have gathered information about affordable and available housing for offenders.

1. Transitional Housing for Offender Reentry (THOR) is an on-line housing directory geared to assist persons recently released from prison or on parole with locating housing. The THOR directory provides resources for both Structured and Recovery Housing. Structured Housing is reserved for those who are only seeking a safe environment to live, while Recovery Housing serves those individuals still requiring substance abuse services and/or counseling.<sup>6</sup>
2. GeorgiaHousingSearch.org is a free on-line housing search that allows users to find housing that fits their needs. The website allows users to conduct an online search using a number of advanced criteria – including whether the housing unit or complex requires criminal background checks. Admittedly, many of the units listed on this website are privately-owned and may be too expensive for accountability court participants.<sup>7</sup>
3. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has local Public Housing offices around the state for low-income families and individuals. Eligibility for Public Housing is based on annual gross income.<sup>8</sup> As previously stated, many courts discussed having partnerships with their local housing authorities. However, prior criminal history could be a criterion for automatic denial for either a housing subsidy or public housing. The list of Georgia public housing authorities is available at: <http://www.hud.gov/offices/pih/pha/contacts/states/ga.cfm>.

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<sup>5</sup><http://www.digitalcommunities.com/articles/Tech-and-Homeless-Vets-to-Improve-County-Transportation.html>

<sup>6</sup><http://pap.georgia.gov/sites/pap.georgia.gov/files/THOR%20Directory%20Facility%20Types.pdf>.

<sup>7</sup><http://www.georgiahousingsearch.org/About.html>.

<sup>8</sup>[http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/topics/rental\\_assistance/phprog](http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/topics/rental_assistance/phprog)



## Acknowledgements

This state accountability court survey and write-up has been several months in the making. Many thanks to the Accountability Court Funding Committee for tasking the Statistical Analysis Center with this project. This research was made possible with the assistance of CJCC's former Deputy Director Misty A. Giles. Caroline Neidhold and Dorothy Dlugolecki, CJCC interns, helped draft portions. Finally, thanks Stefanie Lopez-Howard, Statistical Analysis Center Director and Aisha Ford, Criminal Justice Unit Program Director for helping with the questionnaire design, the survey data analysis, and their input and feedback.

## Appendix

### Appendix A: Other Questions Summary

#### Court Fines

Courts were asked if the judge in their respective court has the authority to forgive the balance of any remaining statutorily mandated fines upon participant graduation. Of the courts that responded to the survey, 68% reported that the judge did in fact have the power to forgive balances. Top reasons reported why judges forgive balances include financial hardship, graduation incentive, and good behavior reward. Of the 102 courts that can forgive balances, 81 reported that they can forgive more than 50% of fines or any remaining balance.

#### Case Management System

Almost 70% of the courts reported that they have an electronic case management system (a database system, not including an Excel spreadsheet, which allows the court to manage all aspects of a client's involvement.)

#### Exit Interview

Over 80% of courts reported offering an exit interview/survey for graduating participants. However, almost 77% of courts do not offer an interview or survey for terminated participants.

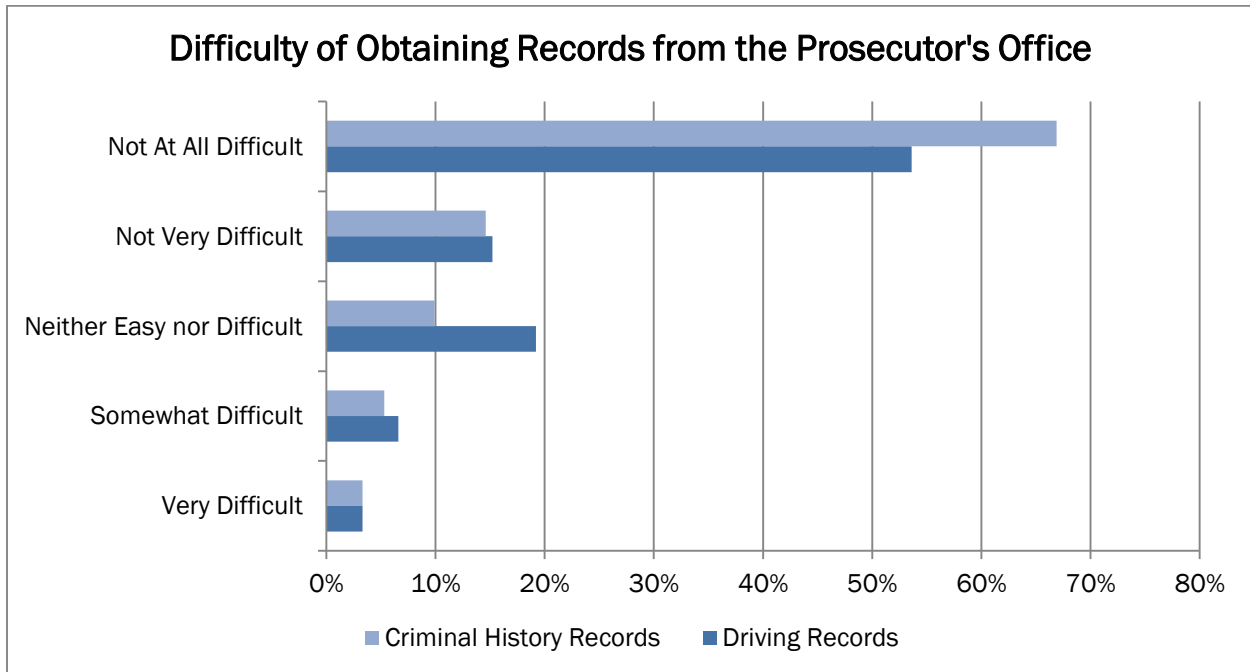
#### Re-entry Policy

Respondents were asked about their re-entry policy, specifically about allowing graduates or those who did not complete the program to re-enter. Fifty-nine percent (59%) of court representatives said they allow graduates who have committed a new crime to re-enter the program and fifty-eight percent (58%) said they allow people who have offended again and did not complete the program previously to re-enter.

#### Obtaining Offender Records

Respondents were asked about the difficulty of obtaining records from the Prosecutor's office, specifically criminal history and driving records. Overall, the majority of respondents found it to be "Not Very Difficult" or "Not At All Difficult" in working with the Prosecutor's office. With respect to driving records, most courts reported obtaining these was "Neither Easy nor Difficult". This may be because certain types of Accountability Courts have no use in obtaining driving records, and "Neither Easy nor Difficult" serves as the "not applicable" choice. Fewer than ten courts chose both the "Very Difficult" and "Somewhat Difficult" choices for criminal history records and driving records.

**Figure 11: Difficulty Level of Obtaining Records from the Prosecutor’s Office**



An overwhelming majority of courts (97%) reported that participants must sign a release for the court to obtain pertinent medical information about them from their physicians. Once a release is signed, courts were asked about their difficulty in obtaining records from the physician’s office. Over 50 courts reported that obtaining the records with the signed release is “Not Very Difficult,” making this the most frequent response. Another 36 courts reported that obtaining records is “Neither Easy nor Difficult,” but this may have also been the “Not Applicable” option for courts that have no use in obtaining medical records. “Very Difficult” was the least frequently picked choice.

**Social Media**

Only 38% of courts stated that they track participant behavior or compliance via social media. Adult Felony Drug and Juvenile are the most likely to monitor social media. Overall, the 57 courts that monitor social media activity most frequently tracked Facebook followed by Twitter and Instagram.

**Program Evaluation**

A number of accountability courts have indicated that they would benefit from funding to conduct comprehensive program evaluations. The evaluation may also consider fidelity to the 10 key principles for each court funded.

## Appendix B: Accountability Court Survey Questionnaire

### Introductions Screen:

As the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council and the Accountability Court Funding Committee move into their second year of administering the accountability court grant, we would like your feedback to help us gain insight about the successes and effectiveness of the program and where potential improvements could be made to the program. As such we have developed this survey to gather information and we thank you for taking time to complete the Accountability Court survey.

The following is a series of questions about the operations of the Accountability Courts that serve your county or municipality. Please respond to these questions based on your knowledge of the Accountability Courts and your agency's role in the Accountability Courts' work.

This survey should not take more than 30 minutes to complete. If you are logged off the survey, you can come back in with your username and password and continue where you left off. We thank you for your time. Your feedback and responses are invaluable.

### General Questions:

1. SINGLE-RESPONSE: What type of accountability courts are you part of?
  - a. Adult Felony Drug Court
  - b. Veterans Court
  - c. Mental Health Court
  - d. DUI Court
  - e. Family Treatment Dependency Court
  - f. Juvenile Court
2. SINGLE-RESPONSE: Are you involved in the operations of multiple accountability courts?
  - a. Yes
  - b. No

### Funding Questions:

The following questions ask about the funding your Accountability Court receives.

3. MULTI-RESPONSE: For which of the items listed below does your accountability court need additional funding *the most*? (Please select up to three)
  - a. Personnel Salaries and Fringe Benefits
  - b. AOC Annual Conference Travel Expense
  - c. Field Interview Travel Expense
  - d. Computer/Printer/Copier
  - e. Computer Software Upgrade/License
  - f. Office Supplies
  - g. Drug Testing Supplies
  - h. Curriculum Design for Program Participant Treatment
  - i. Handbooks/Manuals/ Brochures
  - j. Treatment Provider Fees or Salaries
  - k. Psychiatrist Fees or Salaries

- I. Program Evaluation
  - m. Program Participant Monitoring/ Surveillance
  - n. Program Participant Housing Assistance
  - o. Postage, Letterhead, Envelopes
4. MULTI-RESPONSE: What services, not currently funded or allowable under the state funding program, would be most beneficial to the overall success of your program?
- a. Office Rent and/or Utilities
  - b. Bus Token/Marta Card for Program Participants
  - c. Court Employees' Cell Phone Bills
  - d. Vehicle Mileage Reimbursement when Court Members Attend Training
  - e. Emergency Financial Assistance for Program Participants
  - f. Incentives for Program Participants
  - g. Other:
5. OPEN-ENDED TEXT: Please describe any barriers that you encounter when you are expending the state Accountability Court grant. (MAX 500 Characters)
6. SINGLE-RESPONSE: Have you had any staff turnover during previous grant period? (Oct. a, 2012 to June 30, 2013)
- a. Yes
  - b. No
    - If yes, how many staff did you lose during previous grant year? (Oct. a, 2012 to June 30, 2013)
    - Were any of those staff grant-funded?
      - i. Yes
      - ii. No
    - How long did it take you (in months) to fill the position?
    - Do you feel you have a sufficient qualified pool of applicants in your area to fill court positions?
      - i. Yes
      - ii. No

**Training Questions:**

The following questions ask about the training efforts in which your Accountability Court engages.

7. SINGLE-RESPONSE: How often do you attend training beyond that which the Accountability Court Funding Committee and CJCC provided?
- a. No other training
  - b. At least annually
  - c. At least semi-annually
  - d. Quarterly
  - e. Monthly
8. OPEN-ENDED TEXT: Please describe any additional training you have attended in the previous grant year that was not mandatory. (Oct. 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013)

9. SINGLE-RESPONSE: How satisfied are you with the training provided by National Drug Court Institute?
- 1 - Not at All Satisfied
  - 2 - Somewhat Dissatisfied
  - 3 - Neither Satisfied Nor Dissatisfied
  - 4 - Somewhat Satisfied
  - 5 - Very Satisfied
10. MULTI-RESPONSE: Is there a training program that is currently not mandatory for your court but that you feel would be beneficial for you to attend?
- Level of Service Inventory-Revised Training
  - Cognitive Behavioral Intervention
  - Moral Reconciliation Therapy
  - Improving Court Outcomes for Individuals with Co-Occurring Disorders
  - Other training:
  - No Additional Training Needed
11. NUMERIC: How many members does your accountability Court team have?
12. NUMERIC: How many members of your accountability court team have attended training in the previous grant year? (Oct. 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013)
13. SINGLE-RESPONSE: Does your court have plans to send core team members to training on an annual basis?
- Yes
  - No

**Programmatic/ Operational Questions:**

The following questions ask about your court's program and operations.

14. SINGLE-RESPONSE: Is your court pre- or post-adjudication or both?
- Pre-adjudication
  - Post-adjudication
  - Both
15. SINGLE-RESPONSE: Does your court have service targets for the number of offenders it seeks to serve in a given time period (e.g. quarter, month, year etc.)?
- Yes
  - No
16. NUMERIC: How many participants has your court served during the previous grant year? (Oct. 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013)
- I am not the person who collects this information in my court.
17. NUMERIC: How many of the participants you served during the previous grant year were first time offenders? (Oct. 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013)
- I am not the person who collects this information in my court.
18. NUMERIC: What is the maximum number of prior arrests an offender can have and still be admitted to your program?
- We do not have a maximum number of prior arrests.
19. SINGLE-RESPONSE: Does your court have a mission statement?

- a. Yes
  - b. No
20. SINGLE-RESPONSE: Does your court have a clearly defined set of goals with timelines for when you want to achieve them?
- a. Yes
  - b. No
21. SINGLE-RESPONSE: How helpful to your court's operation would a mid-year assessment to compare the court's stated goals to its actual activity be?
- a. 1 - Not at All Helpful
  - b. 2 - Not Helpful
  - c. 3 - Neither Helpful nor Not Helpful
  - d. 4 - Helpful
  - e. 5 - Very Helpful
22. SINGLE-RESPONSE: Does your court have a program introduction video to play for participants before they start your program?
- a. Yes
  - b. No
23. OPEN-ENDED TEXT: Please describe how your court determines program capacity.  
(MAX 500 characters)
24. NUMERIC: How much funding does your court spend, on average, per participant per year? (Please insert only whole numbers in the box below. Dollar signs, percentage signs, decimals or other characters are not accepted.)
- I am not the person who collects this information in my court.
25. SINGLE-RESPONSE: Does your court receive funding from sources other than CJCC?
- a. Yes
  - b. No
    - i. MULTI-RESPONSE: If yes, what additional sources of funding does your court have? (Select all that apply.)
      1. County funds
      2. Federal grant funds
      3. Private/nonprofit foundation funds
      4. Client fees
      5. Other
    - ii. If choose client fees: What percentage of your funding does revenue from client fees comprise? (Please insert only whole numbers in the box below. Dollar signs, percentage signs, decimals or other characters are not accepted.)
    - iii. How much do you charge each client (please state the minimum and maximum below)?
      1. Minimum
      2. Maximum
    - iv. Are the fees on a sliding scale?

1. Yes
  2. No
- v. Can the fees be waived if the program participant is indigent?
1. Yes
  2. No
- vi. If yes, what percentage of the fees can be waived? (Please insert only whole numbers in the box below. Dollar signs, percentage signs, decimals or other characters are not accepted.)
26. SINGLE-RESPONSE: Do participants pay for re-screens when the original drug screens were positive and prescreen was also positive?
- a. Yes
  - b. No
- If yes, how much do participants pay for re-screens? (Please insert only whole numbers in the box below. Dollar signs, percentage signs, decimals or other characters are not accepted.)
  - If not, please state the reason why program participants do not pay for re-screens. OPEN-ENDED TEXT
27. MULTI-RESPONSE: Does the court offer any of the following life skills programming? (Select all that apply.)
- a. High school classes/GED
  - b. Vocational classes/referral or partnership with vocational education
  - c. Financial management classes
  - d. Parenting classes
  - e. Peer Mentoring
  - f. Medical/Dental care
  - g. Housing Assistance/Counseling
  - h. Employment Counseling
  - i. Anger Management Counseling
  - j. Family Violence Intervention Programming
  - k. Other:
28. NUMERIC: How many of the participants you served during the previous grant year did not have reliable transportation? (Oct. 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013) By reliable transportation we mean that participants can get to / from your program consistently and on time whether via personal vehicle, public transportation or other means. (If no clients had transportation issues last year, please put '0' in the box below.)
- If greater than zero: Does your program assist participants with transportation issues?
    - i. Yes
    - ii. No
  - If yes, how does your program help participants who have transportation issues?



- a. Gas Cards
- b. Metro cards/public transportation tokens
- c. Taxi fare
- d. Court-provided shuttle or car
- e. Referral to other public provided transportation such as DBHDD shuttles
- f. Other:

- How does your program pay for the transportation assistance you currently provide to participants?

- a. County funds
- b. Federal grant funds
- c. Private/nonprofit foundation funds
- d. Other:

29. MULTI-RESPONSE: Select the top three sources for referrals into your court program:

- a. Prosecutor's Office
- b. Division of Family and Children Services
- c. Public Defender
- d. Jail
- e. Sheriff's Office
- f. Police Department
- g. Probation Officer
- h. Parole Officer
- i. Self-Referrals
- j. Other

30. MULTI-RESPONSE: What participant-related issues does your court find most challenging? (Please select up to three)

- a. Diluted drug screen samples
- b. Failure to pay fees
- c. Conflict between participant's work schedule and court-ordered obligations
- d. Positive drug screens
- e. Transportation barriers
- f. Lack of family or peer support
- g. Medication non-compliance
- h. Therapy non-compliance
- i. Other:

31. OPEN-ENDED TEXT: What mechanisms does your court have in place to respond to the above chosen participant-related issues? (MAX 500 Characters)

32. SINGLE-RESPONSE: Does the judge in your court have the authority to forgive the balance of any remaining statutorily mandated fines for participants upon graduation?

- a. Yes
- b. No

- MULTI-RESPONSE: If yes, for what reasons would a judge forgive the balance of remaining fines for program graduates? (Select all that apply.)
    - i. Financial Hardship
    - ii. As an incentive for graduation
    - iii. Good behavior throughout the program
    - iv. As an incentive to maintain employment
    - v. Other:
  - What is the maximum percentage of a fine that a judge can forgive?
    - vi. Up to 15%
    - vii. Up to 25%
    - viii. Up to 50%
    - ix. More than 50% or any remaining balance
33. MULTI-RESPONSE: What type of agency(ies) do you utilize in your program for substance abuse treatment? [Please select up to three.]
- a. Nonprofit provider
  - b. Community Service Board
  - c. Private rehabilitation facility
  - d. Hospital in-patient program
  - e. Hospital outpatient program
  - f. Other:
34. SINGLE-RESPONSE: Do you partner with your local community service boards for treatment other than substance abuse?
- a. Yes
  - b. No
  - If yes, what services, if any, does your community service board provide for your program?
  - Does your court pay for these services?
    - i. Yes
    - ii. No
35. MULTI-RESPONSE: What criteria does your court use to evaluate providers with whom you will contract for services? (Select all that apply.)
- a. Price per service
  - b. Training of professionals providing service
  - c. Length of time the company has been in business
  - d. Recommendation from other clients
  - e. Better Business Bureau rating
  - f. Licensure
  - g. Experience or history serving populations similar to your court's
  - h. Location and accessibility within your service area
  - i. For drug testing facilities – quality of equipment the lab uses
  - j. For drug testing facilities – speed of results turnaround

- k. For drug testing facilities – accuracy of test results
  - l. For therapy providers – use of evidence-based therapeutic interventions
36. SINGLE-RESPONSE: Does the court have an electronic case management system?  
(By electronic case management system we mean a database program that allows you to manage all aspects of a client's involvement with your court. This **does not** include an Excel spreadsheet.)
- a. Yes
  - b. No
37. SINGLE-RESPONSE: If provided to you, would you use an online forum or web platform to communicate with fellow accountability court judges?
- a. Yes
  - b. No
38. SINGLE-RESPONSE: Does your court offer an exit interview/survey for graduating participants?
- a. Yes
  - b. No
39. SINGLE-RESPONSE: Does your court offer an exit interview/survey for terminated participants?
- a. Yes
  - b. No
40. SINGLE-RESPONSE: Does your court allow a person who has graduated from the program to re-enter if they commit a new offense?
- a. Yes
  - b. No
41. SINGLE-RESPONSE: Does your court allow a person who **did not** complete the program to re-enter if they commit a new offense?
- a. Yes
  - b. No
42. SINGLE-RESPONSE: How difficult is it for your court to obtain needed driving records from the prosecutor's office?
- a. 1 – Not at all Difficult
  - b. 2 – Not Very Difficult
  - c. 3 – Neither Easy nor Difficult
  - d. 4 – Somewhat Difficult
  - e. 5 – Very Difficult
43. SINGLE-RESPONSE: How difficult is it for your court to obtain needed criminal history records from the prosecutor's office?
- a. 1 – Not at all Difficult
  - b. 2 – Not Very Difficult
  - c. 3 – Neither Easy nor Difficult
  - d. 4 – Somewhat Difficult
  - e. 5 – Very Difficult

44. SINGLE-RESPONSE: Do participants in your court sign a release for you to obtain any pertinent medical information about them from their physician?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- If yes, how difficult is it for your court to obtain necessary information from your participants' physicians once a release is signed?
  - i. 1 – Not at all Difficult
  - ii. 2 - Not Very Difficult
  - iii. 3 – Neither Easy nor Difficult
  - iv. 4 – Somewhat Difficult
  - v. 5 – Very Difficult

45. SINGLE-RESPONSE: Does your court track participant behavior or compliance via social media?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- If yes, which social media does your court monitor? (Select all that apply.)
  - i. Facebook
  - ii. Twitter
  - iii. Instagram
  - iv. LinkedIn
  - v. YouTube
  - vi. Pinterest
  - vii. Other:

**Outreach/ Community Questions:**

The following questions ask about the community outreach in which your Accountability Court engages.

46. SINGLE-RESPONSE: Does your court have relationships with local businesses or employers to help your participants find work?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- OPEN-ENDED TEXT: If yes, how did you establish those relationships with local businesses or employers? (MAX 500 characters)

47. MULTI-RESPONSE: Does the court partner with any of the following community groups? (Select all that apply.)

- a. Civic groups
- b. Faith communities
- c. Universities
- d. Corporate sponsors
- e. Non-profits
- f. Local legislative delegation
- g. Local officials
- h. Other agencies:

- If selected Universities, select the types of projects the university or college assists your court with: (Select all that apply.)
  - i. Data collection
  - ii. Program implementation research
  - iii. Grant writing
  - iv. Program impact research
  - v. Classes or education for offenders
  - vi. Training or technical assistance for court staff
  - vii. Other:
- Do you offer internships to students enrolled in appropriate courses of study?
  - I. Yes
  - II. No

48. SINGLE-RESPONSE: How would you rate the communication between the core partners in the court staffing team?

- a. 1 – Poor communication
- b. 2 – Fair communication
- c. 3 – Good Communication
- d. 4 – Very Good Communication
- e. 5 – Excellent communication

49. SINGLE-RESPONSE GRID: On a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is Poor communication and 5 is Excellent communication, how would you rate the court's communication with each of the following community or partner agencies:

- a. Prosecutors
- b. Public Defender's Office
- c. Department of Family and Children Services
- d. Substance Abuse Treatment Providers
- e. Mental Health Treatment Providers
- f. Probation Officers
- g. Parole Officers
- h. Law enforcement agencies
- i. Contractor service providers

### **CJCC Specific questions**

The following questions ask about your experience working with CJCC's Accountability Courts grant management team and processes.

50. SINGLE-RESPONSE: Is there a particular staff member from your court assigned to complete the Court Output Reports every month?

- a. Yes
- b. No

51. SINGLE-RESPONSE: Is the same staff member from your court assigned to complete the sub-grant expenditure reimbursement requests?

- a. Yes

- b. No
- 52.SINGLE-RESPONSE: Is the same staff member from your court assigned to complete travel reimbursement requests?
- a. Yes
  - b. No
- 53.SINGLE-RESPONSE: How frequently would you prefer to submit the Court Output Reports?
- a. Monthly
  - b. Bi-monthly
  - c. Quarterly
  - d. Semi-annually
- 54.SINGLE-RESPONSE: On a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is Not at all Clear and 5 is Very Clear, how clear are the travel reimbursement instructions to you?
- a. 1 – Not at All Clear
  - b. 2 – Not Very Clear
  - c. 3 – Pretty Clear
  - d. 4 – Clear
  - e. 5 – Very Clear
- 55.SINGLE-RESPONSE: Would you prefer to include the travel funds into the grant awards?
- a. Yes
  - b. No
- 56.SINGLE-RESPONSE GRID: On a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is Not at all Helpful and 5 is Very Helpful rate the quality of CJCC’s assistance with grant expenditure and reporting requirements:
- a. The clarity of the grant application documents
  - b. The clarity of the special condition documents
  - c. The grant application webinars
  - d. The sub-grant administration webinars
  - e. The clarity of technical assistance documents such as the Court Output Report Quicksheet
  - f. The responses you have received over the phone to your grant-related questions
  - g. The responses you have received via email to your grant-related questions
- 57.SINGLE-RESPONSE: As compared to the 2012 application process, how would you rate the 2013 application process?
- a. Much easier
  - b. Somewhat easier
  - c. About the same level of difficulty
  - d. Somewhat more difficult
  - e. Much more difficult

58. SINGLE-RESPONSE: If CJCC set up a web-portal to submit your Court Output Reports, which method do you think would be easiest?

- a. A web form similar to the application process
- b. A Dropbox
- c. A File Transfer Protocol (FTP) site
- d. Other:

59. OPEN-ENDED TEXT: If you have found certain aspects of the technical assistance CJCC provides not very helpful, what needs to be improved? (MAX 500 characters)

**Exit Screen:**

Thank you for joining the Accountability Court Funding Committee and CJCC in this exciting endeavor. As our local experts and stakeholders for accountability courts, your feedback is invaluable.

Thank you for your time!