

The Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Act

Background

The Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Act (MIOTCRA), passed unanimously by the U.S. House and Senate and signed into law by President Bush in 2004, authorized the Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program (JMHCP) grant program. In both FY 2006 and FY 2007, \$5 million (out of a possible \$50 million authorized) was appropriated for the program. The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), a division of the Office of Justice Programs in the U.S. Department of Justice, administers the program.

About the Grant Program

The grant program is designed to increase public safety by facilitating collaboration among the criminal justice, juvenile justice, mental health treatment, and substance abuse systems and to improve access to effective treatment for people with mental illnesses involved with the justice system.

Three types of grants are awarded through the JMHCP: planning grants with a maximum award of \$50,000 for 12 months, planning and implementation grants with a maximum award of \$250,000 for 30 months, and implementation and expansion grants with a maximum award of \$200,000 for 24 months.

All grants require a joint application from a mental health agency and unit of government responsible for criminal and/or juvenile justice activities. This stipulation underscores the collaborative nature of this grant, which is intended to bring the criminal justice and mental health systems together to improve outcomes for people with mental illnesses in the justice system.

2006 JMHCP Grantees

- In FY 2006, DOJ awarded 27 grants in 19 states and the District of Columbia under the program.
- Thirteen communities received planning grants, seven received planning and implementation grants, and seven received implementation and expansion grants.
- Two of the grantees are developing crisis intervention training (CIT) programs, while roughly 10 are focused on mental health courts. The remaining grantees are either looking at corrections programs or are considering multiple approaches.
- While most of the grantee programs target adults, 6 focus on juveniles, and several others have looked at both populations.

2007 JMHCP Grantees

- In FY 2007, BJA awarded 26 grants in 16 states.
- Of these awards, 13 communities received planning grants, seven received planning and implementation grants, and six communities received implementation and expansion grants.
- Many of the communities in the planning stages have not yet determined the type of program they will implement; of the grantees that have received planning and implementation or implementation and expansion grants, roughly six are focused on mental health courts.
- Several of the grantees have indicated that they will target juveniles but most will concentrate on programs for adults.