

## **BJA FY14 Adult Drug Court Discretionary Grant Program**

More than 2.6 million Americans have now served in Iraq or Afghanistan. Only about half of these troops have reported or sought help for service-connected trauma.<sup>1</sup> Untreated, many of these psychologically injured veterans are acting out in reckless, self-destructive and sometimes violent ways that bring them in contact with the criminal justice system.<sup>2</sup> Our pre-plea diversionary VTC Program seeks to address that problem in a more effective manner, and to reach a larger segment of our target population. Our experience with Veterans who have participated in the VTC Program reveals a need for a more sophisticated supervisory and support infrastructure. We have learned a great deal since our VTC's rollout in 2012, both by implementing our Program and by reviewing the successes and weaknesses of similar programs across the Country. We seek to enhance our existing services by incorporating evidence-based program principles in the following categories:

### ***Expand the number of program participants served that meet the existing target***

***population description:*** We are currently equipped to handle 5 VTC participants annually. The Greenville County Detention Center is currently tracking 7-12 veterans being added to the arrestee population per week, many of whom are eligible to be VTC participants. With funding awarded from this grant, we will increase our capacity from 5 participants annually to 30 participants annually.

***Enhance court operations:*** The enhancement funding will allow us to bring on new team members, each of whom will fill a specific role to improve our operations. The funding

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<sup>1</sup> Echoes of War: The Combat Veteran in Criminal Court, Brockton D. Hunter (2012)

<sup>2</sup> Id at p. 2

will allow us to hire a VTC Case Manager and a dedicated Compliance Officer, as well as provide additional training to all Program staff and volunteers. This is especially important in the training of Veteran Mentors.

***Enhance court and/or supervision services:*** Our supervision services will be significantly improved by retaining a Compliance Officer, which we will be able to do with enhancement funds. We are certain this will greatly enhance communication with participants as well as improve participant compliance and accountability. Further, funding for drug testing will allow us to increase our participant pool and strengthen our randomized drug screening process.

***Enhance recovery support systems:*** Enhancement funding for private mental health counseling and the VTC Case Manager position will be key to our future successes. We have initiated many partnerships with the VA and community organizations since the rollout of VTC, but have not had anyone to either coordinate partner efforts or ensure that participants are using treatment, recovery, and community resources effectively. Hiring a VTC Case Manager will fill these program gaps and increase the likelihood of participant success.

***Program Overview:*** As stated in our Project Abstract, the aim of the Thirteenth Judicial Veterans' Treatment Court Program (VTC) is to: (1) assist qualifying Veterans who have pending General Sessions charges in South Carolina's Greenville and Pickens Counties; and (2) rehabilitate Veterans by diverting them from the traditional criminal justice system and providing a robust infrastructure of integrated service delivery which will

assess and mitigate the numerous risk factors we have identified that contribute to mental illness, substance abuse behaviors, and criminality within the local Veteran population. The enhancement catalyzes VTC's ability to forge a dynamic partnership by the Federal and County Government (Department of Veterans Affairs, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit Solicitor's Office, and Greenville County), local community service providers (e.g. Upstate Warrior Solutions, Miracle Hill, ArcPoint Labs, Center for Community Services), and concerned community members (Veteran Mentors and VTC Program Volunteers) meaningfully working together with the goal of helping the men and women who served our Nation and honoring their service by providing them overlapping services which include: substance abuse counseling, mental health treatment for military trauma disorders (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder [PTSD], Traumatic Brain Injury [TBI], and Military Sexual Trauma [MST]), mentorship, workforce development, access to higher education, financial counseling, food security services, emergency relief services, housing, and transportation.

**Budget Summary** – When you have completed the budget worksheet, transfer the totals for each category to the spaces below. Compute the total direct costs and the total project costs. Indicate the amount of Federal funds requested and the amount of non-Federal funds that will support the project.

Budget Category	Federal Request	Non-Federal Amounts	Total
A. Personnel	\$26,325	\$8,775	\$35,100
B. Fringe Benefits	\$2,369	\$789	\$3,158
C. Travel	\$0	\$4,479	\$4,479
D. Equipment	\$2,700	\$0	\$2,700
E. Supplies	\$1,050	\$350	\$1,400
F. Construction	\$0	\$0	\$0
G. Consultants/Contracts	\$45,255	\$9,325	\$54,580
H. Other	\$1,800	\$600	\$2,400
Total Direct Costs	\$79,499	\$24,318	\$103,817
I. Indirect Costs	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL PROJECT COSTS</b>	<b>\$79,499</b>	<b>\$24,318</b>	<b>\$103,817</b>

<b>Federal Request</b>	\$79,499
<b>Non-Federal Amount</b>	\$24,318
<b>Total Project Cost</b>	\$103,817

*Public Reporting Burden*

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