

STATE OF MAINE
JUDICIAL BRANCH

2025

Specialty Docket Report
Maine Treatment and Recovery Courts



Report to the
Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary
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Submitted pursuant to:
Title 4, M.R.S.A. § 423

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2025 Specialty Docket Report, Maine Treatment and Recovery Courts

Administrative Office of the Courts, Maine Judicial Branch

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Background

Title 4, Maine Revised Statutes Annotated (M.R.S.A.) § 423 requires the Judicial Branch to provide an annual report to the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary of the Legislature on the establishment and operation of treatment and recovery courts.

4 M.R.S.A §423. Reports

The Judicial Department shall report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over judiciary matters by February 15th annually on the establishment and operation of substance use disorder treatment programs in the courts. The report must cover at least the following:

- 1. Training.** Judicial training;
- 2. Locations.** Locations in which the substance use disorder treatment programs are operated in each prosecutorial district;
- 3. Participating judges and justices.** Judges and justices participating in the substance use disorder treatment programs at each location;
- 4. Community involvement.** Involvement of the local communities, including the business community and local service agencies;
- 5. Education.** Educational components;
- 6. Existing resources.** Use of existing substance use disorder resources;
- 7. Statistics.** Statistical summaries of each substance use disorder treatment program;
- 8. Collaboration.** Demonstration of the collaboration required under [section 421, subsection 3](#), including agreements and contracts, the entities collaborating with the Judicial Department, the value of the agreements and contracts and the amount of financial assistance provided by each entity; and
- 9. Evaluation of programs.** Evaluation of substance use disorder treatment programs individually and overall.

4 M.R.S.A. § 421(3) Collaboration

The following shall collaborate with and, to the extent possible, provide financial assistance to the Judicial Department in establishing and maintaining substance use disorder treatment programs:

- A. District attorneys, the Department of the Attorney General and statewide organizations representing prosecutors;

- B. Defense attorneys, including statewide organizations representing defense attorneys;
- C. The Department of Corrections;
- D. The Department of Health and Human Services;
- E. The Department of Public Safety;
- F. The Department of Education;
- G. The business community;
- H. Local service agencies; and
- I. Statewide organizations representing drug court professionals.

The topics required to be reported are presented in the body of this report. Additional information, such as program overview, treatment court types, history of Maine treatment courts, oversight and governance, policy and operational framework, and funding and resource structure are included in appendices.

Executive Summary

Pursuant to Title 4, M.R.S.A. § 423, the Maine Judicial Branch submits this Annual Report on the operation of Treatment and Recovery Courts for calendar year 2025. This report describes the structure, oversight, operations, and activity of Maine's Treatment and Recovery Courts during 2025 and provides the statistical information required by statute.

During calendar year 2025, the Judicial Branch operated fourteen (14) Treatment and Recovery Courts statewide, including eight Adult Treatment and Recovery Courts, one Co-Occurring Disorders Court, two Veterans Treatment Courts, and three Family Recovery Courts. These specialty dockets address substance use disorder and, where applicable, co-occurring mental health conditions in criminal and civil matters. In addition, the Judicial Branch approved the establishment of an Adult Treatment and Recovery Court in Aroostook County. The Aroostook County court is in a pre-implementation phase, with planning and resource coordination underway, including funding enacted by the Legislature in 2025 to support court implementation, and anticipated acceptance of participant applications beginning in June 2026.

Treatment and Recovery Courts operate under a uniform statewide policy framework and are overseen by the Treatment and Recovery Court Steering Committee and the Administrative Office of the Courts. Courts function through multidisciplinary teams and rely on collaboration among the Judicial Branch, executive agencies, treatment and case management providers, and community partners. Consistent with national best-practice standards, courts leverage existing treatment and recovery resources and permit the use of medication-assisted treatment when clinically appropriate.

Treatment and Recovery Courts rely on a combination of Judicial Branch resources, partner agency funding, and, in limited instances, time-limited legislative or federal appropriations. The report describes this funding structure and its implications for implementation and long-term operations.

This report presents statistical information describing referrals, admissions, active participation, commencements, and program exits for calendar year 2025. For purposes of this report, the term "*commencement*" is used to describe successful completion of a Treatment and Recovery Court program, consistent with national treatment court guidance. Commencement rates are reported as one indicator of court activity and should be interpreted in context. Participants typically remain in Treatment and Recovery Court programs for extended periods, often exceeding one year, and annual statistics reflect activity across multiple cohorts.

The report also identifies trends related to access to Treatment and Recovery Courts, including reasons applicants did not enter programs during the reporting period. From 2022 through 2025, non-entry increasingly reflected factors related to timing, legal posture, and participant engagement, rather than changes in eligibility criteria or program availability. Family Recovery Court data are presented separately and with appropriate context due to the distinct statutory purpose and parallel operation of child protection proceedings.

The most recent statewide evaluation of Maine's Treatment and Recovery Courts was conducted in 2000. While courts engage in ongoing performance monitoring, training, and quality-improvement activities, a current independent statewide evaluation has not been completed. Historical economic impact information included in this report is therefore presented for context only. The Judicial Branch is reviewing a proposal for a future statewide evaluation to assess current outcomes and system-level impacts.

Together, the information presented in this report provides the Legislature with a clear and transparent account of the scope, structure, and activity of Maine's Treatment and Recovery Courts during calendar year 2025, as required by statute.

Statutory Authority, Purpose, and Scope

This report is submitted in accordance with Title 4, M.R.S.A. § 423, which requires the Judicial Branch to report annually on substance use disorder treatment programs operated by the courts. The report covers activities conducted during calendar year 2025 and is submitted in February 2026.

The report is descriptive in nature and is intended to satisfy statutory reporting requirements. It does not constitute a formal program evaluation or policy recommendation.

2025 Treatment and Recovery Courts: At-a-Glance

For purposes of this report, the term “specialty dockets” refers exclusively to Treatment and Recovery Courts operating within the Maine Judicial Branch pursuant to Title 4.

This page provides a high-level snapshot of Treatment and Recovery Court activity during calendar year 2025. Detailed definitions, methodology, and complete statistical tables are provided in **Section VII (Statistics)** of this report.

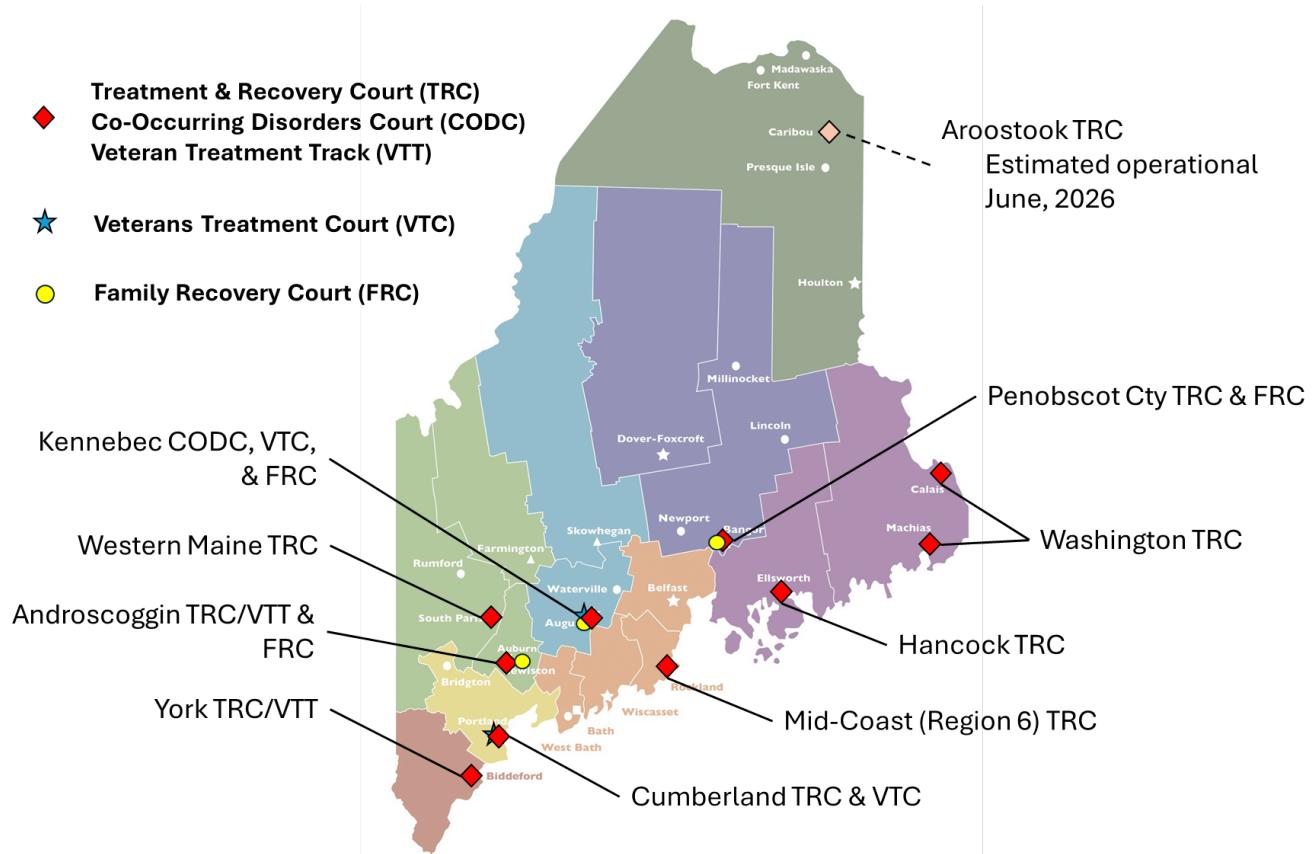
Courts and Coverage

14 Total Treatment and Recovery Courts operating in 2025

Court types operating statewide:

- 8 Adult Treatment and Recovery Courts (TRC)
 - *The Aroostook TRC is in pre-implementation, with planning and resource coordination underway and anticipated acceptance of participant applications beginning in June 2026.*
- 1 Co-Occurring Disorders Court (CODC)
- 2 Veterans Treatment Courts (VTC)
- 3 Family Recovery Courts (FRC)

Statewide Distribution of Treatment and Recovery Courts (2025)



2025 Statistical Highlights – Treatment and Recovery Courts

This page presents selected statewide statistical highlights for Maine’s Treatment and Recovery Courts during calendar year 2025. These figures provide a high-level snapshot of court activity and outcomes. Detailed tables, definitions, and explanatory notes are provided in **Section VII – Statistics**.

Participants and Court Activity

476	Total participants served statewide <i>(Includes participants active during 2025 and those who exited during the year)</i>
291	Participants active as of December 31, 2025
223	New admissions during 2025
858	Total referrals received statewide

Program Outcomes (Program Exits)

185	Total program exits during 2025
108	Successful program completions (commencements) <i>(Participants who graduated and exited the program)</i>
27	Voluntary terminations
50	Involuntary terminations
58%	Statewide commencement rate <i>(Commencements as a percentage of total program exits)</i>

Access and Entry Determinations

905	Total entry determinations during 2025
223 (25%)	Applicants admitted to Treatment and Recovery Courts
682 (75%)	Applicants who did not enter a program

Applicants who did not enter a program include those determined to be ineligible, those unable to proceed due to unresolved legal considerations affecting eligibility or timing, and those who withdrew or became unresponsive during the referral and screening process.

Important Data Notes and Context

- Statistics reflect activity reported by Treatment and Recovery Courts during calendar year 2025.
- Participation in Treatment and Recovery Courts frequently spans multiple calendar years; therefore, counts of participants served and exits may include individuals admitted in prior years.
- Variations across court types and regions reflect differences in program design, capacity, eligibility criteria, and available resources.
- Outcome measures presented here do not constitute a formal program evaluation.

Reference: See **Section VII – Statistics** for full tables, figures, definitions, and methodology.

Statutorily Required Reporting Topics (4 M.R.S.A. § 423)

I. Training

Treatment and Recovery Courts require specialized training consistent with nationally recognized best-practice standards. Judges and multidisciplinary team members receive orientation and continuing education addressing substance use disorder treatment, co-occurring mental health conditions, incentives and sanctions, procedural fairness, and trauma-informed practice. Training activities described in this section focus on professional development and internal court operations and do not include public education or community outreach, which are addressed in Sections IV and V.

During calendar year 2025, Treatment and Recovery Court judges, court staff, and multidisciplinary team members participated in professional training and technical assistance activities addressing core treatment court principles, role-specific responsibilities, multidisciplinary collaboration, and emerging issues affecting justice-involved populations.

The Judicial Branch supported structured assessment and improvement activities through nationally recognized review processes, including All Rise Adult Treatment Court Operational Tune-Up Workshops involving five courts and the BeST Assessment (Treatment Court Best Practices Self-Assessment Tool) conducted using NPC Research tools in four courts. These efforts informed training priorities, technical assistance, and administrative planning and were complemented by peer-led knowledge sharing and informal exchanges that supported consistent practices and statewide alignment.

Training activities are coordinated in collaboration with partner agencies and national organizations to support consistent, high-quality operation of Treatment and Recovery Courts statewide. Maine treatment court representatives also participated in an informal statewide convening during the New England Association of Recovery Court Professionals (NEARCP) Conference, which supported information-sharing on court operations, technology, and emerging practices.

Examples of professional training and technical assistance activities during 2025 included:

- Practitioner Training for Treatment Court Coordinators, March 17–21, 2025
- All Rise 2025 Annual Conference (All Rise), May 28–31, 2025
- Recovery Capital Workshop (NEARCP), June 6, 2025
- Adult Treatment Court Operational Tune-Up Workshop (All Rise), September 10–11, 2025
- Treatment Court Best Practices Self-Assessments (NPC Research), Fall 2025
- Nurture ME Summit (Maine Department of Health and Human Services), October 30, 2025
- 2025 Annual Training Conference (NEARCP), November 19–21, 2025

II. Specialty Docket Locations

For purposes of this report, the term “specialty dockets” refers to Treatment and Recovery Courts operating within the Maine Judicial Branch.

Pursuant to 4 M.R.S. § 423(2), the Judicial Branch reports the locations in which substance use disorder treatment programs are operated within each prosecutorial district. Treatment and Recovery Courts are organized to provide statewide access while accounting for regional population density, available treatment and supervision resources, and court capacity constraints.

Depending on court type and regional needs, Treatment and Recovery Courts may serve one or more counties and may operate from a single court location or multiple locations.

Participants may be accepted from outside the host county when appropriate resources and reliable transportation are available.

The number and geographic distribution of Treatment and Recovery Courts operating under the Maine Judicial Branch remained unchanged from the prior reporting period. As of January 1, 2026, the Judicial Branch operates fourteen (14) Treatment and Recovery Courts across the State, representing the following specialty docket types:

- Eight (8) Adult Treatment and Recovery Courts (TRC)
 - two (2) TRCs include a Veteran Treatment Track (VTT)
- One (1) Co-Occurring Disorders Court (CODC)
- Two (2) Veterans Treatment Courts (VTC)
- Three (3) Family Recovery Courts (FRC)

The Judicial Branch has approved the establishment of an Adult Treatment and Recovery Court in Aroostook County. Implementation and planning are underway, with development contingent upon confirmation that participating stakeholders and partner agencies have secured sufficient resources to support court operations. Additional information regarding the status of the Aroostook County court is provided elsewhere in this report.

In addition to the two formal Veterans Treatment Courts, several Adult Treatment and Recovery Courts operate Veterans Treatment Tracks to serve participants who are veterans. These tracks operate within existing Adult Treatment and Recovery Courts and incorporate veteran-specific coordination and services. When a Veterans Treatment Track is in operation, a Veteran Justice Outreach (VJO) Coordinator from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs participates with the court team to facilitate access to benefits, treatment, and services.

Although local stakeholders have previously expressed interest in establishing a Family Recovery Court in the Portland area, no formal application has been submitted to the Judicial Branch as of the reporting period.

A map and table identifying court locations and counties served appear on the following page.

This section is limited to reporting court locations and does not address court capacity, participant volume, or staffing levels, which are addressed elsewhere in this report.

Figure 1. Map: Specialty Docket Locations (operational as of January 1, 2026, reflecting court status during calendar year 2025)

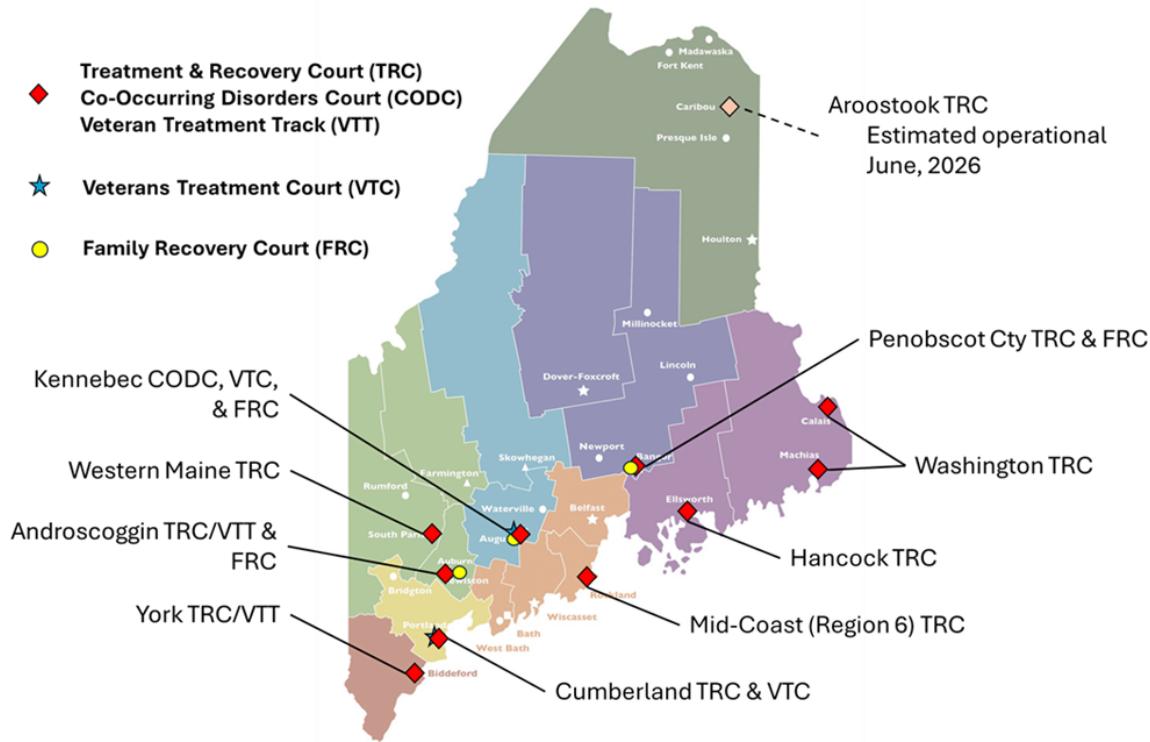


Table 1. Specialty Docket Locations (operational as of January 1, 2026)

Court Type	County(s) Served	Court Location
Adult Treatment and Recovery Courts		
	Androscoggin	Auburn
	Cumberland	Portland
	Hancock	Ellsworth
	Knox, Lincoln, Sagadahoc, Waldo	Rockland
	Penobscot	Bangor
	Oxford, Franklin	South Paris
	Washington	Machias and Calais
	York	Biddeford
Co-Occurring Disorders Court		
	Kennebec	Augusta
Family Recovery Courts		
	Androscoggin	Lewiston
	Kennebec	Augusta
	Penobscot	Bangor
Veterans Treatment Courts		
	Kennebec	Augusta
	Cumberland	Portland

III. Participating Judges and Justices

Judges and Justices assigned to Treatment and Recovery Courts are designated by the Chief Justice of the Superior Court or the Chief Judge of the District Court. Participation reflects a substantial commitment of judicial time. The following judges and justices presided over Treatment and Recovery Courts during calendar year 2025.

Table 2. Judicial Officers Presiding Over Treatment and Recovery Courts During Calendar Year 2025

Judicial District	Jurisdiction(s)	Location(s)	Specialty Docket(s)	Judicial Officer
1	York County	Biddeford	TRC (VTT)	Hon. James Martemucci*
2	Cumberland	Portland	TRC, VTC	Hon. Jennifer Nofsinger*
3	Androscoggin	Auburn	TRC (VTT)	Hon. Sarah Churchill*
3	Androscoggin	Lewiston	FRC	Hon. Tammy Ham-Thompson Hon. Katherine Tierney*
3	Oxford & Franklin	South Paris	TRC	Hon. Maria Woodman*
4	Kennebec & Somerset	Augusta	CODC, VTC	Hon. Daniel Mitchell*
4	Kennebec	Augusta	FRC	Hon. Erika Bristol*
5	Penobscot & Piscataquis	Bangor	TRC	Hon. Meghan Szylvian*
5	Penobscot	Bangor	FRC	Hon. Amy Faircloth*
6	Knox, Sagadahoc, Lincoln, Waldo	Rockland	TRC	Hon. John Martin*
7	Washington	Calais, Machias	TRC	Hon. David Mitchell*
7	Hancock	Ellsworth	TRC	Hon. Patrick Larson*
8	Aroostook [†]	Caribou	TRC	Hon. Stephen Nelson*

** Presiding judicial officer as of 1 January, 2026.*

[†]Note – the Aroostook TRC is presently in pre-implementation phase and is planned to become operational on July 10, 2026.

This section is limited to identifying participating judicial officers and does not address training, workload, or outcomes, which are addressed elsewhere in this report.

IV. Community Involvement

Community involvement during calendar year 2025 focused on engagement with partner agencies, service systems, and community organizations to strengthen cross-system coordination and support participant stability beyond the courtroom. Courts and partner agencies collaborated with child welfare professionals, veterans service organizations, recovery community partners, and other stakeholders to improve service alignment and referrals.

Treatment and Recovery Courts engaged extensively with local recovery community organizations to support participant recovery outside of formal court settings. These partnerships facilitated access to peer recovery coaching, recovery navigation, and community-based spaces for pro-social and recovery-oriented activities. In certain regions, courts also collaborated with workforce development partners to support employment readiness and address practical barriers to participation.

Community involvement efforts reinforced understanding of treatment court processes, eligibility considerations, and available resources, and strengthened recovery-oriented supports in the community. Coordination with recovery organizations, workforce development partners, and local service providers supported access to employment assistance, recovery resources, transportation, and other community-based services, as resources permitted.

Treatment and Recovery Court personnel also engaged in public-facing collaboration through participation in statewide and regional convenings with partner agencies and service systems. These efforts emphasized coordination and relationship-building and complemented court-based supervision and treatment.

Examples of Community Involvement Activities (2025)

- Partnerships with recovery community organizations to support participant engagement, peer support, and pro-social activities
- Coordination with workforce development partners, recovery residences, and local service providers to support employment, sober housing, and recovery stability
- Engagement with veteran-focused community partners, including Veteran Mentors supporting Veterans Treatment Courts
- Support for emerging Treatment and Recovery Court alumni groups in multiple regions, including Washington County, Midcoast Region, Kennebec County, and York County

This subsection is limited to describing community involvement and does not address funding, contracts, or formal agreements, which are reported in the Collaboration subsection of this report.

V. Education

Education is an integral component of Maine's Treatment and Recovery Courts and occurs at multiple levels, including participant education, system partner education, and public awareness. Education activities described in this section are distinct from professional training and focus on participant learning, system awareness, and public understanding of treatment court models and outcomes.

During calendar year 2025, courts provided educational opportunities designed to support participant recovery, inform system partners, and increase understanding of treatment court structure and eligibility.

Participant education is incorporated into court programming and individualized case management. Participants who have achieved social stabilization are encouraged to pursue employment, education, or vocational training, and case managers assist participants in identifying and accessing appropriate educational and workforce-readiness resources.

Educational efforts during the reporting period also included recovery-oriented and community-based learning activities, such as alumni-supported initiatives, pro-social events, and recovery-focused gatherings, which reinforced peer connection, engagement, and long-term recovery.

Treatment and Recovery Court personnel and partner agencies also engaged in professional and public education through presentations and participation in conferences and convenings addressing substance use disorder, co-occurring mental health conditions, child welfare, veterans services, and recovery-oriented justice practices. These activities supported information-sharing, system coordination, and public understanding of treatment court operations.

Examples of Educational and Outreach Activities (2025)

During calendar year 2025, Treatment and Recovery Court personnel and partner agencies participated in the following educational and outreach activities:

- Child Welfare Conference (Maine Judicial Branch), April 3–4, 2025
- Maine Military Community Network Conference, June 18, 2025
- 7th Annual Opioid Response Summit (Maine Department of Health and Human Services), July 10, 2025
- Veteran & Community Connection Expo (Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services), September 19, 2025
- Maine VA Veterans Homeless Stand-Down Events (Bangor, Lewiston, Portland, and Augusta), October–November 2025

This subsection identifies education and outreach activities and does not duplicate training, funding, or outcome reporting addressed elsewhere in this report.

VI. Use of Existing Substance Use Disorder Resources

Treatment and Recovery Courts are designed to leverage existing substance use disorder treatment and recovery resources within Maine's behavioral health system. Courts partner with licensed treatment providers funded through the Office of Behavioral Health within the Department of Health and Human Services to deliver clinically appropriate treatment services to participants, rather than creating parallel or duplicative systems.

Treatment services are provided through contracted community-based providers that participate as members of treatment court teams and coordinate closely with case management and supervision services. Depending on regional availability and participant needs, courts also utilize specialized services, including Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) teams, to address severe and persistent behavioral health conditions. In areas where such services are limited, case managers work to identify and coordinate comparable community-based supports as needed.

The Judicial Branch also supports access to treatment resources by maintaining and disseminating information regarding federally licensed substance use disorder treatment programs available throughout the State. This information is publicly accessible and available to judges to support informed referral and placement decisions.

Treatment and Recovery Courts permit the use of medication-assisted treatment (MAT) for participants with substance use disorder. MAT combines FDA-approved medications with counseling and behavioral therapies and is provided based on individualized clinical assessment. MAT and associated medication management services are delivered by licensed providers and are covered through MaineCare when clinically indicated.

This subsection is limited to identifying the use of existing resources and does not address funding levels, contractual arrangements, or outcomes, which are reported elsewhere in this report.

VII. Statistics

This section presents statistical information describing Treatment and Recovery Court activity during the reporting period. Data include referrals, admissions, participant activity, and program exits across court types and jurisdictions. For purposes of this report, program exits include participants who successfully completed and graduated from a program (commencements), as well as participants who exited prior to completion through voluntary or involuntary termination. Statistics are presented in aggregate form and, where appropriate, by court type. Definitions used for statistical reporting are applied consistently across courts and reporting years.

Core Statistical Measures

The following measures are reported for calendar year 2025:

- **Participants Served**
Number of individuals who were active on December 31, 2025 or exited (commenced or terminated) a Treatment and Recovery Court during calendar year 2025.
- **Admissions and Program Exits**
Number of new admissions and program exits, including commencements (successful completion), voluntary terminations, and involuntary terminations.
- **Commencement Rates**
Percentage of participants exiting the program by successful commencement, reported by court type.

Statistical Notes and Definitions

- **Program Exit:**
A participant's departure from a Treatment and Recovery Court program during the reporting period, including successful completion or termination.
- **Commencement (Graduation):**
For purposes of this report, a "commencement" reflects a participant who successfully completed and exited a Treatment and Recovery Court program. The term is used consistent with its traditional meaning in commencement ceremonies and represents one category of program exit.
- **Voluntary Termination:**
An exit from the program initiated by the participant prior to completion.
- **Involuntary Termination:**
An exit from the program prior to completion based on judicial determination.

- **Participants Served:**
The number of people who participated in a Treatment and Recovery Court program during the reporting period.
- **Referrals** reflect all cases referred to a Treatment and Recovery Court during the reporting period.
- **Admissions** reflect cases approved for entry into a program.
- **Exits** include graduations, terminations, and other program departures as defined by court policy.

Counts may include participants admitted or commenced in prior calendar years.

The tables and figures below present summary statistics describing Treatment and Recovery Court activity during calendar year 2025, with selected multi-year data provided for context.

Treatment and Recovery Court Participants Served

Table 3 summarizes the number of individuals served by Treatment and Recovery Courts during calendar year 2025, including participants active at year-end and those who exited the program during the reporting period.

Table 3. Participants Served by Treatment and Recovery Court Type, Calendar Year 2025

	Active 12/31/2025	Commencements (Successful Completion)	Terminations	Total Served
TRC	212	60	44	316
CODC	30	11	10	51
VTC	15	7	0	22
VTT	3	2	0	5
FRC	31	28	23	82
Total	291	108	77	476

Treatment and Recovery Court Admissions and Exits

Program exits include participants who successfully completed the program (commencements) as well as those who exited prior to completion through voluntary or involuntary terminations.

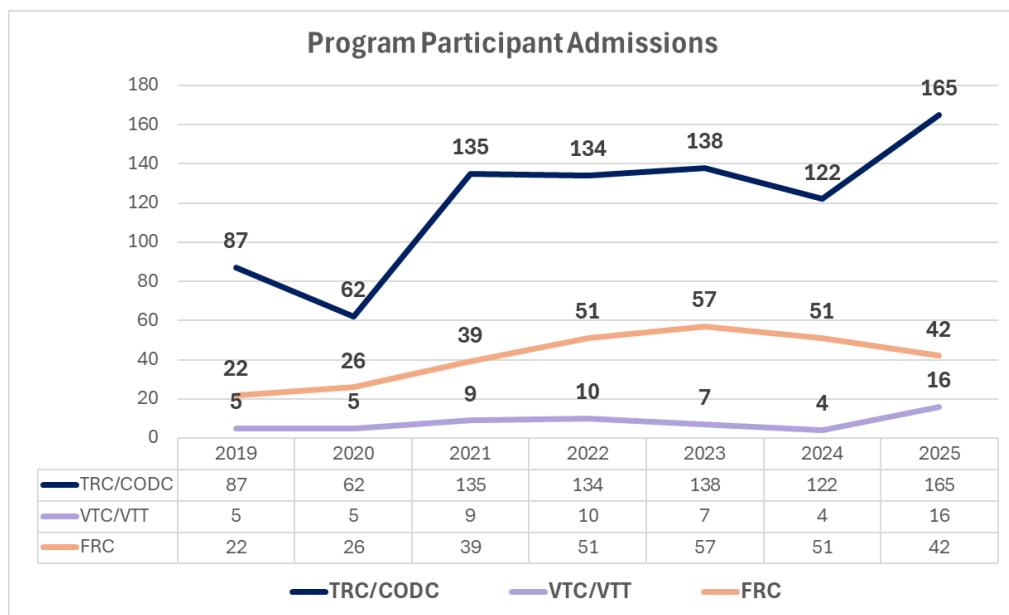
Table 4 presents referral volume and admission outcomes during calendar year 2025, including the number of participants who commenced or exited programs during the reporting period.

Table 4. Admissions and Exits by Treatment and Recovery Court Type, Calendar Year 2025

	Referrals	Admissions	Commencements	Terminations
TRC	520	140	60	44
CODC	94	25	11	10
VTC	45	13	7	0
VTT	18	3	2	0
FRC	181	42	28	23
Total	858	223	108	77

Figure 2 illustrates trends in program admissions to Treatment and Recovery Courts over the five-year period from 2021 through 2025.

Figure 2. Program Admissions to Treatment and Recovery Courts, 2021–2025

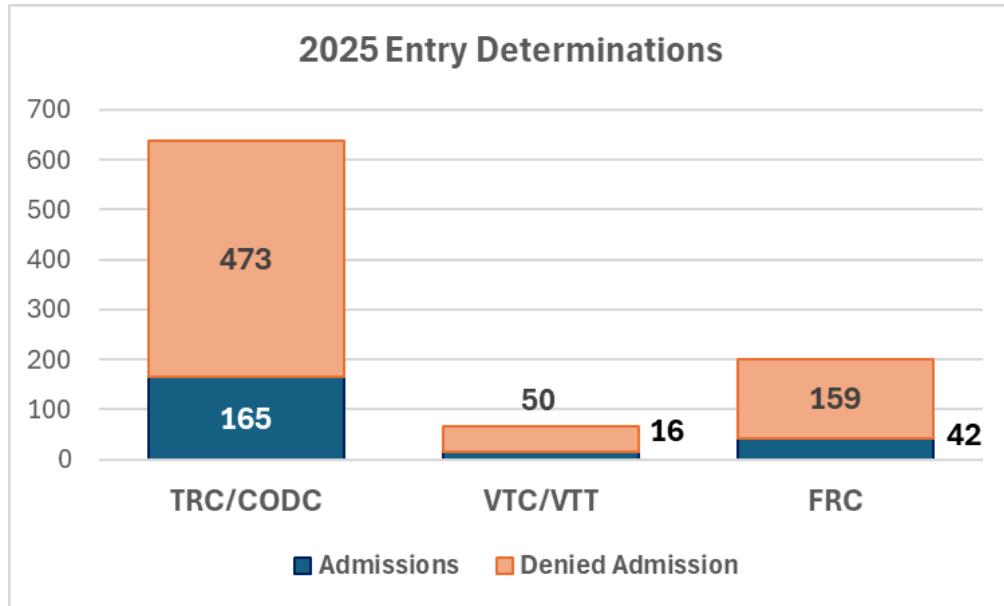


Treatment and Recovery Court Entry Determinations

The figures below provide additional context regarding entry determinations and non-entry outcomes.

Figure 3 summarizes entry determinations made during calendar year 2025 following referral, screening, legal review, and judicial consideration.

Figure 3. Entry Determinations for Treatment and Recovery Courts, Calendar Year 2025



Multi-year data from 2022 through 2025 indicate that a relatively small share of referrals result in admission to Treatment and Recovery Courts. Among participants who are admitted, outcomes reflect substantial successful completions alongside terminations, underscoring the importance of understanding non-entry pathways and access constraints.

The figures below present entry determinations by treatment court type during calendar years 2022 to 2025. Each figure compares the number of applicants admitted to a Treatment and Recovery Court with those who did not enter the program following screening, legal review, and judicial consideration.

Entry determinations reflect judicial decisions regarding program admission. Applicants who did not enter a program include those determined to be ineligible, those unable to proceed due to unresolved legal considerations affecting eligibility or timing, and those who withdrew or became unresponsive during the referral and screening process.

Figure 4. Entry Determinations for Adult Treatment and Recovery Courts, Calendar Years 2022-2025

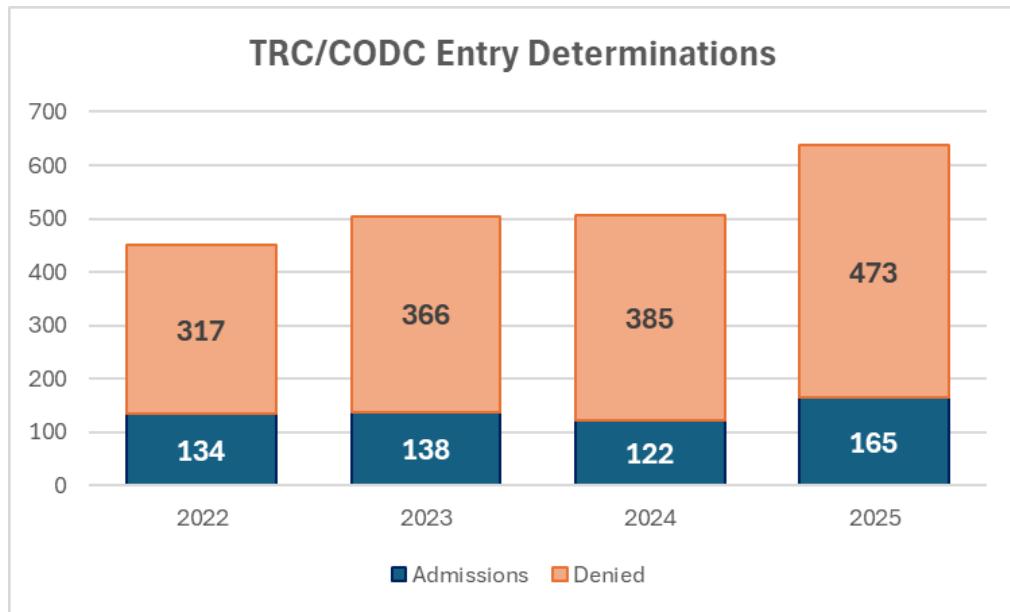


Figure 5. Entry Determinations for Veteran Treatment Courts, Calendar Years 2022-2025

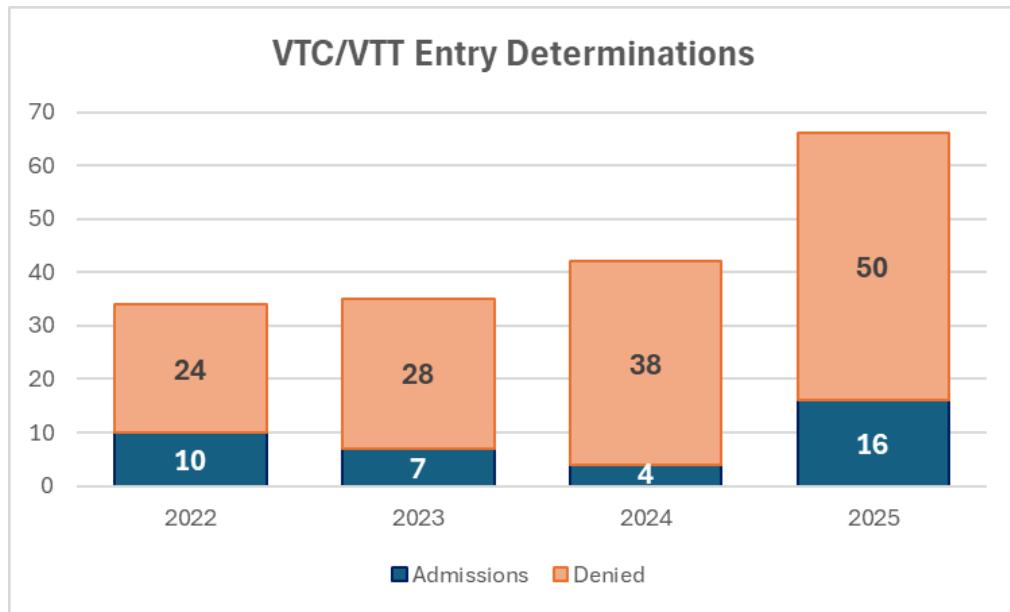
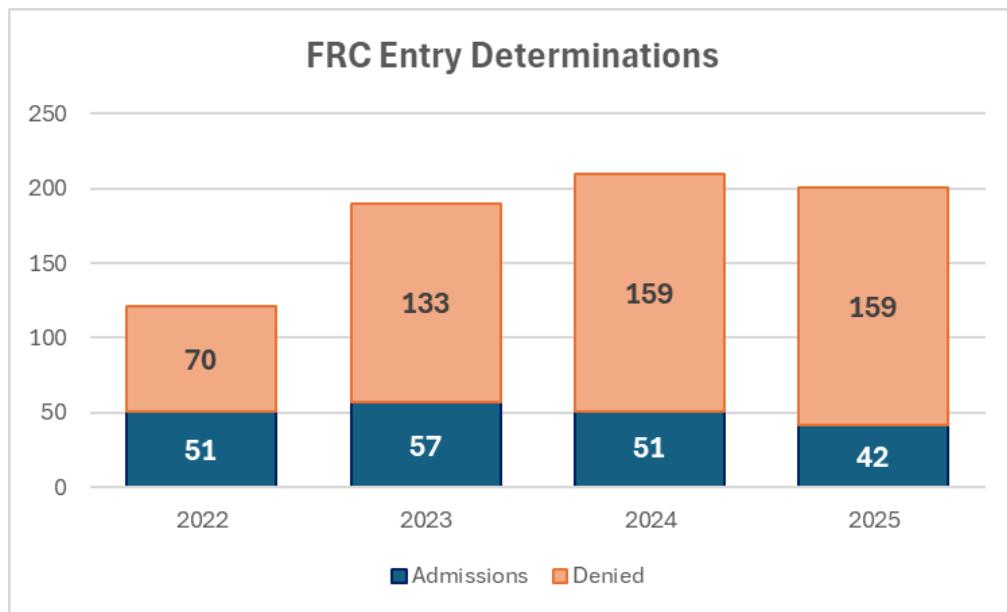


Figure 6. Entry Determinations for Family Recovery Courts, Calendar Years 2022-2025



[Continued on next page]

Reasons Applicants Did Not Enter Treatment and Recovery Courts

From 2022 through 2025, the primary reasons applicants did not enter Treatment and Recovery Courts shifted from formal eligibility exclusions toward issues related to engagement, timing, and legal process. While eligibility determinations remained relatively stable after 2023, an increasing number of applicants withdrew or became unresponsive during referral and screening.

Legal and procedural considerations, including unresolved case posture or the absence of required plea agreements, also increased over the reporting period. At the same time, courts demonstrated improved screening precision, with fewer applicants deemed low risk or low need and a reduction in uncategorized reasons for non-admission.

These trends suggest that access to Treatment and Recovery Courts is increasingly influenced by system coordination, legal timing, and participant readiness, rather than changes in eligibility standards or program availability.

Figure 7 (on next page) presents reported reasons applicants did not enter Treatment and Recovery Courts over the period from 2022 through 2025.

Figure 7. Reasons Applicants Did Not Enter Treatment and Recovery Courts, 2022–2025

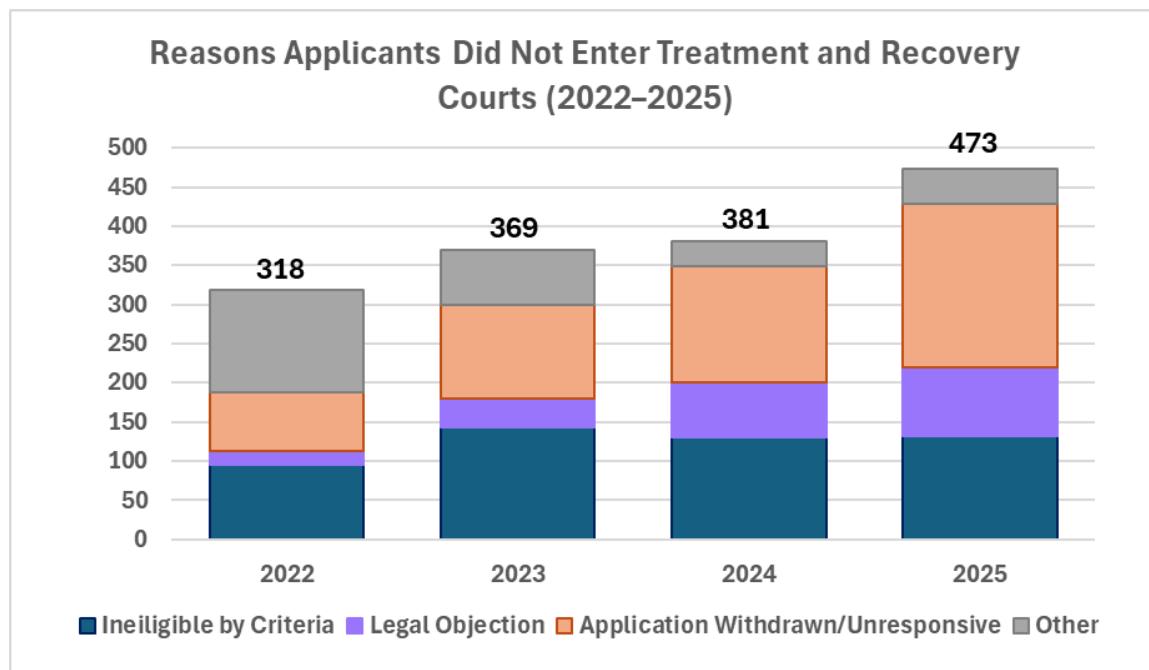


Figure Note: Applicants may fail to enter Treatment and Recovery Courts due to eligibility determinations, legal considerations, or withdrawal or non-responsiveness during the referral and screening process. Counts reflect all reported non-entry outcomes for each calendar year.

Treatment & Recovery Court Program Exits

Program exits include participants who successfully completed the program (commencements) as well as those who exited prior to completion through voluntary or involuntary termination. For purposes of this report, “commencement” refers to successful completion of a Treatment and Recovery Court program and is used consistent with national treatment court guidance.

Commencement rates represent one indicator of program activity and should be interpreted in context with other measures, including admissions, length of participation, voluntary withdrawals, and terminations. Participants typically remain in Treatment and Recovery Court programs for extended periods, often exceeding one year; as a result, annual commencement and termination figures are influenced by program capacity and the number of active participants carried over from prior years.

Family Recovery Courts operate within a distinct legal and operational context from criminal Treatment and Recovery Courts. Participation is contingent upon the existence of an open child welfare case, and the Family Recovery Court and child protection case proceed independently in parallel. In some instances, a child welfare case may be resolved while a parent remains engaged in Family Recovery Court services, resulting in a program discharge that does not align with commencement definitions used in criminal treatment courts. Accordingly, commencement rates for Family Recovery Courts are not directly comparable to those of criminal Treatment and Recovery Courts and should be interpreted within the context of their unique statutory purpose and case dynamics.

Table 5 summarizes program exits during calendar year 2025 by court type, including successful completions and terminations.

Table 5. Program Exits by Treatment and Recovery Court Type, Calendar Year 2025

	Commencements (Successful Completions)	Involuntary Terminations	Voluntary Termination	Total Program Exits
TRC	60	32	12	104
CODC	11	9	1	21
VTC & VTT	9	0	0	9
FRC	28	9	14	51
	108	50	27	185

Table 6 provides a court-level breakdown of program exits during calendar year 2025.

Table 6. Program Exits by Individual Treatment and Recovery Court, Calendar Year 2025

	Graduated	Involuntary Terminations	Voluntary Termination
Androscoggin Treatment and Recovery Court	4	2	1
Cumberland Treatment and Recovery Court	8	9	1
Hancock Treatment and Recovery Court	10	0	4
Midcoast Region 6 Treatment and Recovery Court	6	0	0
Oxford/Franklin Treatment and Recovery Court	3	3	1
Penobscot Treatment and Recovery Court	17	3	3
Washington Treatment and Recovery Court	4	10	0
York Treatment and Recovery Court	8	5	2
Kennebec Co-Occurring Disorders Court	11	9	1
Cumberland Veteran's Treatment Court	5	0	0
Kennebec Veteran's Treatment Court	2	0	0
Androscoggin Veteran's Treatment Court	2	0	0
York Veteran's Treatment Court	0	0	0
Androscoggin Family Recovery Court	7	4	5
Kennebec Family Recovery Court	6	1	3
Penobscot Family Recovery Court	15	4	6

The statistics presented above are descriptive and reflect aggregate reporting across court types and jurisdictions.

Context and Limitations

Participation in Treatment and Recovery Courts typically spans multiple calendar years; therefore, participants may be counted as “served” in more than one reporting period. Commencement rates and other outcome measures reflect participants exiting during the reporting year and are influenced by admission volume and participant stability in prior years.

Statistical reporting in this section is descriptive in nature. Analysis of recidivism, cost impacts, and long-term outcomes is addressed in the Program Evaluation section of this report.

VIII. Collaboration

Treatment and Recovery Courts operate through coordinated efforts among the Judicial Branch, executive agencies, and community partners, supported by a combination of formal and informal agreements. Collaboration remained central to the operation of Maine's Treatment and Recovery Courts during calendar year 2025 and supported consistent practices, effective service coordination, and participant accountability across court types and jurisdictions.

Courts coordinated routinely with the Judicial Branch, the Department of Health and Human Services, Maine Pretrial Services, treatment and case management providers, prosecutors, defense counsel, and, where applicable, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Collaborative activities included multidisciplinary case review, data coordination, quality-assurance efforts, and coordination around participant needs such as transportation, employment readiness, and recovery supports, as resources permitted.

Collaborative Entities

Treatment and Recovery Courts operate through collaboration with, at a minimum, the following entities:

- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (Veterans Treatment Courts)
- Maine Commission on Public Defense Services and independent defense attorneys
- Maine Department of Health and Human Services, including the Office of Behavioral Health and the Office of Child and Family Services
- Maine Department of Corrections
- Maine Judicial Branch (courts, clerks, and judicial marshals)
- Maine Office of the Attorney General and District Attorneys
- Maine Department of Public Safety
- Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future, including the Office of Opioid Response
- Maine Pretrial Services
- Community-based treatment providers, case management agencies, peer recovery organizations, and other service partners

Agreements and Contracts

Collaboration is supported through a combination of formal agreements, contracts, and interagency arrangements, including:

- Contracts administered by the Office of Behavioral Health for treatment, case management, substance testing, and peer recovery services
- Interagency coordination agreements involving the Judicial Branch, Department of Corrections, and Department of Health and Human Services
- Federal grant agreements supporting planning, implementation, or expansion of specific Treatment and Recovery Courts
- Service coordination arrangements with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs for Veterans Treatment Courts

Financial Contributions

Collaborative activities are supported through a combination of state appropriations, federal funding, and partner agency resources, including:

- Judicial Branch funding for judicial and court operations
- Department of Health and Human Services funding for treatment, case management, and recovery services
- Federal funding supporting veterans' services and targeted court initiatives
- In-kind contributions of staff time and resources from collaborating agencies

For information on the funding structure supporting these collaborative efforts, see **Appendix E – Funding and Resource Structure** of this report.

This section describes the collaborative framework supporting Maine's Treatment and Recovery Courts and does not duplicate statistical reporting, funding detail, or program evaluation addressed elsewhere in this report.

IX. Program Evaluation

The most recent statewide evaluation of Maine's Treatment and Recovery Courts was conducted in 2000. Since that time, the courts have undergone substantial changes, including expansion into additional regions, development of new court models, adoption of updated national best-practice standards, integration of peer recovery supports, and changes in treatment modalities and community supervision practices. As a result, existing evaluation findings no longer reflect current operations or outcomes.

Recent assessment activities indicate that Maine's Adult Treatment and Recovery Courts are operating from a strong foundation, with engaged judicial leadership and effective multidisciplinary collaboration. Identified challenges are primarily system-level and relate to admissions timeliness, training consistency, data capacity, and policy alignment with updated national standards, rather than deficiencies in individual court performance.

Current Evaluation Status

No comprehensive, independent statewide evaluation has been conducted since the 2000 PCG evaluation. While Treatment and Recovery Courts engage in ongoing internal monitoring, data review, technical assistance, and oversight through the Treatment and Recovery Court Steering Committee, these activities do not substitute for an external, statewide evaluation.

The Judicial Branch is currently reviewing a proposal for a Maine-based university to conduct a statewide evaluation of Treatment and Recovery Courts.

Evaluation Scope

An updated statewide evaluation would assess:

- Participant outcomes and recidivism trends
- Program effectiveness across court types and regions
- Fidelity to updated national best-practice standards
- Cost impacts and resource utilization
- Areas for improvement and opportunities for program refinement

Such an evaluation would provide the Legislature, the Judicial Branch, and partner agencies with objective, current information regarding the performance and impact of Maine's Treatment and Recovery Courts and would support informed policy, funding, and programmatic decision-making.

X. Economic Impact

The Judicial Branch does not currently have updated, independently verified statewide cost or economic impact data for Maine's Treatment and Recovery Courts. The most recent comprehensive cost-benefit analysis was conducted as part of the Public Consulting Group (PCG) statewide evaluation completed in 2000. As no subsequent external statewide evaluation has been completed, the economic impact information presented below is drawn from that analysis and is provided for historical and contextual purposes only.

The PCG evaluation found that, at the time of the study, Treatment and Recovery Courts generated cost savings when compared to incarceration for similarly situated, high-risk, high-need individuals. These savings were primarily attributable to reduced reliance on jail and prison incarceration and lower rates of reoffending among treatment court participants.

At the time of the evaluation, PCG reported the following illustrative findings:

- The average length of participation in a criminal treatment court was 15.5 months, including both participants who successfully completed the program and those who did not.
- The estimated annual cost per participant for case management, treatment services, and judicial time was approximately \$8,488.
- Based on the average program duration, the estimated total cost per participant was \$10,964.

By comparison, the estimated cost of incarceration at that time was approximately \$51,465 for one year in a county jail and \$44,895 for one year in state prison.

The PCG evaluation further found that participants in Treatment and Recovery Courts spent fewer days incarcerated than comparable individuals who did not participate in a treatment court, resulting in an estimated average savings of \$16,232 per participant during the study period.

These figures reflect conditions, costs, and practices at the time of the evaluation and do not account for subsequent changes in program design, treatment modalities, supervision practices, incarceration costs, or broader economic factors. As noted elsewhere in this report, an updated independent statewide evaluation would be necessary to assess the current economic impact of Maine's Treatment and Recovery Courts.

Conclusion

Maine's Treatment and Recovery Courts continue to operate as an established component of the Judicial Branch's response to substance use disorder and related behavioral health conditions that contribute to justice system involvement. During calendar year 2025, these courts functioned across multiple regions and court types, providing structured, court-supervised alternatives to traditional case processing in collaboration with executive branch agencies and community partners.

This report has been submitted in accordance with Title 4, M.R.S.A. § 423 and presents the information required by statute regarding training, court locations, participating judicial officers, community involvement, education, use of existing resources, statistical activity, collaboration, program evaluation, and economic impact. Together, these sections describe the scope, operation, and oversight of Maine's Treatment and Recovery Courts during the reporting period.

As noted in this report, while the Judicial Branch engages in ongoing monitoring and oversight of Treatment and Recovery Courts, a comprehensive, independent statewide evaluation has not been conducted in many years. An updated evaluation would provide the Legislature and partner agencies with current information regarding outcomes, effectiveness, and system-level impacts.

The Judicial Branch remains committed to administering Treatment and Recovery Courts in a manner consistent with statutory requirements, statewide policy, and nationally recognized best-practice standards, and to working collaboratively with partner agencies to ensure these programs operate effectively and responsibly.

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Appendix A – Program Overview and Treatment and Recovery Court Types

During the late twentieth century, courts across the United States increasingly encountered individuals whose justice system involvement was driven by substance use disorder and related mental health conditions. Traditional responses relying primarily on incarceration and punitive sanctions proved limited in addressing these underlying issues and were associated with high rates of recidivism and significant public expense.

Treatment and Recovery Courts emerged as a problem-solving court model designed to address these challenges by integrating judicial oversight with evidence-based treatment, case management, supervision, and recovery supports. These courts approach substance use disorder and serious mental illness as chronic, treatable conditions and use structured court supervision to promote accountability, stability, and lawful behavior.

The first drug court was established in Miami-Dade County, Florida, in 1989. Since that time, treatment court models have been implemented widely across the United States and internationally, serving adult, juvenile, veteran, and family populations. Maine has adopted several nationally recognized treatment court models to address the needs of justice-involved individuals and families within the State.

Treatment and Recovery Courts operate through a multidisciplinary team that may include judges, prosecutors, defense counsel, probation officers, case managers, treatment providers, peer recovery professionals, and other community partners. Team members collaborate to coordinate treatment and supervision responses while maintaining clear expectations and judicial oversight.

National best-practice standards for treatment courts have been developed through decades of research and practice. These standards are reflected in the Ten Key Components established by the National Association of Drug Court Professionals (now known as All Rise) and subsequent best-practice standards and guidance. Maine’s Treatment and Recovery Courts are guided by these standards and operate within a statewide policy framework adopted by the Judicial Branch.

Treatment and Recovery Court Types in Maine

Maine currently operates four types of Treatment and Recovery Courts designed to address substance use disorder and, where applicable, co-occurring mental health conditions among justice-involved individuals and families. Each court type serves a distinct population and legal context while adhering to nationally recognized best-practice principles.

1. Adult Treatment and Recovery Courts (TRC)

Adult Treatment and Recovery Courts are criminal specialty dockets designed to reduce recidivism and substance use among adults whose criminal behavior is driven by substance use disorder. These courts combine judicial supervision with evidence-based treatment, frequent substance testing, case management, and coordinated community supervision.

Participants are typically individuals assessed as having high treatment needs and elevated risk of reoffending. Court interventions include structured program phases, regular court appearances, graduated incentives and sanctions, and services intended to support long-term recovery, stability, and compliance with the law.

2. Co-Occurring Disorders Court (CODC)

The Co-Occurring Disorders Court serves individuals diagnosed with both a moderate-to-severe substance use disorder and a serious and persistent mental illness, such as major depression, bipolar disorder, or schizophrenia. These conditions often interact and require integrated treatment approaches.

The CODC provides coordinated judicial oversight, mental health and substance use treatment, case management, and access to psychiatric services. The court emphasizes concurrent treatment of both conditions to promote stabilization, reduce relapse, and support public safety.

3. Veterans Treatment Courts (VTC)

Veterans Treatment Courts and Veterans Treatment Tracks

Maine operates both formal Veterans Treatment Courts and Veterans Treatment Tracks within certain Adult Treatment and Recovery Courts.

Veterans Treatment Courts are dedicated specialty dockets designed exclusively for eligible veterans and, in some cases, active-duty service members whose justice involvement is related to substance use disorder, mental health conditions, or service-connected trauma. These courts operate as stand-alone dockets with dedicated judicial oversight and veteran-specific coordination.

A distinguishing feature of Veterans Treatment Courts is the involvement of a Veteran Justice Outreach (VJO) Coordinator from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, who assists with eligibility determination, facilitates access to VA benefits and treatment services, and supports coordination of care.

Maine's Veterans Treatment Courts were established as part of the Judicial Branch's broader problem-solving court movement led by Justice Nancy Mills, who also played a foundational role in the development of Maine's Co-Occurring Disorders Court and early adult treatment court models.

A **Veterans Treatment Track** operates within an existing Adult Treatment and Recovery Court and serves eligible veteran participants alongside non-veteran participants in that court. Veterans Treatment Tracks do not constitute separate specialty courts; rather, they incorporate veteran-specific coordination and services within the broader adult treatment court framework. When a Veterans Treatment Track is in operation, a Veteran Justice Outreach (VJO) Coordinator from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs participates with the court team to facilitate access to benefits, treatment, and services.

4. Family Recovery Courts (FRC)

Family Recovery Courts are civil specialty dockets that operate in conjunction with child protection proceedings when parental substance use is a contributing factor to child abuse or neglect. The primary objectives of these courts are to promote parental recovery, protect child safety, and support timely permanency outcomes.

Family Recovery Courts provide intensive judicial oversight, case management, treatment coordination, and recovery supports for parents. Participation is voluntary and does not guarantee reunification; child welfare determinations remain subject to applicable law and judicial discretion.

Other Specialty Treatment Court Models

Nationally, courts have developed additional specialty treatment court models to address specific populations and behavioral health needs, including Juvenile Treatment Courts, Adult Mental Health Treatment Courts, and Driver Impairment Courts. While these models are not currently operated by Maine's Judicial Branch, they reflect approaches used in other jurisdictions to address underlying behavioral health conditions through structured judicial supervision and coordinated services.

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Appendix B – Historical Development of Maine’s Treatment and Recovery Courts

Maine’s Treatment and Recovery Courts have developed over nearly three decades through collaboration among the Judicial Branch, executive agencies, local stakeholders, and community partners. Over time, these courts have evolved in response to statutory authority, available resources, community capacity, and identified needs within the justice system.

Early Development

Maine’s first problem-solving court, Project Exodus, was established in Cumberland County in 1996 with funding from the Bureau of Justice Assistance. Operating in Cumberland Superior Court, the program functioned as a planning and demonstration court and was presided over by Justices Roland Cole and Robert Crowley. Although Project Exodus concluded in 1998, it informed subsequent efforts to develop treatment-oriented court models within the State.

Adult Treatment and Recovery Courts

Enabling legislation enacted in 2000 authorized the creation of Maine’s adult drug treatment court system as an interagency partnership among the Judicial Branch, the Department of Corrections, and the Office of Substance Abuse. The first six Adult Drug Treatment Courts began accepting participants in April 2001 in Androscoggin, Cumberland, Oxford, Penobscot, Washington, and York Counties.

Over time, the availability and configuration of adult treatment courts evolved in response to local capacity, participant census, and resource constraints. Some early courts closed or paused operations, while others expanded or were re-established following renewed planning and funding. Hancock County transitioned from a locally funded deferred sentencing initiative to a formal Adult Drug Treatment Court in 2008. In 2016, Penobscot County re-established its Adult Drug Treatment Court after extensive community planning and coordination.

In December 2021, the Judicial Branch expanded access by launching new treatment courts serving Western Maine (Oxford and Franklin Counties) and the Midcoast Region (Knox, Lincoln, Sagadahoc, and Waldo Counties), supported by federal grant funding.

Also in 2021, the Treatment and Recovery Court Steering Committee and the Trial Court Chiefs approved a formal name change from “Adult Drug Treatment Courts” to **Adult Treatment and Recovery Courts**, reflecting an updated, recovery-oriented naming convention.

In 2025, the Judicial Branch approved the establishment of the Aroostook County Adult Treatment and Recovery Court. Implementation and planning are currently underway, with judicial officers and core staff identified. The program has been selected to receive Implementation Training from the Treatment Court Institute, a division of All Rise, scheduled for June 2–4, 2026. The court anticipates beginning to accept participant applications in June 2026, with readiness to admit its first participant in early July 2026.

Co-Occurring Disorders Court

In 2005, Justice Nancy Mills established Maine's first Co-Occurring Disorders Court in Kennebec County with federal funding from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Additional funding was secured in 2008 to expand eligibility to individuals from Somerset County. The Co-Occurring Disorders Court continues to operate as a specialized docket serving individuals with both serious mental illness and substance use disorder who are able to participate reliably in court proceedings in Kennebec County.

Veterans Treatment Courts

Maine established its first Veterans Treatment Court in Kennebec County in 2011 to address the needs of veterans whose justice involvement is related to service-connected trauma, behavioral health conditions, or substance use disorders. A second Veterans Treatment Court was established in Cumberland County in 2019.

In addition to these dedicated courts, Maine has developed Veterans Treatment Tracks within certain Adult Treatment and Recovery Courts, expanding access to veteran-specific services and supports where resources permit.

Family Recovery Courts

Maine's Family Recovery Courts became operational in 2002, initially in Knox and Androscoggin Counties, with subsequent expansion to Penobscot and Kennebec Counties. These courts operate as civil specialty dockets in conjunction with child protection proceedings when parental substance use is a contributing factor to child abuse or neglect.

In 2017, the courts were formally renamed from "Family Treatment Drug Courts" to **Family Recovery Courts** to reflect recovery-oriented terminology and to distinguish these dockets from other family court proceedings. Currently, Family Recovery Courts operate in Lewiston, Augusta, and Bangor.

Appendix C – Oversight and Governance

The Maine Judicial Branch oversees the Treatment and Recovery Courts through the Treatment and Recovery Court Steering Committee and the Coordinator of Specialty Dockets and Grants, a position housed within the Administrative Office of the Courts. Together, these entities support compliance with statutory requirements, statewide policy, and nationally recognized best-practice standards governing treatment court operations.

Treatment and Recovery Court Steering Committee

The Treatment and Recovery Court Steering Committee provides statewide policy guidance and oversight for all Treatment and Recovery Courts. The Committee is chaired by the Honorable David Mitchell, who also presides over the Washington County Adult Treatment and Recovery Court.

The Steering Committee is composed of representatives from the Judicial Branch and the Administrative Office of the Courts, the Office of the Attorney General, District Attorneys, the defense bar, the Department of Corrections, the Office of Behavioral Health, the Office of the Governor, treatment and case management agencies, and other key governmental and community partners. The Committee meets quarterly, or as needed, to review policy, operational, and legal matters affecting Treatment and Recovery Courts.

The Committee is responsible for developing and recommending statewide policies and procedures, monitoring adherence to best-practice standards, and reviewing proposed structural or operational changes. Recommendations involving significant policy or structural matters are forwarded to the Chief Justice, the Trial Court Chiefs, and the State Court Administrator for review and approval.

Coordinator of Specialty Dockets and Grants

Day-to-day statewide coordination and support for Treatment and Recovery Courts are provided by the Coordinator of Specialty Dockets and Grants, a position within the Administrative Office of the Courts. Since 2023, this position has been held by Todd H. Crawford, Jr., Esq., and is supervised by the Manager of Criminal Process and Specialty Dockets.

The Coordinator provides technical assistance to courts; supports planning, implementation, and expansion efforts; facilitates training and interagency collaboration; monitors fidelity to best-practice standards; and serves as a liaison between the Judicial Branch and external partners, including executive branch agencies and national treatment court organizations.

Judicial Assignments and Court Support

Presiding judges and justices for Treatment and Recovery Courts are assigned by the Chief Justice of the Superior Court or the Chief Judge of the District Court, depending on court type and jurisdiction. Judicial participation is voluntary and requires a substantial commitment of time and engagement beyond traditional case processing.

Court clerks and the Office of Judicial Marshals provide essential operational and security support for Treatment and Recovery Courts, including scheduling and courtroom management. Together, judicial officers and court staff play a critical role in maintaining consistent court operations and supporting participant accountability.

Appendix D – Policy and Operational Framework

Maine’s Treatment and Recovery Courts operate within a uniform, statewide policy and operational framework adopted by the Judicial Branch. This framework is designed to promote consistency, accountability, due process, and fidelity to nationally recognized best-practice standards, while allowing courts to respond appropriately to local resources and individual participant needs.

Statewide Policy Framework

In August 2022, the Treatment and Recovery Court Steering Committee adopted a comprehensive statewide Policy and Procedures Manual governing the operation of Treatment and Recovery Courts. The Manual establishes standards related to eligibility, participant rights and responsibilities, team roles, program structure, and court processes. Court-specific procedures must be consistent with statewide policy and are subject to review and approval through established governance channels.

Participant handbooks are used to communicate program expectations and requirements and are aligned with statewide policy.

Eligibility and Admission

Treatment and Recovery Courts serve individuals whose justice involvement is driven by substance use disorder and, where applicable, co-occurring mental health conditions. Participation is voluntary.

Admission decisions follow a structured screening process that includes referral, clinical and risk screening using validated tools, legal review by counsel, multidisciplinary team consideration, and a judicial determination of eligibility. Decisions regarding admission consider public safety, program capacity, and the informed consent of the participant.

Family Recovery Courts operate as civil specialty dockets in conjunction with child protection proceedings. Participation does not guarantee reunification, and all child welfare determinations remain subject to applicable law and judicial discretion.

Court Supervision and Program Structure

Participants in Treatment and Recovery Courts are subject to ongoing judicial supervision, which may include regular court appearances, engagement in clinically appropriate treatment, coordination with case management and supervision services, and substance testing.

Treatment and Recovery Courts operate through a multidisciplinary team model that supports coordinated case management within the court's supervisory structure. Consistent with the oversight framework described in Appendix C, team membership may include representatives of the Judicial Branch, prosecution and defense, case management and supervision services, treatment providers, and other partner agencies involved in participant services.

The multidisciplinary team meets regularly to review participant progress, identify treatment and supervision needs, and make recommendations to the court. All decisions regarding participant status, program responses, and court action are made by the presiding judicial officer in accordance with statewide policy, applicable law, and due process requirements.

Within this framework, programs utilize a phased structure to support stabilization, engagement in treatment, and sustained recovery. Advancement through phases is individualized and based on demonstrated progress, compliance with program expectations, and clinical considerations, rather than fixed timelines.

Incentives, Sanctions, and Judicial Discretion

Participant behavior is addressed through a system of graduated incentives, sanctions, and service adjustments consistent with evidence-based practices. Positive progress may be reinforced through incentives, while noncompliance may result in proportionate responses designed to support accountability and behavior change.

In criminal Treatment and Recovery Courts, available responses may include increased supervision requirements or, in limited circumstances, brief periods of incarceration. All responses are imposed at the discretion of the presiding judicial officer and in accordance with statewide policy, applicable law, and due process protections.

Participants may be terminated from the program for repeated noncompliance, new criminal conduct, or failure to engage meaningfully in treatment, subject to judicial determination.

Treatment and Case Management

Treatment services for Treatment and Recovery Courts are provided by licensed behavioral health providers funded through the Department of Health and Human Services or, in the case of Veterans Treatment Courts, through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Case management services are provided through Maine Pretrial Services and play a central role in coordinating treatment, supervision, and recovery supports.

Family Recovery Courts coordinate treatment and services for parents involved in child protection proceedings. Parents retain the right to select treatment providers consistent with child welfare requirements and MaineCare coverage.

Treatment and Recovery Courts have transitioned through successive case management and data systems to improve consistency, reporting capacity, and data integrity. The courts currently utilize a centralized case management platform that supports statewide data collection and performance monitoring. Maine Pretrial Services uses the *Catalis Community Justice* case management system (formerly known as AIMS), following earlier data and reporting tools, reflecting continued efforts to modernize and standardize court operations and support consistent statewide reporting.

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Appendix E – Funding and Resource Structure

This appendix describes the funding and resource structure supporting Treatment and Recovery Court operations, which function within the policy framework described in Appendix D. Statistical information describing court activity during the grant period is provided in Section VII.

Treatment and Recovery Courts operate through a combination of Judicial Branch resources, partner agency funding, and, in limited instances, time-limited legislative or federal appropriations. With limited exceptions, these courts do not receive dedicated state legislative line-item funding for ongoing operations. As a result, continued operation and implementation of Treatment and Recovery Courts depend on the availability and sustainability of partner agency resources and time-limited funding sources while remaining aligned with statewide policy and operational frameworks.

Judicial Branch Resources

The Judicial Branch funds judicial, clerk, and judicial marshal support for Treatment and Recovery Courts through the General Fund. Judges assigned to these courts devote a substantial portion of their judicial time to treatment court proceedings, including pre-court staffing and regularly scheduled court sessions. Court clerks and judicial marshals provide essential operational and security support.

The position of Coordinator of Specialty Dockets and Grants is funded through the General Fund and is primarily dedicated to statewide coordination, implementation support, training, and oversight of Treatment and Recovery Courts. Supervisory oversight is provided by the Manager of Criminal Process and Specialty Dockets as part of broader administrative responsibilities.

State Legislative Appropriations

In addition to existing state and federal funding sources, the Maine Legislature enacted **L.D. 779 (132nd Legislature, 2025), An Act to Fund the Aroostook County Drug Treatment Court**, to support the establishment and implementation of the Aroostook County Adult Treatment and Recovery Court.

This legislation provided one-time funding across multiple agencies to support essential components of court operations, including prosecution, defense representation, pretrial and case management services, and treatment coordination. Specifically, the Act authorized:

- One-time funding to the **Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Behavioral Health**, to support contracted pretrial and treatment-related services;
- One-time General Fund appropriations to support an **Assistant District Attorney position** dedicated to the Aroostook County Treatment and Recovery Court; and
- One-time General Fund appropriations to the **Maine Commission on Public Defense Services** to provide legal representation for court participants.

These appropriations support implementation planning and early operations of the Aroostook County court and reflect legislative recognition of the resources necessary to establish a treatment and recovery court consistent with statutory requirements and national best-practice standards.

Treatment, Case Management, and Supervision

Treatment and case management services for the Adult Treatment and Recovery Courts, Co-Occurring Disorders Court, and Veterans Treatment Courts are funded primarily through the Office of Behavioral Health within the Department of Health and Human Services. These services are delivered through contracts administered by Maine Pretrial Services, which manages case management, treatment coordination, and substance testing services.

Treatment and Recovery Courts also coordinate access to a broad range of existing substance use disorder treatment and recovery resources, including residential treatment, withdrawal management services, recovery residences, and sober housing options. Courts leverage community-based resources to address practical barriers to participation, such as transportation, medication continuity, and access to peer recovery supports. Veterans Treatment Courts additionally coordinate with federal veterans' services to facilitate access to veteran-specific treatment and benefits.

Veterans Treatment Courts also rely on treatment and services provided through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, including Veteran Justice Outreach coordination and access to federal healthcare benefits and treatment resources.

Family Recovery Courts

Funding for Family Recovery Courts differs from that of the criminal Treatment and Recovery Courts. Case management services are funded through the Office of Behavioral Health, while treatment services for parents involved in child protection proceedings are funded through the Office of Child and Family Services when not otherwise covered by MaineCare.

Parents participating in Family Recovery Courts retain the right to select treatment providers consistent with child welfare and MaineCare requirements. As a result, multiple treatment providers may support participants within a single court.

Federal Grants and Other Support

The Judicial Branch does not receive dedicated state or federal grant funding to support all specialty dockets on an ongoing basis. However, the Branch has administered targeted federal grant awards, including grants from the Bureau of Justice Assistance, to support the planning, implementation, and operation of specific Treatment and Recovery Courts.

Two currently operating Adult Treatment and Recovery Courts—the Oxford/Franklin Treatment and Recovery Court and the Midcoast Region Treatment and Recovery Court—are supported in part by time-limited federal grant funding scheduled to conclude at the end of September 2026. These grants have supported treatment and case management services necessary for court operations.

Consistent with information previously provided to the Legislature in connection with **LD 1266** by the Maine Office of Behavioral Health, grant funding has been used to support targeted planning, implementation, and expansion efforts and does not represent ongoing or permanent funding for Treatment and Recovery Court operations.

Absent identification of alternative funding sources, the expiration of these grants may affect the continued operation or scope of services available through these courts. The Judicial Branch is monitoring this issue in coordination with partner agencies, recognizing that sustained court operations require ongoing access to treatment and case management resources.

Federal grant funding administered by the Judicial Branch is used to supplement, rather than replace, ongoing state funding and partner agency resources and does not provide permanent funding for specialty docket operations.

Partner Contributions

Treatment and Recovery Courts depend on collaboration with multiple partner agencies, including prosecutors, defense counsel, probation officers, law enforcement, treatment providers, and peer recovery organizations. These entities fund their personnel through existing agency budgets and contribute substantial in-kind support that is essential to court operations.