

# IOWA JUDICIAL BRANCH

ADMINISTERING JUSTICE UNDER THE LAW EQUALLY TO ALL PERSONS.

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# Iowa Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program Grant - Purpose

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- On September 27, 2022, the Iowa Judiciary Courts was awarded a funding opportunity through the Bureau of Justice Assistance.
- As part of the grant, the Judicial Branch, State Court Administration partnered with the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services to:
  - Promote the creation of innovative and evidence-based solutions and strategies to address the mental health and substance use struggles we are facing in our communities and within our state.
  - To assess, identify, and efficiently utilize available resources for the strategies and solutions necessary for meaningful change in our response to persons with mental health disorders/mental health substance use disorders (MH/MHSUD) who come in contact with the criminal justice system.

# Iowa Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program Grant - Tasks and Deliverables

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- Build state-level agency relationships to promote collaborative behavioral health efforts.
- Plan Sequential Intercept Model Mapping for Judicial Districts
  - Planned mapping in each of the eight judicial districts to help solidify an action plan for the districts to improve responses to individuals with behavioral health disorders.
  - Strengthen opportunities for cross-system collaboration and partnerships.
  - Identify existing resources and gaps in services for systems-involved individuals with behavioral health needs.
- Offer Statewide Behavioral Health Summit
  - With a shared focus on Iowa's new Behavioral Health Services System, supporting equitable access to behavioral health prevention, treatment, recovery, and crisis services throughout the judicial districts.

# Iowa Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program Grant - Tasks and Deliverables

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- Collect and Report Data
  - Identify a data management system to ensure appropriate collection and reporting of all performance measure data.
- Explore Ways to Fund Identified Efforts to Improve Responses for Individuals with Behavioral Health Needs
- Develop a State Strategic Plan/Map for Change
- Hire a full-time Behavioral Health Manager
  - Provide necessary leadership and capacity to examine and improve state courts' response to behavioral health.
  - Aid local district courts with behavioral health-related improvements and solutions

# Iowa Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program Grant - Tasks and Deliverables

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- Develop a Mental Health Advisory Committee
  - To provide approaches for cross-government/state agency coordination and collaboration on issues related to the intersection of mental health and criminal justice systems.
  - The FFY 2024-2025 Combined Block Grant Application published in the Federal Register on December 29, 2022, now contains the following language:

*SAMHSA strongly encourages state behavioral health authorities to continue to work closely with their state courts to ensure the best coordination of services and outcomes, in light of pervasive health disparities and inequities, and to develop closer interdisciplinary programming for justice system involved individuals. This includes establishing effective partnerships between state behavioral health systems, providers, and state courts. Unfortunately, for many individuals and their families experiencing SMI, SED, and/or SUD, the state and local justice system is at times the entry point for obtaining treatment and services. Courts and criminal justice systems are a referral source for behavioral health treatment, and jails and detention centers are often major providers of behavioral health services requiring coordination with broader community behavioral health systems. Creating effective partnerships between state and local behavioral health and justice system leaders and agencies to develop and support systems to divert individuals with mental and substance use disorders from the criminal justice system, including jail diversion teams, police crisis intervention teams, police drop off assessment centers, certified community behavioral health clinics, the 988 effort, and court-based programs, are essential elements of all state plans.*

## Other states with similar positions

Illinois Mental Health Planning & Advisory Council (IMHPAC)