

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Veterans Treatment Court Planning Initiative Training Program (VTCPI)**

***What is VTCPI?*** Justice For Vets, in partnership with the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) developed the Veterans Treatment Court Planning Initiative (VTCPI) training program for jurisdictions interested in the implementation of veterans treatment court. VTCPI trainings are designed to educate participants on the research and science supporting the veterans treatment court (VTC) model and facilitate the creation of an implementation plan supporting fidelity to the model and proven best practice standards.

***What are the benefits of attending the VTCPI Training program?*** Jurisdictions will receive training from seasoned veterans treatment court practitioners on the most effective path to establishing a VTC. Using best practice standards, teams will receive an overview of the research related to the effectiveness of veterans treatment court and how to apply it locally. Participants will also receive aid in the development of policy and protocols specific to their court.

#### **The VTCPI Training Program Application and Approval Process**

***How does our jurisdiction apply to participate in the program?***

The planning application process opens in early fall of each year. Jurisdictions must complete an online application to be considered for acceptance.

***How will applications be selected?*** Planning trainings are designed for jurisdictions who have not participated in the program in the past and are in the process of planning a veterans treatment court. Applicants already operating a veterans treatment court will be reviewed on a case by case basis to determine their need for trainings. Once submitted, applications move through a two-tiered review process: first, by Justice For Vets staff and senior consultants to ensure and eligibility and make recommendations; and then by the BJA for final selection and approval of teams.

***How will jurisdictions be notified?*** Justice For Vets will disseminate an email to each applicant's point of contact

approximately 30 days after the application close date to notify of the acceptance, denial or movement to the waitlist. Those placed on the waitlist, are selected to participate if/when other teams previously selected withdraw.

***How many VTCPI trainings does Justice For Vets conduct each year?***

Justice For Vets delivers up to 30 VTCPI trainings each year.

**The VTCPI Training Program Required Commitment**

***Who from my jurisdiction is required to participate in the VTCPI training program?*** To participate in the training, each jurisdiction must identify eight individuals representing the following disciplines to form a Veterans treatment court planning team:

- Veterans Treatment court coordinator
- Judge
- Prosecutor
- Defense counsel
- Treatment provider
- Community supervision representative
- Law enforcement
- Evaluator/researcher
- Veteran Justice Outreach staff (VA)
- Veteran Mentor Coordinator

***My jurisdiction has been accepted to receive VTCPI training. Now what?***

Upon acceptance into the training program, each participating team member must commit to the following:

- Sign a letter of commitment
- Complete all pre and post training conference calls and webinars.
- Respond to all requests for information
- Attend a three-day onsite training program
- Actively participate in all discussions and training breakouts
- Identify an appropriate substitute if the need arises
- Complete a one-day site visit to an adult mentor court

In addition, the veteran treatment court coordinator must serve as the team point of contact for all coordination activities. The coordinator will ensure all

relevant information is disseminated to team members in a timely fashion, participate in an introductory webinar, complete pre-training conference calls, respond to requests for information and coordinate with Justice For Vets staff and faculty.

## **The VTCPI Training Program Preparation (Pre-Training), Onsite Training and Follow-Up (Post-Training) Requirements**

### ***What are the pre, onsite and post training activities of the VTCPI Training program?***

VTCPI participants will have regular contact with Justice For Vets staff and faculty during the course of the six-month planning process. All team members must complete eight pre-training webinars, attend the entire three-day onsite training program, participate in an onsite visit to a mentor court and complete two training follow-up conference calls. Jurisdictions that are unable or unwilling to fully participate in all activities may forfeit their eligibility for future Justice For Vets training events.

## **The VTCPI Onsite Training Program Logistics**

***Where will the VTCPI onsite training take place?*** Justice For Vets will deliver the onsite training in the applicants' home jurisdiction. However, if multiple teams apply within the same state, Justice For Vets may attempt to train teams in a single location. If this occurs, you will be notified where the training will take place prior to receiving the application acceptance email.

***When will the VTCPI agenda be available?*** The draft agenda will be available by December 31, 2016.

### ***How many days is the onsite training?***

Three days.

### ***Can additional people attend the training?***

Yes, additional stakeholders may attend the meeting as observers.

***How much does this training cost?***

There are no direct costs associated with the training for your jurisdiction. However, each jurisdiction is required to furnish a meeting space in a board room style for the training (Justice For Vets prefers this meeting location to be offsite from the courthouse). Justice For Vets cannot provide funds to secure the space or provide travel for the team members if the training is held outside your city.

***What meeting space and audio-visual equipment are requested?***

Justice for Vets requests that the training site have a projector and screen. If unable to provide a projector and screen, this will not preclude your team from receiving the training.

***Who do I contact for more information about the VTCPI Training program?***

David Pelletier

Project Director

571-384-1870

[dpelletier@justiceforvets.org](mailto:dpelletier@justiceforvets.org)