



Foundational Training Program for Veterans Treatment Courts Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Foundational Training Program?

The Foundational Training Program for veterans treatment courts is a training program developed by Justice For Vets, in partnership with the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA). The 2.75-day training program provides a structured curriculum designed for veterans treatment courts (VTC) not yet operating, VTC teams that have had significant staff changes, or VTC teams that have not previously participated in an implementation training. The Foundational Training Program includes a facilitated six-month process designed to either develop or enhance existing program structures, policy and procedure manuals, and positive team dynamics.

The Foundational Training Program begins with a pre-training consultation with Justice For Vets staff, followed by assigned pre-training webinars, and finally a three-day training curriculum. Led and facilitated by Justice For Vets staff and consultants, this curriculum educates participants on the research and science supporting the veterans treatment court model and, through facilitated breakouts, reviews policies and procedures reflective of proven best practice standards. At the end of the 2.75 days, the VTC team will have an action plan.

After completing the training, Justice For Vets staff continues as a resource to coach and facilitate the VTC team's progress on their action plan.

What are the benefits of attending the Foundational Training Program?

- It is a free six-month training program, with live help from our staff and faculty.
- 90 percent of the communities that attend this training launch a program.

- Operational courts have rated this the best foundational training, whether they were addressing transition or recently implemented.
- Our Justice For Vets staff and a cadre of national renowned treatment court experts and practitioners work with teams to implement evidence-based practices, develop policy and procedure manuals, and build team unity.
- At the conclusion of the training program, you will have an action plan for implementation or transition. Justice For Vets staff will then continue to coach and facilitate the jurisdiction's progress on their action plan.

Foundational 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 and meet the following requirements:

Each team must consist of individuals representing the following disciplines:

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| • Judge | • Community Treatment Provider |
| • Prosecutor | • Veterans Justice Outreach Specialist (VJO) |
| • Defense Counsel | • Law Enforcement |
| • Treatment Court Coordinator | • Veteran Mentor Coordinator |
| • Community Supervision | • Evaluator/Researcher |

Upon acceptance, these individuals must commit to the following:

- Attend the 2.75-day training session
- Actively participate in all discussions and training breakouts
- Identify an appropriate substitute if the need arises
- Complete all homework assignments and webinars
- Respond to all request for information
- Sign a letter of commitment reflecting the above.

How will applications be selected?

Priority will be given to jurisdictions that 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?

Approximately 30 days after the application close date each applicant's point of contact will receive an email from Justice For Vets 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 Foundational Training Program trainings does Justice For Vets conduct each year?

Justice For Vets delivers up to 30 Foundational Training Programs each year.

Foundational Training Program Required Commitment

Who from my jurisdiction is required to participate in the Foundational Training Program?

To participate in the training, each jurisdiction must identify individuals representing the following disciplines:

- Judge
- Prosecutor
- Defense Counsel
- Treatment Court Coordinator
- Community Supervision
- Community Treatment Provider
- Veterans Justice Outreach Specialist (VJO)
- Law Enforcement
- Veteran Mentor Coordinator
- Evaluator/Researcher

My jurisdiction has been accepted to the Foundational Training Program. Now what?

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

- Attend the 2.75-day training session
- Actively participate in all discussions and training breakouts
- Identify an appropriate substitute if the need arises
- Complete all homework assignments and webinars
- Respond to all request for information
- Sign a letter of commitment reflecting the above.

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 Foundational Training Program Preparation (Pre-Training), Training and Follow-Up (Post-Training) Requirements

What are the pre-, virtual and post-training activities of the Foundational Training Program?

Foundational Training Program 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 training program, 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.

Foundational Training Program Logistics

Where will Foundational Training Programs take place?

For 2021 Justice For Vets will deliver the Foundational Training Program 2.75-day training virtually. There may be instances when the virtual training is delivered alongside another Foundational Training Program team. If this occurs, each team will conduct their facilitated breakouts independently.

What are the technology requirements for the virtual training?

A quality audio and video connection is required along with access to a strong internet connection. The preferred platform for the virtual training is Zoom. If your local government does not allow the use of Zoom, an alternative platform will be identified. Your team can choose to meet in one location (i.e. courtroom) or sign in individually to the virtual training.

How many days is the training?

The training consists of eight webinars and 2.75 days of live training.

When will the Foundational Training Program agenda be available?

The draft agenda will be available by December 31, 2020.

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.

Who do I contact for more information about the Foundational Training Program?

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