Frequently Asked Questions:
Veterans Treatment Court Planning Initiative (VTCPI)
Foundational Training Program

**What is VTCPI?**
The Veterans Treatment Court Planning Initiative (VTCPI) is a foundational training program developed by Justice For Vets in partnership with the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA). This six-part training program provides a structured curriculum designed for veterans treatment courts (VTCs) not yet operating, VTC teams that have had significant staff changes, or VTC teams that have not previously participated in implementation training. The VTCPI foundational training program includes a six-month facilitated process designed to develop or review existing program structures, policy and procedure manuals, and positive team dynamics.

The VTCPI foundational training program begins with a pre-training consultation with Justice For Vets staff, followed by assigned pre-training webinars, and finally, a six-part training curriculum. Led and facilitated by Justice For Vets staff and consultants, this curriculum educates participants on the research and science supporting the VTC model and, through facilitated breakouts, reviews policies and procedures reflective of proven best practice standards. At the end of the training, 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 its action plan.

**What are the benefits of attending the VTCPI foundational training program?**
Jurisdictions will receive training from seasoned VTC practitioners. This training will provide new teams with the most effective path to establishing a VTC and established VTCs the opportunity to review their practices for fidelity to the model and proven best practice standards. The VTCPI foundational training program delivers an overview of the research related to the effectiveness of VTCs using the Ten Key Components of Veterans Treatment Courts and the Adult Drug Court Best Practice Standards, and facilitates teams in their local application. Participants will also receive aid in the development of policies and protocols specific to their court.

**VTCPI Foundational Training Program Application and Approval Process**

**How does our jurisdiction apply to participate in the program?**
The application process opens in the 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:
Upon acceptance, these individuals must commit to the following:

- Attend the six-part 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 requests for information
- Sign a letter of commitment reflecting the above

**How will applicants 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 VTC. Applicants already operating a VTC will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis to determine their training needs. Once submitted, applications move through a two-tiered review process:

- Tier 1: Application is reviewed by Justice For Vets staff to ensure eligibility and make recommendations.
- Tier 2: Application is forwarded to BJA for final selection and approval of teams.

**How will jurisdictions be notified?**

Approximately 30 days after the application closing date, each applicant’s point of contact will receive an email from Justice For Vets to notify of acceptance, denial, or movement to the waitlist. Those placed on the waitlist are selected to participate if/when previously selected teams withdraw.

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

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

---

**VTCPI Foundational Training Program Required Commitment**

**Who from my jurisdiction is required to participate in the VTCPI foundational training program?**

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

- Judge
- Prosecutor
- Community treatment provider
- Veterans Justice Outreach Specialist (VJO)
My jurisdiction has been accepted to receive VTCPI foundational training. Now what?
Upon acceptance into the training program, each participating team member must commit to the following:

- Attend the six-part 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 requests for information
- Sign a letter of commitment reflecting the above

In addition, the court coordinator must serve as the team’s 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.

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

What are the pre-, virtual, and post-training activities of the VTCPI foundational training program?
VTCPI participants will have regular contact with Justice For Vets staff and faculty during the six-month planning process. In addition:

- All team members must complete six pre-training webinars.
- All team members must attend the six-part virtual training program.
- Team representatives (usually the judge and/or coordinator) must complete two training follow-up conference calls.

VTCPI Foundational Training Program Logistics

Where will the VTCPI foundational training take place?
For 2022, Justice For Vets will deliver VTCPI foundational trainings virtually. Each team will participate in keynote presentations and team-specific breakouts.

When will the agenda be available?
The draft agenda will be available by December 31, 2021.
**How long is the training?**
The training consists of both pre-recorded webinars and live training. There are eight webinars, and the six-part live training will be conducted for four hours each day over the course of two weeks.

**What are the technology requirements for virtual training?**
The six-part live training will take place through Justice For Vets’ training platform. The training platform will use Zoom as the video conference software. To facilitate the breakout sessions and conversations, each participant will require access to a camera and microphone. Attendees must be at their own computer terminal for the training. Teams who meet as a group in one room will forfeit training.

**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.

**Whom do I contact for more information about the VTCPI Training program?**
For questions, please contact:

David Pelletier J.D., U.S.M.C. Veteran, project director
Justice For Vets
Desk: 571-384-1870
Cell: 202-630-8762
dpelletier@justiceforvets.org