



# Veterans Treatment Court

# NM Judicial Districts Seeking to Establish Veterans Courts

## First Judicial District Court

Santa Fe, Rio Arriba & Los Alamos Counties

## Eighth Judicial District Court

Colfax, Taos and Union Counties

## Sixth Judicial District Court

Luna, Grant and Hidalgo Counties

## Thirteenth Judicial District Court

Cibola, Sandoval and Valencia Counties

## What is a Veterans Treatment Court?

Veterans treatment courts have gained national prominence as the most innovative solution for veterans caught up in the criminal justice system due to substance use and/or mental health disorders and trauma.

Veterans treatment courts connect these men and women to the benefits and treatment they have earned; saving their lives, families, and futures, and saving tax dollars for the American public.

## THROUGH 'HARDCORE' ACCOUNTABILITY, VETERANS TREATMENT COURT HELPS VETS IN NEED

- Veterans Court addresses addiction problems and mental health issues but specific to veterans.
- Oftentimes addiction problems stem from dealing with a situation associated with their time in the military.
- There are more than 400 VTCs throughout the country; studies show that veterans who have completed the program are more likely to reside in their own housing and less likely to experience a new incarceration.
- The program itself is a rigorous 12-step program different from a traditional Alcoholics Anonymous program. When a person is arrested, they are asked if they are a veteran. If they reply in the affirmative, their name and case are flagged for VTC consideration. People who did not receive an honorable discharge also qualify for the program – the requirement is that time spent in the military.

The program involves aggressive accountability, counseling and frequent court appearances.

## Veterans Treatment Courts offer a Solution

**1 in 5**

Veterans with symptoms  
of mental health disorder  
or cognitive impairment

**50%**

Percentage of veterans  
with PTSD that do not  
receive treatment

**1 in 6**

Iraq & Afghanistan  
veterans suffering with a  
substance use disorder

**181,000**

Veterans incarcerated in  
United States jails or  
prisons

<https://justiceforvets.org>

Ultimate Goal

**Reduce Recidivism  
or Repeat Offenses**

Required  
participation:

A Veterans Court Judge

A Veterans Court  
Coordinator (paid)

Volunteer Mentors

Local Counseling  
Services

# Funding Sources

## Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA)

The Bureau of Justice Assistance Adult Drug Court Discretionary Grant Program is to provide financial and technical assistance to state, state courts, local courts, units of local government and Indian tribal governments to implement and enhance drug courts and veterans treatment courts that effectively integrate evidence-based substance abuse treatment, mandatory drug testing sanctions and incentives, and transitional services in a judicially supervised court setting with jurisdiction over substance-abusing offenders.

## Justice for Vets

Justice for Vets moto “Leave no Veteran Behind”

Justice for Vets provides Technical Training for Veterans Courts as well as financial assistance.

This program is dedicated to helping veterans with substance abuse, mental health and any other services needed by veterans

## County Level Support

Grant County Commission Chairman Ponce, continued discussions

Possible funding for mental health treatment initiatives (Cares Act funding)

## Other Information

Veterans Court is under the umbrella of the NM Specialty Courts directed by Mr. Robert Russell