

## **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The Juvenile Drug Treatment Court Training and Technical Assistance (JDTC TTA) Initiative is a project of the Justice Programs Office at American University's School of Public Affairs (JPO at AU) in partnership with the National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP). On December 20, 2016, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) released the Juvenile Drug Treatment Court Guidelines providing JDTCs an evidence-based, treatment-oriented approach with supporting research and implementation considerations.

The JDTC TTA initiative provides training and technical assistance specifically designed to assist juvenile drug treatment courts to bring both their policies and procedure in alignment with the Guidelines to ensuring that JDTCs having more consistent, positive outcomes for youth, their families and their communities. Through the JDTC TTA Initiative, JDTCs have access to local, regional and online TTA in all categories of the Guidelines, including implementing best treatment practices/programs with fidelity; addressing co-occurring disorders; providing trauma- and gender-responsive (including both girls and LGBTQ) treatment and services; addressing the needs of youth in rural, frontier and tribal communities; cultural competence; racial and ethnic disparities; family involvement; positive youth development and adolescent brain science; developing aftercare plans and programs; clarifying roles and responsibilities of all those involved in JDCs; and helping JDTCs develop strategic plans that support sustainability. In addition to TTA, JPO at AU has developed a web portal with JDTC-specific training materials, archived webinars, and links to request TTA. Upon receiving the TTA request, the JDTC TTA Initiative administers a self-assessment tool for the requesting JDTC team(s). Based on the results and concurrent conversations with the JDTC, we will determine the type and breadth of need, and create an individualized training and technical assistance curriculum for each team.

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