

08 - 0097

REPORT TO 2008 LEGISLATURE

Use of 2005 Legislative Appropriation for Specialty Courts

Prepared Pursuant to Minn. Laws 2005, Chapter 136, Article 1, Section 4

Introduction

The 2005 Legislature appropriated \$250,000 each year of the FY06-07 biennium for the development and expansion of specialty courts such as drug courts and mental health courts. The enabling legislation, Minn. Laws 2005, Chapter 136, Article 1, Section 4, mandated that the State Court Administrator report to the chairs and ranking minority members of the Senate and House criminal justice funding and policy committees on how the monies appropriated were spent. This report is in response to that mandate.

Distribution of Appropriation

The State Court Administrator's Office issued a memo on the availability of funds for specialty courts to all ten Judicial Districts, inviting existing and proposed specialty courts to apply. Applications were submitted to the Chief Judge of the district, then forwarded to the State Court Administrator's Office. All applications were then reviewed by an ad hoc committee to determine the awards. The following proposals were funded.

Type of Specialty Court	Amount of Award	Use of Award
Aitkin County Sobriety Court	\$89,675	Start-up and operational costs
Blue Earth County Truancy Court	\$11,000	Start-up costs, training and local evaluation.
Cass County Wellness Court	\$123,557	Start-up and operational costs
Crow Wing County Adult Drug Court	\$80,255	Start-up and operational costs
Ramsey County Adult and Juvenile Substance Abuse Courts	\$120,000	Adult - Development of a psychiatric clinic, an on-site, medication delivery/control clinic. Juvenile - Case management personnel and drug testing

Type of Specialty Court	Amount of Award	Use of Award
State Court Administration	\$22,000	Begin planning for drug court information system.
Wabasha Adult Drug Court	\$10,725	Provide match to maximize funding through Office of Justice Programs
Watonwan County Adult Drug Court	\$40,500	Start-up and operational costs

Re-allocation of funds

At the end of FY06 the appropriation distribution was re-visited. Since there was a time lag between the date of the appropriation and the startup date for new programs, \$42,267 was made available for other initiatives in FY 07. The application process for these funds followed the same process as the original distribution. The following new initiatives were funded:

Type of Specialty Court	Amount of Award	Use of Award
Fifth Judicial District	\$13,767	Start-up and operational costs of Multi-County Drug Court
Kandiyohi County Adult Drug Court	\$14,000	Coordinator costs
Koochiching County Adult Drug Court	\$10,639	Treatment costs
Seventh Judicial District	\$3,861	Adult Drug Court training