

Cass County Courts



\$438,461 in State Grants Awarded to Cass County Problem-Solving/Treatment Courts

Cassopolis, Michigan, October 18, 2021 – Chief Judge Susan L. Dobrich announces that the Cass County Problem-Solving/Treatment Courts have received **\$438,461** in the following grant awards from the State Court Administrative Office (SCAO) for the grant period of October 1, 2021, through September 30, 2022:

- **\$73,000** for the Family Treatment Court (Michigan Drug Court Grant Program grant)
- **\$170,000** for the Swift and Sure Sanctions Probation Program (SSSPP grant)
- **\$110,000** for the Hybrid DWI/Drug Court (Byrne JAG)
- **\$85,461** for the Cass County Mental Health Court (CMHC)

Problem-Solving/Treatment Courts combine intense supervision and monitoring with treatment for persons with substance use disorders and/or mental illness. Models for the various types of treatment courts have undergone much scrutiny through research to determine which components result in positive change among offenders graduating from a treatment court. They were developed to address the underlying reasons why offenders continually return to crime.

Prior to the creation of Problem-Solving/Treatment Courts, criminal justice and behavioral health treatment operated separately, with little interaction between them. The fields traditionally had little communication, and when they did, they were speaking different languages. Problem-Solving/Treatment Courts are comprised of interdisciplinary teams including law enforcement, prosecution, defense attorneys, treatment, peer supports, and other professionals who work hand in hand as a team to provide intensive treatment, holding participants accountable, and keeping participants safely in the community.

According to Chief Judge Susan L. Dobrich, who created Cass County's Family Treatment Court and oversees all of Cass County's Problem-Solving/Treatment Courts, "Treatment Courts offer creative multi-disciplinary solutions to jail overcrowding and are effective in reducing drug and alcohol related crime while also creating stronger and safer communities, more productive and engaged citizens, and children being raised in healthier families since underlying substance use disorders and mental illness are treated and monitored with a wrap-around service approach."

Problem-Solving/Treatment Courts treat addiction and mental health disorders as complex diseases and provide a comprehensive, sustained continuum of therapeutic interventions, treatment, and other services to increase a participant's recovery, hold participants accountable, reduce the rate of future court involvement, and keep our communities safer. Problem-Solving/Treatment Courts are more structured and regimented than standard probation. These programs require participants to engage in treatment and appear before the judge for reviews one to two times per month. Participants are also monitored intensively by probation and law enforcement, where home checks and employment checks are conducted for compliance.