



Office of Juvenile Justice
and Delinquency Prevention

FAMILY DRUG COURT

PERFORMANCE REPORT

January-June 2018

ENHANCING SAFETY • ENSURING ACCOUNTABILITY • EMPOWERING YOUTH

This report was produced by Booz Allen Hamilton under contract number DJO-BJA-16-S-0272, awarded by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this report are those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.

INTRODUCTION

The Family Drug Court grant program, administered by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), supports the implementation and enhancement of specialized family drug courts (FDCs). FDCs are designed to serve parents and guardians who require substance abuse treatment and who are involved with the child welfare system as a result of child abuse and neglect issues. Parents, guardians, and families receive comprehensive services that improve child wellbeing while responding to the complex needs of parents and guardians with substance use disorders. This report presents the resulting program activities occurring between January and June 2018 and highlights the outcomes achieved with the support of OJJDP funding.

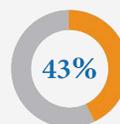
Highlights

445
NUMBER OF PARENTS
AND GUARDIANS SERVED

Demonstrating
Positive Behavior
Change



Exiting
Program
Successfully



Arrested for
New Drug
Offense



Grantees Implementing
an Evidence-based
Programs



OVERVIEW OF AWARD INFORMATION

Between January and June 2018, OJJDP's Family Drug Court program funded 17 grantees, totaling over \$8.3 million in grant funding. All grantees were in compliance with their reporting requirements and were operational during the activity period, meaning they expended grant funds and actively provided services during the activity period (figure 1).

Figure 1. Award Details

17

Total Grant Recipients



100%

Compliant with
Reporting Requirements



\$8.3

Total Funding (in millions)

GRANTEE PERFORMANCE

Performance measures help OJJDP determine whether the Family Drug Court program achieved its goals and objectives and may be used to improve the program and policy decisions. Grantees are required by OJJDP to report on several measures, including parents and guardians served, services provided, target behavior outcomes, new drug offenses, and child welfare outcomes that demonstrate the results of the FDC model.

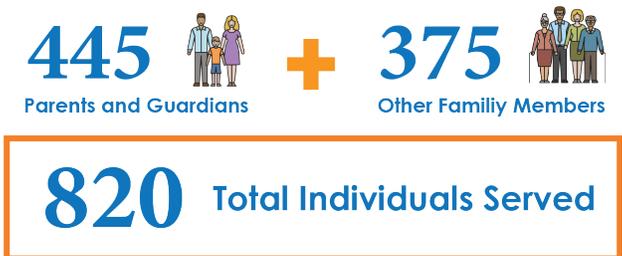
EVIDENCE-BASED PROGRAMS

OJJDP encourages grantees to use evidence-based practices and programs. Evidence-based practices and programs include models shown to be effective at reducing substance abuse and improving child welfare outcomes. For FDCs, evidence-based practices encourage screening and assessment tools, interagency collaboration, and family-centered approaches.¹ During the January–June 2018 activity period, 76 percent ($n = 13$) of Family Drug Court grantees used federal funds to implement an evidence-based practice or program.

FAMILIES SERVED

During the January–June 2018 activity period, Family Drug Court grantees served a total of 820 individuals, including 445 parents and guardians and 375 other family members (figure 2). Thirty percent of the individuals served ($n = 248$) received FDC services for the first time.

Figure 2. Families Served



SERVICES PROVIDED

FDCs work collaboratively with service providers to coordinate substance abuse treatment and other services for eligible parents and guardians to help them become responsible caregivers. Family members of enrolled parents and guardians may also be eligible for services. During the January–June 2018 activity period, 391 parents and guardians and 18 additional family members received substance abuse treatment and counseling (figure 3). Mental health services were provided to 231 parents and guardians and 102 additional family members. Grantees assisted 78 parents and guardians and 35 additional family members successfully find housing. Other services, which include parenting skills, trauma, education, legal, employment, and transportation-related services, were provided to 254 parents and guardians and 121 additional family members.

Figure 3. Services Provided to Families

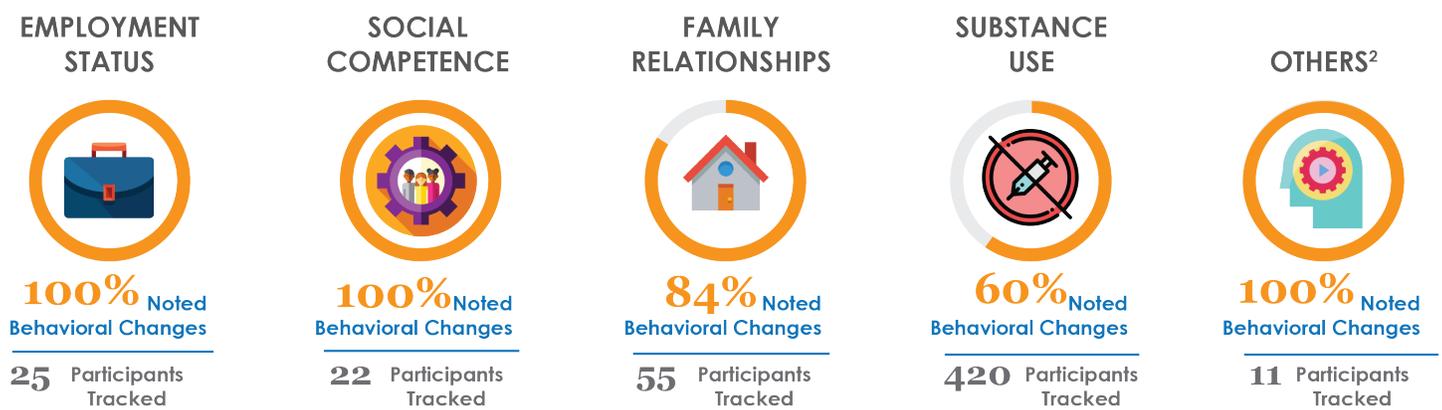


¹ Children and Families Futures. (2013 rev 2015). *Guidance to States: Recommendations for Developing Family Drug Court Guidelines*. Prepared for the OJJDP Office of Justice Programs. <http://www.cffutures.org/files/publications/FDC-Guidelines.pdf>.

TARGET BEHAVIORS

To measure the programs’ impact on participant’s lives, FDCs report on parents and guardians’ behavior changes in several targeted areas. As shown in figure 4, the largest short-term improvement was observed among parents and guardians who received employment services, with 100 percent of parents and guardians reporting improvement in their employment status during the January–June 2018 activity period. Of those monitored for substance use, 60 percent showed reduced substance use in the short-term. Overall, 67 percent of parents and guardians showed a behavioral improvement in the short-term.

Figure 4. Short-term Outcome Percentages for the Specified Target Behaviors



PARENTS AND GUARDIANS EXITING SUCCESSFULLY

Each FDC creates and defines the requirements for parents and guardians to successfully complete the program. Participants who fulfilled all program obligations and requirements “successfully exited” while those who failed to complete the requirements, such as those who are expelled or leave voluntarily, are considered to have “unsuccessfully exited” the program. Of the 100 parents and guardians who exited the program during the activity period, grantees reported 43 percent successfully exited (figure 5). Enrolled parents and guardians remained in the program, regardless of the reason for leaving the program, an average of 262 days.

Figure 5. Percent of Parents and Guardians Exiting Successfully



² Others including school attendance, GED, antisocial behavior, and job skills.

DRUG-RELATED RECIDIVISM

To evaluate the program’s success, grantees report the number of parents and guardians arrested for a new drug offense during the activity period. Of parents and guardians monitored in the short-term (for up to 6 months after exiting), 9 percent were arrested for a new drug offense. Recidivism was higher amongst parents and guardians in the long-term (monitored for 6–12 months after exiting the program), with 14 percent of participants arrested for a new drug offense during the activity period (figure 6 & 7).

Figure 6. Short-term Drug-Related Recidivism

9% of program youth arrested for
NEW DRUG OFFENSE

18/208

Figure 7. Long-term Drug-Related Recidivism

14% of program youth arrested for
NEW DRUG OFFENSE

10/72

CHILD WELFARE OUTCOMES

Parents and guardians enrolled in the FDC program are encouraged to seek treatment to maintain or restore custody of their children. When successful, FDCs result in parental rehabilitation and family reunification; however, if reunification is not in the child’s best interest, alternative placement plans are developed. Grantees served 552 children with 42 percent ($n = 231$) placed in out-of-home care between January and June 2018 (figure 8). On average, children remained in out-of-home care for 149 days. Out of 87 children for whom data are available, 52 percent ($n = 45$) were reunited with their families during the activity period. Only 2 percent of parents and guardians enrolled in an FDC program during the activity period had their parental rights terminated.

Figure 8. Child Welfare Outcomes

552

CHILDREN
SERVED



42% placed in
out-of-home care



Average length of stay
in out-of-home care



52% Reunited
with families

CONCLUSION

FDCs offer specialized responses to cases of child abuse and neglect that involve parental substance abuse. Their purpose is to ensure children’s safety and wellbeing while providing parents and guardians with treatment and other services needed to overcome substance abuse and improve parenting. Compared to traditional family courts, FDC outcomes have shown significantly higher rates of parents and guardians’ participation in substance abuse treatment, higher rates of family reunification, and reduced reoccurrences of child abuse and neglect.³ The data reported by OJJDP’s FDC grantees reinforce the research findings, showing a measurable impact on the lives of the families served.

OJJDP funding supported 17 grantees in implementing, expanding, or enhancing an FDC program during the January–June 2018 activity period. Over 400 parents and guardians were enrolled in the FDC program during the activity period with another 375 family members receiving mental health, housing, and other services. Parents and guardians involved in the court showed improvements in several areas, including employment, social competence, and family relationships. Sixty percent of parents and guardians showed reduced substance use and 43 percent of parents and guardians exiting the FDC program successfully completed all program requirements. Grantees were especially successful at reducing new drug arrests during this activity period: 91 percent of parents and guardians did not experience an arrest for a new drug offense in the short-term. In addition to serving parents and guardians, grantees served 552 children whose parents and guardians were involved in the drug court. Forty-two percent of children were placed in out-of-home care during the activity period and remained in out-of-home care for an average of 149 days. These results indicate the success of FDCs at maintaining the safety and wellbeing of children and families while rehabilitating parents and guardians with substance use disorders.

³ *Development Services Group, Inc. 2016. Family Drug Courts. Literature Review. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. https://www.ojjdp.gov/mpg/litreviews/Family_Drug_Courts.pdf*