

CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA



Agenda Date:	November 6, 2023
Action Required:	Appropriate funding in the amount of \$240,000 from the Charlottesville/Albemarle Adult Drug Treatment Court Grant
Presenter:	Taylor Harvey-Ryan, Grants Program Manager
Staff Contacts:	Taylor Harvey-Ryan, Grants Program Manager
Title:	Resolution to appropriate funds from the Charlottesville/Albemarle Adult Drug Treatment Court Grant Award - \$240,000 (2nd reading)

Background

The City of Charlottesville, on behalf of the Charlottesville/Albemarle Adult Drug Treatment Court, has received a Supreme Court of Virginia Drug Treatment Court Grant in the amount of \$240,000 for operations of the drug court program, which is operated by Offender Aid and Restoration (OAR). The City of Charlottesville serves as fiscal agent for the Supreme Court of Virginia Drug Treatment Court Docket Grant.

Discussion

In its twenty-sixth year of operation, the Charlottesville/Albemarle Adult Drug Treatment Court is a supervised 12 month drug treatment program that serves as an alternative to incarceration for offenders. Drug Court is a specialized docket within the existing structure of the court system given the responsibility to handle cases involving non-violent adult felony offenders with moderate to severe substance use disorders. The program uses the power of the court to assist non-violent offenders to achieve recovery through a collaborative system of intensive supervision, drug testing, substance abuse treatment, and regular court appearances.

The total program budget is \$380,717.00 and includes three funding sources:

Supreme Court of VA - \$240,000

City of Charlottesville: \$79,744.00, which has already been appropriated

Albemarle County: \$60,973.00, which has already been appropriated

Alignment with City Council's Vision and Strategic Plan

This relates to providing support for persons interacting with the legal or criminal justice system and the City of Charlottesville's priority Safety/Criminal Justice. Drug Court directly affects the community by reducing recidivism among Drug Court participants and graduates. Additionally, Drug Court mitigates risk by reducing drug and alcohol use among program participants and graduates. Reduction of drug and alcohol use fosters participant rehabilitation, public safety, and participant accountability; all of which are factors in helping the community achieve its stated goals. Reduced

recidivism results in reduced public cost associated with re-arrest and incarceration, a reduction in potential victims of crime, and overall enhanced quality of life for community residents. As the writers of the Adult Drug Court Best Practice Standards state, “Drug Courts improve communities by successfully getting justice-involved individuals clean and sober, stopping drug-related crime, reuniting broken families, ... and preventing impaired driving” Not only is Drug Court an effective agent of change, it is an extremely cost-effective approach. Numerous meta-analyses have concluded that Drug Courts produce an average return on investment of \$2 to \$4 for every \$1 invested. Because of the above, ensuring that the 26 year old Drug Court program remains available to residents of the City of Charlottesville and Albemarle County will help the community achieve its goals. This program aligns with the City of Charlottesville's 2023 City Council Strategic Plan Framework vision and the strategic outcome area, public safety.

Community Engagement

The Drug Treatment Court is a direct service provider and is engaged daily with non-violent criminal offenders with drug-driven crimes who are at a high level of risk for reoffending due to active addictions and long-standing patterns of criminal behavior. By collaborating with the Court system, Region Ten Community Services Board, Addiction Allies, and the Sheriff’s department, the Drug Treatment Court provides these offenders with a highly structured, rigorously supervised system of treatment and criminal case processing that results in a significant reduction in recidivism rates for program participants and graduates. Participants gain access to the Drug Treatment Court through referrals from police, probation, magistrates, defense attorneys and other local stakeholders. Participants have active criminal cases pending in the Circuit Court. If they successfully complete the program, which takes a minimum of 12 months, participants may have their pending charges reduced or dismissed. If participants are unsuccessful and have to be terminated from the program, they return to court to face their original charges. Successful Drug Treatment Court participants return the community’s investment in them by maintaining full-time, tax-paying employment, providing for and taking care of their children and families, including paying off back child support, behaving as good role models in the community, and supporting the recovery community in Charlottesville.

Budgetary Impact

No additional City funding is required as the City’s match for this grant, \$79,744.00, was appropriated as part of the FY 2024 Council Approved Budget as part of the City’s contribution to Offender Aid and Restoration.

Recommendation

Staff recommends approval and appropriation.

Alternatives

N/A

Attachments

1. FY24 Drug Court Appropriation and Resolution