



NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Christopher Hale
Tucson City Court Administrator
(520) 837-3008
Christopher.hale@tucsonaz.gov

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TUCSON CITY COURT IS AWARDED TWO FEDERAL GRANTS

The Tucson City Court's Regional Municipalities Veterans Treatment Court (RMVTC) was awarded two federal grants totaling \$2,339,277 over four years. Both grants are from the Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and will be used to expand the treatment services for veterans assigned to the RMVTC. Municipalities participating in the RMVTC are Tucson, Marana, Oro Valley, South Tucson, and Sahuarita.

The RMVTC directs veterans charged with certain offenses to rehabilitation services and helps at-risk veterans avoid further legal difficulties. The program involves veteran participation in a tailored treatment program aimed at getting them back on their feet. If a veteran successfully completes the Court's treatment program and does not commit further offenses, charges often will be dismissed. The program is available to veterans charged with misdemeanors not including sexual or violent crimes. The RMVTC will be partnering with several local service providers, such as the Southern Arizona Veterans Health Care System (SAVAHCS), Pima Prevention Partnership, Old Pueblo Community Services, and La Frontera.

The first grant of \$955,810 over three years is for RMVTC to include a Behavioral Counseling and Peer Support Project. This expansion to RMVTC will offer additional behavioral health services for conditions such as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), and enhanced peer support services. The Peer Support portion of this project will provide veterans with career counseling and other services which are intended to alert former and current service members and their families to the challenges they may face upon reintegration into civilian life. The belief is that the better veterans are prepared to recognize and meet those challenges, the more likely it is that they will deal with those stressors in healthy and positive ways.

The second grant of \$1,383,467 over four years is a Collaborative Grant to offer a treatment option to help veterans with serious mental illnesses, and to prevent veterans from evolving their current behavioral health problems into significantly comorbid substance dependencies or addictions to alcohol and other drugs. It provides additional substance abuse counseling for veterans who are unable to receive substance abuse counseling through the Veterans Affairs. To supplement the volunteer mentor program, RMVTC Collaboration will add highly-trained, self-identified peer-recovery support specialists to the team which will enhance treatment engagement and boost program completion.

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