

## WHAT IS THE MATRIX MODEL TREATMENT PROGRAM?

The primary goal of the Matrix Model is to provide a framework within which drug abusers can achieve the following:

- Cease drug use
- Remain in treatment
- Learn about issues critical to addiction and relapse
- Receive direction and support from a trained therapist
- Receive education for family members affected by the addiction
- Become familiar with available self-help programs

## WHAT IS MENTAL HEALTH JAIL DIVERSION ?

Drug Court partners with the Behavioral Health Jail Diversion Program of Lancaster County (BHJDPLC) in order to strengthen the services available to its participants. The BHJDPLC's main goal is to divert persons with a serious mental illness or co-occurring substance use disorder who are in the Lancaster County Jail for nonviolent crimes. Program objectives include:

- Identifying persons appropriate for jail diversion
- Engaging these persons in treatment services and/or wellness programs available in Lancaster County
- Maintaining their participation in these needed services

The BHJDPLC brings much-needed auxiliary services to Drug Court. The benefits are numerous, including (but not limited to):

- Eliminating the “revolving door” in and out of the criminal justice system for persons successfully diverted
- Allowing persons to become engaged and maintained in needed treatment services
- Assuring the maintenance of civil rights of persons with a serious mental illness or co-occurring substance use disorder
- Improving the safety and quality of life for all Lancaster County residents

For more information contact:

Jared Gavin, LCSW  
Drug Court Coordinator  
(402) 441-8122  
jgavin@lanaster.ne.gov

[www.lanaster.ne.gov](http://www.lanaster.ne.gov)  
**Keyword: Drug Court**

Lancaster County Adult Drug Court  
555 S. 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
Lincoln, NE 68508

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Lancaster County District Court  
Justice and Law Enforcement Building  
555 S. 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Third Floor  
Lincoln, NE 68508

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[www.nadcp.org](http://www.nadcp.org)

# LANCASTER COUNTY ADULT DRUG COURT

Administered by the  
Lancaster County Department of  
Community Corrections

Judicial Oversight by the  
Lancaster County District Court



## MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the LCADC is to increase public safety by providing a program that facilitates access to treatment, implements intensive case management, decreases substance abuse, and returns law-abiding, productive, and responsible citizens to their families and the community.



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**WHAT IS DRUG COURT?**

Drug Court is a voluntary program created by the District Court that allows eligible defendants to earn a dismissal of charges (or probation) in exchange for completing substance abuse treatment and other conditions.

Individuals eligible for the Drug Court will earn a dismissal of pending felony charges or probation revocation upon successful completion of Drug Court. The duration of Drug Court is a minimum of eighteen months.

Drug Court is a proven model for addressing substance abuse in a judicial environment with clear and specific expectations and goals. The Drug Court uses a team approach to deliver evidence-based practices including rigorous treatment, intensive supervision, random and frequent drug and alcohol testing, frequent court appearances, licensed mental-health service providers, and educational programming to participants.

Drug Court is NOT an easy way out of jail or prison.

**WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR DRUG COURT?**

Individuals must enter a guilty plea (or be found guilty after a trial) to a felony drug offense or non-violent property crime and meet the following criteria:

- Have a history of substance abuse and/or dependency and be found to need drug treatment as part of the screening process
- Reside in Lancaster County while in Drug Court
- Agree to complete substance abuse treatment
- Complete a screening process to determine suitability

**WHO IS NOT ELIGIBLE FOR DRUG COURT?**

No one may be considered for Drug Court under the following circumstances:

- Prior criminal history of sexual assault
- Significant criminal history of child abuse and neglect, assaultive behavior, or crimes of violence so as to evidence a danger to staff, law enforcement, other participants, or the public
- Currently on parole or involved with any Drug Court in the past

- Currently on probation in a jurisdiction other than Lancaster County
- Have a warrant or criminal matter pending in Lancaster County or any other jurisdiction at the time of the application review meeting
- Currently cooperating with law enforcement in a manner that would prevent participation

**WHAT ARE DRUG COURT REQUIREMENTS?**

Each individual's requirements and conditions for Drug Court will be different depending on their individual circumstances; however, the general requirements for everyone include:

- Complete a substance abuse evaluation and ongoing comprehensive assessments with Drug Court staff
- Complete substance abuse treatment (either through an approved treatment provider or via our own in-house Matrix Model program)
- Attend Drug Court hearings regularly in front of the Drug Court Judge (weekly, bi-weekly, and monthly as program progresses)
- Submit to frequent and random drug testing
- Pay a weekly program fee to the Lancaster County Adult Drug Court
- Pay for all treatment costs not covered through regional money or insurance (no one will be terminated from Drug Court for a genuine inability to pay)
- Reside in Lancaster County
- Secure and maintain employment, complete GED or other educational goals, and other conditions as directed by the Court or the Drug Court staff
- Pay restitution or other Court costs
- Meet with Drug Court staff
- Obey all laws

**DO DRUG COURTS WORK?**

After a decade of drug court research, scientists at the esteemed Treatment Research Institute at the University of Pennsylvania concluded that, "To put it bluntly, we know that drug courts outperform virtually all other strategies that have been used with drug-involved offenders." Columbia University's historic analysis of drug courts conclude that "drug use and criminal behavior are substantially reduced while offenders are participating in drug court."

An extensive review of drug courts by the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) concluded that adult drug court programs substantially reduce crime by lowering re-arrest and conviction rates among drug court graduates well after program completion.

**DO DRUG COURTS SAVE MONEY?**

Incarceration of drug offenders costs between \$20,000 and \$50,000 per person per year. (In Nebraska, the cost of keeping one inmate incarcerated for one year at the Nebraska State Penitentiary is estimated to be well over \$31,000.) The capital cost of building a prison cell can be as much as \$80,000. In contrast, a drug court program costs, on average, between \$1,500 and \$11,000 annually for each offender. Evaluations from the State of Oregon and Dallas County, Texas, have shown that for every dollar invested in drug court, nearly ten dollars are saved by traditional incarceration-based corrections programs.

**ARE DRUG COURT PROGRAMS SOFT ON CRIME?**

Drug courts across the country control participants' drug usage and activity through frequent drug testing, intensive supervision and judicial monitoring, and immediate sanctions that may include terms of incarceration to respond to program violations. The adult substance-abusing offender population has been historically unmoved by the threat of incarceration alone. In fact, drug court participants find drug courts more challenging than jail or prison.

**WHAT ARE SOME DRUG COURT STATISTICS?**

**Cumulative Data  
(June 2001 inception – December 31, 2011)**

Total Screened	1305
Total Accepted	567
Total Graduated	210
Total Terminated	262
Currently in Program	93

**Recidivism\* Rates (As of December 31, 2011)**

\*New Felony Charge Resulting in Conviction in Lancaster County District Court

	Number	Percent
1 Year Since Graduation (n=192)	10	5.2%
2 Years Since Graduation (n=170)	21	12.4%