



2025 Arizona Veterans Treatment Court Conference

VTC Programs Update

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**About
Us** ↑

All Rise is the training, membership, and advocacy organization for justice system innovation addressing substance use and mental health at every intercept point.

Through its four divisions—the Treatment Court Institute, Impaired Driving Solutions, Justice for Vets, and the Center for Advancing Justice—All Rise provides training and technical assistance at the local and national level, advocates for federal and state funding, and collaborates with public and private entities.



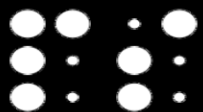
Veterans Treatment Courts: Brief Historical Context



2004 – 2008 Influx of Veterans (active and reserve) into the justice system.



A need to effectively address this population surfaced in multiple regions of America.



A paradigm shift occurred “overnight.”

Some national statistics

- Approximately 200,000 service members are transitioned from the military each year, and the majority do so without criminal justice involvement.
- The most recent estimate of incarcerated veterans is 181,500; from a **2015** study! *
- **At least 5,000** JIVs were served by Veterans Treatment Court Programs/Dockets in 2024.
- **550+** approximate number of recognized VTCs/VTC dockets.*

<https://ntcrc.org/maps/> *

WHY DO THEY WORK?

- ✓ TAILORED RESPONSIVITY
- ✓ DEPT. OF VA (INVOLVEMENT)
- ✓ A MENTORING COMPONENT



Checklist of Essential Elements of *What We Know Works:*

- ✓ There is a veteran mentoring component.
- ✓ There is Department of Veterans Affairs involvement.
VJOs!
- ✓ The court program is comprised of veterans from the U.S. Military.
- ✓ There is a structure that is memorialized.
- ✓ There is community behavioral health/medical healthcare involvement.
- ✓ There is a multi-disciplinary team approach.
- ✓ There is a treatment need rooted in screens and assessments (and interventions) that are responsive to the population served.

- Veteran Mentors
- Veteran Service Organizations
- Community Outreach & Advocacy 501(c)3
- VA Peer Support Specialists
- Community Peer Support Specialists

- Judicial Officer
- Prosecution
- Defense

Ancillary Services (Community)

- Educational/Vocational Support
- Quality of Life (food/heating)
- Family Supportive Services
- Faith-Based Organizations

Veteran

Community Supervision

- Criminogenic Programming
- Toxicology Screening
- Electronic/adjunct monitoring
- Program Evaluation
- Law Enforcement
- Probation & Pretrial

VA Medical Centers

- Individualized Treatment
- “One Stop” & CAM
- Evidence Based Practices
- VJO Specialist
- VHA/VBA Services
- *Vet Centers/Readjustment Counselors*

Community Treatment

- Individualized Treatment Plans
- EB, Best and Promising Practices
- Complementary and alternative medicine (e.g., Tai Chi, Hot Yoga)



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When teams apply the best practice standards to their program, participant outcomes are enhanced.

Justice for Vets

*2025 VTC Trends
and Focus Areas*

Justice for Vets-Trends We See “When Walking Around”

1. Increased Training of VTCs: Deliver VTC Training, Technical Assistance and Professional Development to VTC Teams.
2. Overall Increased Awareness of VTCs.
3. Increased (now 20%) Efforts for early identification of Veterans: VRSS (Veterans Re-entry Search Service).
4. Expanded Community Partners and Service Providers.
5. Workshops to address the treatment needs of women veterans (See Website: Journal for Advancing Justice, Office Hours, Team Workshops).
6. E-Learning (see JFV Website).

Justice for Vets- Trends (Cont.)

7. Some courts getting away from “nexus”, and “service in combat”, requirements.
8. Definition of “Veteran” can vary by state.
9. Non-adversarial approach works.
10. Fidelity to the Model (Ten Key Components).
11. Expansion of Veteran-focused support and services: e.g., CCJ/VJC Veterans Justice Act, a model policy framework.

Justice for Vets- 2025 Focus Areas

1. Defense Counsel...VTCs can be a tool for you and your client!
2. Participant #s are decreasing (Offenses reclassified, Diversion Programs v. VTCs, Use of Pre-Plea v. Post-Plea model increasing); alternatives don't always use VTC structure/best practices.
3. While improving, only 20% of Jurisdictions use VRSS.
4. Other Treatment Courts (Mental Health, Adult Drug, DUI, etc.,) use Veteran tracks...but often not the same structure as a VTC.



JFV Mentor Court Network

- 36th District VTC - Detroit, MI
- 8th Judicial District VTC - Great Falls, MT
- Lancaster County VTC - Lincoln, NE
- Lake County VTC - Crown Point, IN
- Warren County Veterans Honor Court (VTC) - Lebanon, OH

In 2025 we will provide:

- ❑ **18** VTC technical assistance training workshops
- ❑ **16** VTC Foundational Trainings
- ❑ **7** Operational Tune-ups
- ❑ **10** Mentor Professional Development Workshops
- ❑ **2** Alternative/Multi-Track Workshops
- ❑ **6** Team Tailored Workshops
- ❑ **2** Webinars
- ❑ Support of **15-17** Statewide Requests
- ❑ **17** Veteran-specific sessions at RISE25
- ❑ **4** “Office Hours” with JFV SMEs
- ❑ Coaching of **28** VTC IP Awardees
- ❑ Coordinated oversight of **5** VTC Mentor Courts



Questions and Answers

