

What is JMHCP?

The goal of the Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program (JMHCP) is to improve responses to and outcomes for individuals with mental illnesses or co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders who come into contact with the justice system. The program supports early intervention and diversion for multi-system-involved individuals; cross-training for justice and treatment professionals; and improved communication, collaboration, and coordination of support services between justice professionals and treatment and related service providers as well as government partners. For FY 2017, BJA revised the goals of JMHCP to move away from facilitating small-scale programming (e.g., pilots) to providing support for system-wide improvements in policies and practices at the local and state levels.

**Awards from \$75,000
up to \$300,000 for
planning, training,
partnerships,
technology, and other
activities**

**Visit BJA.gov for
funding opportunities**

How can JMHCP help you?

JMHCP provides grants and technical assistance to states, local governments, and federally recognized Indian tribes. Projects must be jointly administered by a criminal or juvenile justice agency and a mental health agency. Since FY 2006, BJA has awarded \$70 million to 380 jurisdictions.

Criminal justice agency

Partner with mental health agencies to increase access to appropriate treatment.

- Promote universal screening and assessment for mental health and substance use disorders (along with criminogenic risk) and use of assessments to inform decisions.
- Train staff and officers on recognizing and responding to indications of mental health need.
- Strengthen health and community partnerships to promote connections to health care services.

Mental health agency

Partner with criminal justice agencies to provide treatment and alternatives to incarceration.

- Employ case plans and referrals in coordination with supervision agencies.
- Deliver evidence-based treatment models tailored to meet assessed needs.
- Assess and enhance treatment capacity and quality.

Policymaker

Promote development and implementation of system-wide changes.

- Establish leadership structures and processes for strengthening and sustaining cross-system collaboration.
- Identify policy options to address gaps in services or areas for program improvement.
- Expand diversion and reentry programming to minimize contact or deeper involvement by individuals who have mental health or co-occurring disorders with the criminal justice system.

Researcher

Support JMHCP-awarded agencies with data analysis and evaluation to inform programs and policies.

- Analyze local data and document how people with mental health or co-occurring disorders move through the justice system.
- Conduct a local evaluation of an existing, collaborative criminal justice-mental health program.

JMHCP Success Stories

Minnesota Department of Corrections

In one of only a few crisis intervention team programs offered in a state prison system, staff learn how to recognize symptoms of mental health disorders, safely de-escalate a mental health crisis, and connect people to appropriate mental health resources.

Champaign County, Illinois

County leaders developed a system-wide definition of mental illness that facilitated the implementation of a validated screening for mental illnesses at the time of booking into jail.