

Budget Enhancement

FY2023: Court Services



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TREATMENT SERVICES

Idaho's courts provide funding for treatment services for treatment court participants that are not able to be funded through either private insurance or Medicaid. This funding is provided through both a General Fund appropriation and through the Substance Abuse Treatment dedicated fund (SUD).

Over the last year, other state agencies have increased reimbursement rates for some treatment services beyond the levels used to estimate the courts' planned costs. The Idaho Supreme Court works to maintain parity in rates paid by state entities to ensure court clients have access to treatment. However, these changes have resulted in a variance between planned and actual costs, and the Court does not have spending authority in all cases to accomplish a return to parity.

For FY2023, the Idaho Supreme Court requests an ongoing increase in spending authority in the dedicated SUD fund appropriation of \$548,400 for residential and recovery support services and \$209,900 for telehealth services.

In addition, the Court has adopted new Best Practice Standards for Treatment Courts that if followed, will reduce subsequent substance abuse and recidivism among participants and improve their outcomes. The estimated costs of delivering treatment at levels consistent with these evidence-based standards are significantly greater than what is currently appropriated. For FY2023, the Court requests a \$400,000

spending authority increase in the dedicated SUD fund to align with the standards.

FAMILY, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & TREATMENT COURTS

The Drug Court, Mental Health Court, Family Court Services dedicated fund supports a number of court programs and services across the state including treatment courts, domestic violence courts, and family court services. For FY2023, the Court requests a \$2 million increase in spending authority in this fund to improve and enhance services in several areas. It is the Court's intent to serve more individuals and families, promote efficacy, and implement quality assurance strategies focused on best practices.

The Court has adopted a three-year plan to improve direct services to families, expand domestic violence courts and improve treatment court operation and treatment services. Among other challenges, there is a far greater need for direct family court services than available funding can address. Domestic violence courts are yet to be established in two of Idaho's seven judicial districts. Ultimately, better serving individuals in these court programs will reduce recidivism, decrease substance dependence and instances of domestic violence, and reduce conflict within families.

Both the SUD and Drug Court funds have available revenue that would support this requested spending authority.

