

STATE OF MICHIGAN

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NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OCTOBER 10, 2018

**KALAMAZOO COUNTY PROBLEM-SOLVING COURTS RECEIVE
GRANT WARDS FROM THE STRYKER-JOHNSTON FOUNDATION AND
THE OFFICE OF JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY
PREVENTION**

The Kalamazoo County Circuit and Probate Court is grateful, and honored, to announce that the Stryker Johnston Foundation of Kalamazoo has awarded the Court a substantial grant to help defray the treatment costs for participants in the Men's and Women's Drug Treatment Court programs for the fiscal year starting September 1, 2018. The Court is also honored to announce that the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) has awarded the Court \$400,000, over the next three years, to fund the Family Dependency Treatment Court Program.

In the past 26 years since the Honorable William Schma established the Women's Drug Treatment Court program, the Court has successfully and independently operated the Men's Drug Treatment Court Program, Juvenile Drug Treatment Court Program, Family Dependency Treatment Court Program, a Juvenile Mental Health Treatment Court program (Treatment & Recovery Court), the Swift and Sure Sanctions Program, Veterans Treatment Court Program, collectively, the Problem-Solving Courts.

Often times, participation in one of the Problem-Solving Courts represents the last chance for participants to avoid a prison or lengthy jail sentence, regain control of their lives, rebuild their family and remain in the community. When participants graduate from one of the programs it means they are physically healthier and functioning in the absence of illegal substances. It means they are employable with job skills. It means they have improved education levels. It means their family is less likely to be divided, experience dysfunction, have CPS involvement or become homeless. It means they are connected to a network of community-based pro-social supports dedicated to

remaining sober. And, finally, it results in a reduction in incarceration, social service, law enforcement and criminal justice costs to the taxpayers.

It is difficult to argue that successful program outcomes do not greatly benefit the community at large. However, program success is contingent upon, and relies upon, ongoing funding. Operational expenditures include intensive treatment and counseling services, on-going drug testing and test validation, case management services, employment skills training, educational development and GED preparation. In addition to operational costs, the Problem-Solving programs must strive to maintain and improve our nationally recognized programs. That effort requires program adherence to best practices and innovative addiction treatment methods from the National Association of Drug Court Professionals, as well as the certification requirements from the Michigan State Court Administrative Office (SCAO).

The Problem-Solving Courts have not received annual operational funding from the County in over a decade and depend exclusively on grants from private foundations, the SCAO, and Federal agencies. Despite all the grants awarded to the Problem-Solving Courts, the funding does not fully support the programs. In Fiscal year 2017, the costs of the Problem-Solving Courts exceeded revenues by approximately \$140,000. In Fiscal year 2018 the Men's Drug Treatment Court program and Women's Drug Treatment Court program had to restrict admission to the programs due to budget shortages. The Stryker-Johnson Foundation grant will prevent this from reoccurring in 2019.

The Court wishes to acknowledge the generous support of the Stryker Johnston Foundation and OJJDP and the vital role those funds will have in maintaining the Problem-Solving Courts' programs. The Court also wishes to thank the Stryker Johnston Foundation and OJJDP for recognizing the Problem-Solving Courts' important contributions to our community.