

Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Act of 2004

Purpose: To promote public safety and community health by facilitating collaboration among the criminal justice, juvenile justice, mental health treatment, and substance abuse systems in diverting individuals with mental illness from the criminal and juvenile justice systems and in treating such individuals within those systems.

Types of Grants Available: The bill establishes two discretionary grant programs: planning grants (\$75K maximum award) and implementation grants. The implementation grants are nonrenewable and may extend over as much as five years.

Eligibility: Both state and local government agencies are eligible to apply for a grant. Applications must be for collaborative programs. That is, the applicant must certify collaboration among a criminal justice agency or a juvenile justice agency AND a mental health agency.

Applications may be for efforts that target juveniles or adults. Activities eligible for grant funding include a wide array of initiatives, including efforts that are police, court, corrections, or community-corrections-based.

Applicants must supply information requested by the Attorney General and Secretary of Health and Human Services; define their target population; ensure that assessments will be conducted on individuals receiving services; specify plans for making services available to individuals with mental illness upon release from detention; ensure that community mental health services are available to program participants or provide those services; and ensure that measures exist for capturing outcome data. If the target population includes juveniles with mental illness, applicants must include strategies for addressing problems arising from a history of physical or sexual abuse. Applicants must also explain inability to fund the program without federal assistance.

Authorization level: \$50 million each for 2004 and 2005, plus funds as necessary for 2006-2008.