

Family Treatment Courts in Iowa



January 2014

FAMILY TREATMENT COURTS

Family Treatment Courts, a *partnership* between courts and *communities*, are an effective way to address the core problems responsible for many crimes and *broken families*. These courts work intensively with community professionals to *empower parents* to *break free* from the grip of substance abuse and reunite families.

Background

Treatment teams include:

- A Judge
- Child welfare professionals (DHS)
- Substance abuse treatment professionals
- Attorneys (county attorney, GAL, and parent's attorney)
- Private agency providers

Status

Current

There are six federally funded pilot sites in Iowa counties—Cherokee/Ida, Linn, Polk, Scott, Wapello, and Woodbury. ***Federal funding runs out this summer.***

Five additional Family Treatment Courts—Webster, Buena Vista, Warren, Johnson, and Washington/Keokuk were started by local officials at various times during the last five years.

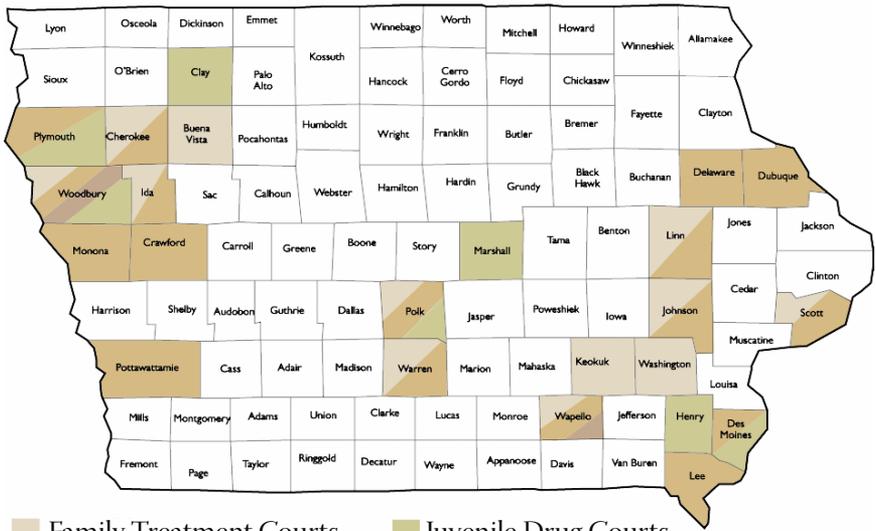
FAMILY TREATMENT COURTS

Results*

The six pilot sites have served **496 families** composed of **587 parents** and **954 children**.

- ◆ **94%** of the children did not suffer a recurrence of maltreatment.
- ◆ **76%** of the children were able to remain in the custody of their parent or caregiver.
- ◆ **79%** of the children were returned within 12 months of their removal from their home.
- ◆ Parents are admitted to substance abuse treatment earlier and remain in treatment almost four times longer.
- ◆ The pilot sites have saved Iowa's taxpayers **\$4.6 million**.

** as of September, 2013*



- Family Treatment Courts
- Juvenile Drug Courts
- Adult Drug Courts
- Mental Health Courts

FY 2015 Family Treatment Court Plan

- Continue funding the six existing federally funded coordinator positions that will otherwise expire
- Add coordinators for five emerging Family Treatment Courts (in Webster, Buena Vista, Warren, Johnson, and Washington/Keokuk Counties) that were started by local officials but do not have adequate staffing or resources
- Add up to three additional new coordinator positions for other sites to be determined
- Add a statewide specialty court coordinator to oversee and coordinate all the specialty treatment courts in Iowa