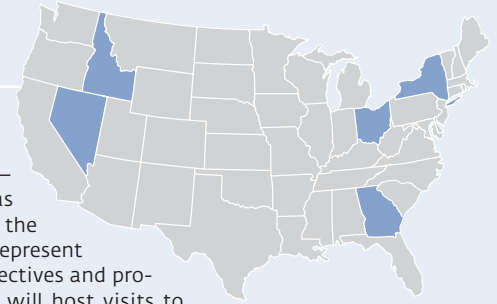


MENTAL HEALTH COURT LEARNING SITES

About the Mental Health Court Learning Sites. The number of mental health courts (MHCs) in the U.S. has grown exponentially over the past decade. State and local officials who have recently launched—or are considering whether to launch—such programs in their jurisdictions often seek out more experienced MHCs for guidance and advice.

To facilitate peer-to-peer assistance among jurisdictions that have established, or are planning to establish, MHCs, the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA)—through its technical assistance provider, the Council

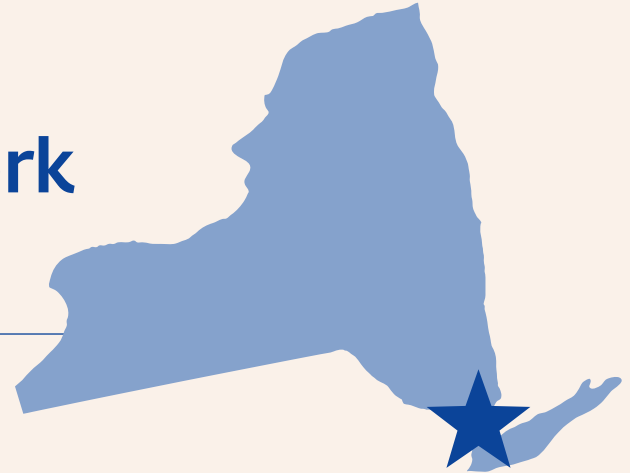
of State Governments (CSG)—has designated five MHCs as “learning sites.” Located across the country, these learning sites represent a diverse cross-section of perspectives and program examples. Learning sites will host visits to their courts and respond to telephone/email inquiries from the field.



Bronx County, New York Mental Health Court

Established in **2001**

Approximately 225 participants are under MHC supervision on any given day



NOTABLE FEATURES

- Targets individuals with serious charges and lengthy criminal records¹
- Emphasizes linguistic, cultural, and clinical competency for large Hispanic/Latino and African American populations in the community
- Operates in a large urban center in which 31 percent of the population lives below federal poverty guidelines
- Collects and analyzes comprehensive process and outcome data; a full-time researcher/evaluator and grant writer is a member of the court team
- Works closely with over 30 treatment and other service providers
- Incorporates consumers on case management and advocacy staff
- Received funding through the Bureau of Justice Assistance Mental Health Courts Grant Program

¹ While the Bronx MHC recently expanded the misdemeanor aspect of this program through a grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, the learning sites selection process was exclusively involved in a review of the felony aspect of the Bronx MHC. As such, only the felony aspect of the court is designated as a learning site.

ADMINISTRATION

- **Planning:** Designed by a committee representing 41 agencies through a consensus process
- **Ongoing oversight:** Advised by a committee that meets semiannually, and more frequently when the program considers modifying or growing its operations
- **MHC team:** Comprises a clinical team, coordinating staff, and criminal justice personnel
 - Clinical team:** Five pre-placement case managers, seven post-placement case managers/peer specialists, one clinical director, and three part-time psychiatrists
 - Coordinating staff:** One project director and two co-directors (one of whom is a full-time researcher/evaluator and one of whom is the medical director and a part-time psychiatrist on the clinical team)
 - Criminal justice personnel:** A judge, two court attorneys, three rotating assistant district attorneys, and court-assigned defense counsel

ELIGIBILITY

- Accepts individuals charged violent or nonviolent felonies (excluding current charges of murder, sex offenses, and arson) who have a severe and persistent mental illness with or without co-occurring substance use

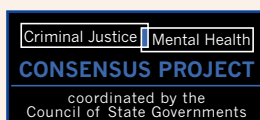
To learn more about the Bronx Mental Health Court, see the program's long overview at: <http://consensusproject.org/mhcp/> or contact:

Merrill Rotter, M.D.
Medical Director/Co-Project Director
Bronx Mental Health Court
(718) 538-7416
mlrotter@yahoo.com

The Mental Health Court Learning Sites are a part of the technical assistance offered by BJA's Mental Health Courts Program (MHCP). Information about the MHCP and mental health courts generally can be found at <http://consensusproject.org/mhcp/>.

To learn more about the Mental Health Court Learning Sites, visit <http://consensusproject.org/mhcp> or contact:

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- Developed a clinical eligibility protocol that includes biopsychosocial and risk assessment tools

TREATMENT AND OTHER SERVICES

- Draws on various specialized treatment providers in the community for crisis, intermediate, residential, outpatient, and hospital care who address mental health, substance abuse, medical, educational, and vocational needs

FUNDING AND SUSTAINABILITY

- Conducts outcome evaluations as part of grant reporting requirements and has used these evaluations to seek new funding sources
- Secured city, state, and federal funding for planning, implementation, and expansion of the program

To download other mental health court resources, please visit <http://consensusproject.org/mhcp/info/mhresources/pubs/>:

- *The Essential Elements of a Mental Health Court*
- *A Guide to Mental Health Court Design and Implementation*
- *A Guide to Collecting Mental Health Court Outcome Data*
- *Navigating the Mental Health Maze*

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