



West Virginia Juvenile Treatment Courts

FY 2026

Supreme
Court of
Appeals of
West
Virginia

Division of
Probation
Services

Stephanie
Bond
Director

Kaylee
Dickenson
State Treat-
ment Court
Coordinator

Christine
Fox
Counsel

- The West Virginia Juvenile Treatment Courts (JTC) are a cooperative effort of the juvenile justice, social service, substance abuse treatment, law enforcement and education systems.
- JTCs are established in accordance with §49-4-703 and are designed and operated consistent with the developmental and rehabilitative needs of the juveniles and operate under uniform protocol and procedures established by the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia and treatment court guidelines from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.
- The program seeks to divert non-violent, juveniles engaging in substance use from the traditional juvenile court process to a non-adversarial, intensive, individualized outpatient substance abuse treatment process which includes parental participation and cooperation.
- The goal is to prevent and/or reduce future court involvement for the JTC involved juveniles. The objectives are to eliminate illegal substance use, improve educational outcomes, and enhance positive life choice decision making.
- All JTCs use evidence-based treatment approaches and assessments and are evaluated annually.
- Referrals to JTC can be made by circuit judges, law enforcement, school personnel, probation officers, prosecutors, child protective services/youth services workers, and parents.
- The program is structured in four phases with the last phase serving as built-in aftercare for all participants. The minimum program length is twenty eight (28) weeks.
- There are five (5) entry levels into JTC: pre-petition diversion; signed, but non-filed petition; filed petition (pre-adjudicatory); filed petition (post-adjudicatory); and as a condition of probation.
- Program components include: intensive supervision, frequent and observed drug testing, meetings between juveniles and probation officer and parents and probation officer, counseling sessions for juveniles and for families, court appearances for juvenile and parents, and community service.
- For FY 2026, there were fifteen (15) operating JTCs serving the following counties: Berkeley, Boone, Brooke, Hancock, Harrison, Jefferson, Kanawha, Lincoln, Logan, Mercer, Monongalia, Morgan, Pleasants, Putnam, Raleigh, Randolph, Ritchie, Wayne, Wirt, and Wood Counties.
- Cost savings for the criminal justice system stem from reduced re-arrests, law enforcement contacts, court hearings, and use of detention centers. Other cost savings for the State result from reduced out-of-home placement and decreased use of out of state treatment centers.
- For FY 2026, **the average cost per youth was \$3,626.66.** This cost also includes intensive supervision, incentives, and drug testing. Individualized treatment and services to the family are generally paid for by the Bureau of Juvenile Services or Medicaid. This cost is in stark contrast to the approximately \$205,546 annually for a youth placed in a residential or correctional facility.
- For FY 2026, were **387** total JTC participants served.
- National research support the effectiveness of JTCs that adhere to evidence-based practices from the fields of adolescent treatment and delinquency prevention.