

Western Regional Specialty Courts

Program History and Overview

In 2001, the Western Regional Specialty Courts in Nevada were conceived and implemented by Judge Archie Blake in five counties (Carson City, Douglas, Churchill, Lyon, and Storey) to provide rural criminal drug offenders the opportunity to participate in a drug court program. It would be the first specialty court program developed since the inception of Clark County (1990) and Washoe County (1994) respectively. While the two large urban counties of Nevada had successful drug court programs, rural Nevada counties did not have the resources necessary to establish and maintain a drug court.

In 2004, the Western Regional Specialty Courts volunteered to include Mineral County under its regional court program umbrella with no additional funding.

In 2015, the Western Regional Specialty Courts added a Mental Health Court Program and Nevada's first ever Medication Assisted Treatment Court Program, which provides judicial oversight and treatment for participants diagnosed with an opioid use disorder.

The primary function of the drug court is to reduce criminal, drug-related behavior, and targets participants that are typically criminal re-offenders of various drug-related crimes. Coerced rehabilitation of the reoccurring drug offender and forming criminal justice system partnerships with local treatment providers are the strengths of the drug court. Treatment providers give participants the tools necessary to modify drug-related behavior through meaningful treatment modalities for the time necessary for rehabilitative/recovery success.

All participants of the Western Regional Specialty Courts are persons charged with a non-violent, drug-related felony offense. Drug traffickers and defendants with a history of violence are not eligible for any specialty court program. Once the defendant has met the eligibility criteria, the defendant must plead guilty to the drug charge and request participation in drug court.

Funding

Drug Court

Operates in Carson City, Douglas, Churchill, Lyon, Mineral, and Storey Counties

AB29 Funding

\$400,064 per annum

DUI Diversion

Operates in Carson City, Douglas, Churchill, Lyon, and Mineral Counties

General Fund (Funding established November 2015)

\$18,700 per annum

Medication Assisted Treatment

Operates in Carson City, Douglas, Churchill, Lyon, Mineral, and Storey Counties

General Fund (Funding established November 2015)

\$63,450 per annum

Mental Health Court

Operates in Churchill, Lyon, and Mineral Counties

General Fund (Funding established November 2015)

\$33,450 per annum

Statistics

FY18 (through 2nd quarter)

	Total	New	Grads
<i>Drug Court:</i>			
Carson	119	20	15
Douglas	50	9	10
Churchill	56	10	12
Lyon	65	31	15
Mineral	24	7	6
TOTAL	314	77	58
<i>MAT Court</i>	27	10	1
<i>MHC Court</i>	11	5	5
<i>DUI Diversion:</i>			
Carson	21	10	3
Douglas	20	5	5
Churchill	26	1	0
Lyon	2	2	0
Mineral	0	0	0
TOTALS	421	110	72