



# MICHIGAN COURTS NEWS RELEASE

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## **\$750K in Grants Awarded to Veterans Treatment Courts Statewide Problem-Solving Courts Help Vets, Reduce Unemployment Rates, Strengthen Communities**

Lansing, MI, November 10, 2016 – As Veterans Day approaches, the Michigan Supreme Court announced today that \$750,000 has been awarded to 23 courts around the state to fund the operation of veterans treatment court programs. Instead of costly incarceration, these problem-solving courts closely supervise offenders who are required to enroll in treatment programs and be drug tested regularly. Extensive follow-up analysis shows that participants in these courts are far less likely to reoffend and much more likely to find a job and improve their quality of life. In particular, volunteer mentors play an important role by offering their time and energy in helping participants find employment linkages.

“Many of our service men and women continue to fight difficult battles long after they leave the military,” said Justice Joan Larsen, who is the MSC liaison to problem-solving courts. “In the past, courts were not equipped to deal with their unique challenges. By connecting veterans with the help they need, these courts are saving lives, saving money, strengthening families, and building stronger communities.”

Some important facts about Michigan veterans treatment courts:

- Unemployment among veterans treatment court graduates has been cut by more than half.
- Michigan is a national leader with 25 veterans treatment courts.

Learn more about these courts in the most recent MSC Problem-Solving Court Annual Report, “[Solving Problems, Saving Lives.](#)”

Click [here](#) for a list of veterans treatment courts that received grants. The process of awarding the grants is highly competitive and funding is limited. Click [here](#) for more information about the grant programs.

In addition to funding, the Supreme Court provides operational support and valuable resources, including a [manual](#) for judges interested in starting veterans treatment court programs.

Performance of problem-solving courts is tracked as part of a broader performance measures initiative to monitor court performance statewide. Data collected is used to identify and share best practices and to target areas that need improvement. More information is available [here](#).

[Veterans treatment courts](#) promote sobriety, recovery, and stability through a coordinated response that involves collaboration with a variety of traditional partners found in drug courts and mental health courts, as well as the Department of Veterans Affairs, volunteer veteran mentors, and organizations that support veterans and veterans’ families.

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**Editor’s Note:** Please contact your local courts for more information about specific local program. Contact information is available in the [Trial Court Directory](#).