



MICHIGAN COURTS NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 27, 2017

Supreme Court Awards more Than \$1 Million in Grants to Veterans Treatment Courts Statewide

Problem-solving courts reduced unemployment among graduates

Lansing, MI, October 27, 2017 – The Michigan Supreme Court announced today that it has awarded more than \$1 million in grants to 22 courts statewide to fund the operation of veterans treatment court (VTC) programs during the next fiscal year. Extensive follow-up [analysis](#) shows that unemployment among Michigan veterans treatment court graduates was reduced by two-thirds from October 2014 to September 2016.

“I am proud that Michigan has been a national leader in its commitment to veterans treatment courts. By funding these vital programs, we are enabling them to save even more lives and strengthen even more communities throughout Michigan,” said Justice Bridget M. McCormack, who made the announcement during the Justice For Vets Veteran Mentors Boot Camp training held today at the Michigan Hall of Justice. Justice McCormack was joined at the event by former West Wing actress Melissa Fitzgerald, who now serves as Senior Director of Justice For Vets.

Click [here](#) for a list of veterans treatment courts that received grants. Click [here](#) for more information about the grant programs. In addition to funding, the Supreme Court provides operational support and resources, including a [manual](#) for judges interested in starting VTCs.

Problem-solving courts are non-traditional courts that focus on nonviolent offenders whose underlying medical and social problems have contributed to recurring contacts with the criminal justice system. 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.

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.

The Justice For Vets mentor training is supported by the retailer Macy's through its annual fundraising campaign for Got Your 6 and its non-profit veteran partners. The training program in Lansing training included more than 60 veterans representing 12 VTCs across Michigan. Veteran speakers presented on topics such as Who Is the Justice-Involved Veteran Participant, Role of the Veteran Mentor, Identifying & Addressing Needs, Resource Mapping, Building Your Veteran Community Coalition, and more.