

## **Recommended Training and Education Guidelines for Colorado Adult Drug Courts**

- The Training and Education Subcommittee of the Problem Solving Court Advisory Committee exists for the purpose of developing standards and training curriculum that promote adherence to “best practices” and fidelity to the problem solving court model. Standardized training curriculum and protocol will increase consistency in training and education practices in drug courts across the state and ensure that all drug court programs have access to critical resources, information and training.
- New drug court team members should have substantial experience in their traditional role and should demonstrate the ability to function in a collaborative team environment, a willingness to learn and step outside of a traditional role when appropriate, a willingness to utilize “best practices,” and a commitment to the principles of problem solving courts.
- New drug court team members should be provided access to trainings and materials prior to joining the drug court team.
- Consistent with “best practices,” new team members should be assigned to the drug court team for a minimum term length of two (2) years.
- New drug court team members should complete the (Phase I) core curriculum trainings within three (3) months of joining the drug court team. It is further recommended that each new team member complete the NDCI online training course “Essential Elements of Adult Drug Courts” prior to attending the first drug court staffing and/or court.
- Both new and existing drug court team members should participate in ongoing trainings to include attendance of the annual Drug Court Conference. Also, each drug court team should conduct ongoing specialized trainings on relevant topics at a minimum of once a year and ideally more frequently.
- Drug court teams shall collaborate and share training and education resources with other problem solving court teams whenever possible. Problem Solving Court Coordinators will serve as points of contact for collaboration efforts.
- The drug court team members will assume the responsibility of educating peers, colleagues, and the judiciary as a whole on the principles, practices and expectations of problem solving courts. Additionally, the drug court team members are tasked with sharing the principles and philosophies, as well as the value of problem solving courts with the community.