



Office of Juvenile Justice
and Delinquency Prevention

TRIBAL HEALING TO WELLNESS COURTS

PERFORMANCE REPORT

July-December 2019

ENHANCING SAFETY • ENSURING ACCOUNTABILITY • EMPOWERING YOUTH

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INTRODUCTION

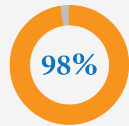
The Tribal Healing to Wellness Courts (THWC) program, administered by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), enhances the capacity of tribal courts to respond to substance use disorders of tribal youth under the age of 21. THWC is a specialized problem-solving court, which uses the juvenile drug court framework to integrate traditional tribal healing techniques with western substance use treatment. The primary goals of the THWC program include the development of comprehensive, culturally appropriate intervention services for at-risk tribal youth.¹ THWC grantees create, expand, and strengthen culturally specific approaches within their local juvenile justice system.

OJJDP requires grantees to report youth served, target behaviors, offending, and reoffending outcomes. THWC grantees also report planning activities conducted during their first year of receiving their award; planning activities include training activities and partnership development.

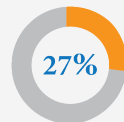
Highlights

560
NUMBER OF
YOUTH SERVED

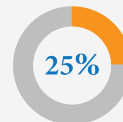
Youth Demonstrated
Positive Behavior
Change



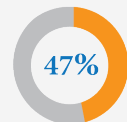
Youth
Offending



Youth
Reoffending



Awards Implementing
an Evidence-Based
Program



OVERVIEW OF AWARD INFORMATION

During the July–December 2019 activity period, OJJDP’s THWC program funded 38 awards with 89 percent of awards completing their reporting requirements (see figure 1). Thirty-four THWC awards were operational (expending grant funds during the period). The total available funding during the period exceeded \$10 million (see figure 1).

Figure 1. Award Details



¹ See *Tribal Healing to Wellness Courts: Treatment Guidelines*
http://www.wellnesscourts.org/files/Treatment%20Guide%202nd%20ed_%202017.pdf.

EVIDENCE-BASED PROGRAMS

OJJDP encourages grantees to use evidence-based programs shown, through rigorous evaluation and replication, to be effective at preventing or reducing juvenile delinquency or related risk factors. THWC grantees implement evidence-based programs and practices that utilize culturally-based strategies to address individual youth needs.² During the July–December 2019 activity period, 47 percent of THWC awards used one or more evidence-based program or practice.

YOUTH AND FAMILIES SERVED

THWC grantees are required to report on the number of youth and families served during each activity period. During the July–December 2019 activity period, THWC program grantees served a total of 875 youth and families. Sixty-four percent of individual grantees served were youth ($n = 560$), while 36 percent of those served were family members ($n = 315$).

560

Number of Youth Served

PROGRAM YOUTH OFFENSES AND RECIDIVISM

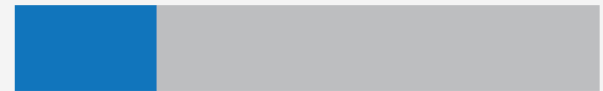
Grantees report short-term³ data for program youth who offend and recidivate to gauge the program’s success at reducing delinquency and improving outcomes for program participants. During the July–December 2019 activity period, 27 percent of the youth who were tracked offended in the short term (see figure 2) and 24 percent of tracked youth reoffended in the short term (see figure 2). This represents a 4 percent decrease in youths offending and a 36 percent decrease in youths reoffending when compared to the previous reporting period.⁴

Figure 2. Short-Term Offending and Reoffending Data

27% of Program Youth Tracked OFFENDED



24% of Program Youth Tracked REOFFENDED



² <http://www.wellnesscourts.org/files/Tribal%20Healing%20to%20Wellness%20Courts%20The%20Key%20Components.pdf>

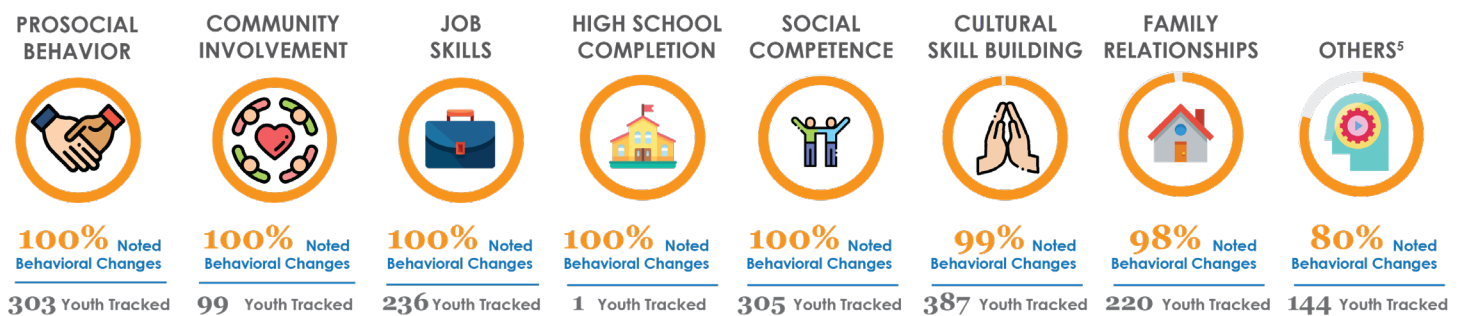
³ Short-term includes youth tracked for the behavior of interest who received services during the activity period or youth who exited during the activity period.

⁴ U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. Tribal Healing to Wellness Courts January–June 2019.

TARGET BEHAVIORS

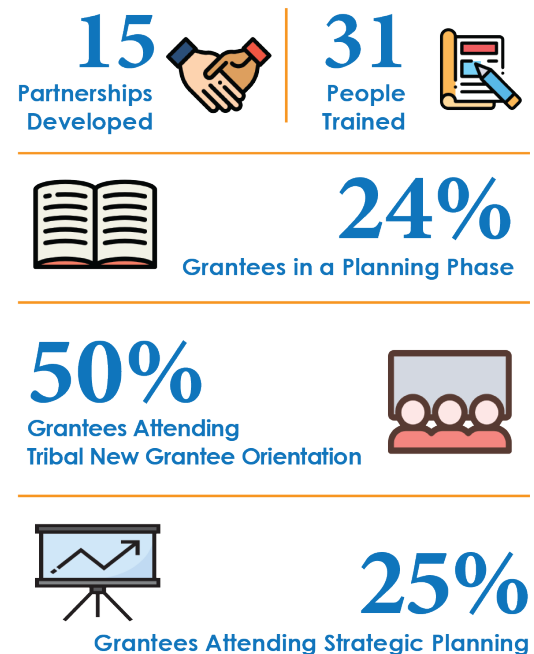
Youth participating in THWC programs are tracked for short-term behavior changes to measure the program’s impact on performance in several targeted areas, such as substance use, school attendance, social behaviors, and cultural skill building. During the July–December 2019 activity period, 100 percent of tracked youth demonstrated the most improvement in prosocial behavior, community involvement, social competence, job skills, and high school completion. Additionally, 99 percent of youth exhibited improvement in cultural skill building, and 98 percent demonstrated improvement in school attendance (see figure 3). Overall, 98 percent of program youth exhibited a desired change in a targeted behavior.

Figure 3. Outcome Percentages for the Specified Target Behaviors



PLANNING YEAR ACTIVITIES

OJJDP requires THWC grantees to engage in program planning activities during the start of their award. The planning phase supports grantees through a strategic planning process designed to identify program challenges and strategies when developing their mission, organizational structure, and action plan. This process allows them to create necessary partnerships for program implementation and sustainability. During the July–December 2019 activity period, 24 percent of grantees engaged in planning activities. Collectively, grantees in this planning phase developed 15 new partnerships and trained 31 people. During this phase, grantees attend Strat Pak strategic planning sessions.⁶ At Strat Pak, grantees develop a comprehensive plan, which includes a mission and vision statement, logic model, the establishment of an advisory board, and sustainability planning. During the activity period, 25 percent of grantees attended Strat Pak. Additionally, 50 percent of grantees in the planning phase also attended OJJDP’s Tribal New Grantee Orientation.



⁵ Other target behaviors include grade point average, gang resistances, GED, family functioning, antisocial behavior, and substance use.

⁶ <https://www.justice.gov/tribal/file/818046/download>

CONCLUSION

OJJDP's THWC grant program seeks to strengthen the capacity of tribal courts by applying the Tribal Juvenile Healing to Wellness Court model to develop comprehensive frameworks for addressing substance use and other delinquent issues among at-risk and court-involved tribal youth. The THWC uses the drug court model and incorporates concepts of wellness to address the specific substance use needs of individual tribal youth.

OJJDP recognizes that tribes present varying challenges and strengths, which impact their ability to respond to the needs of tribal youth. Tribes use OJJDP funds to expand culturally appropriate approaches to provide prevention and intervention services for at-risk and court-involved tribal youth. The primary goals of the THWC program are to enhance the capacity of tribal courts to respond to the substance use issues of at-risk and court-involved tribal youth.

During the July–December 2019 activity period, 34 THWC awards served a total of 875 youth and families. Sixty-four percent of those served ($n = 560$) were youth and 36 percent of those served ($n = 315$) were family members. Twenty-four percent of awards conducted planning activities, which resulted in 15 new partnerships and training for 31 individuals. Overall, 98 percent of program youth exhibited a desired change in the targeted behavior during the short term, with youth demonstrating the greatest improvement in cultural skill building/cultural pride, social competence, community involvement, high school completion, and job skills. Additionally, 73 percent of youth did not offend in the short term, while 76 percent of youth did not reoffend in the short term. The performance measurement data suggests that the THWC program achieved its main objectives of using a tribal court model to improve youth outcomes.