

Delinquency Prevention Program Summary

Program Name:	Truancy Court
Program Number:	P2204-10

Is this program subcontracted to another agency/organization? Yes No

If Yes, please provide the following information:

	Agency/Organization Name:	Fourth Judicial District Court
	Address 1:	P.O. Box 637
	Address 2:	
	City/State/Zip	Ottawa, KS 66067
	Name of Contact Person:	Emily Watts
	Contact Person Phone:	785-229-8938
	Contact Person Email:	ewatts@franklincoks.org

	Program Type	Number of Youth Served in FY22	Number of Youth to be Served in FY24
	TOTAL	102	70

What is the programs intended purpose?

- Antisocial behavior (e.g., reduced criminal activity, reduced violence, improved behavior, etc.)
- Family Relationship (e.g. improved family functioning, reduced out of home placements, reduced incidents of family violence, etc.)
- School Attendance (e.g., improved academic performance or attendance, reduced disciplinary actions/expulsions, etc.)
- Substance Abuse (e.g., reduced use of substances, education on risk of substance abuse, programming/treatment, etc.)

Geographic area to be served:

The program serves all four counties of the Fourth Judicial District: Anderson, Coffey, Franklin, and Osage.

Target Population:	
Demographics	<p>The program will target the following populations of youth:</p> <p>Pre-Truant and Truant Youth – these students have been identified by the school district as being truant, per statute, and the respective County Attorney’s office has filed a truancy petition or has deferred formal filing if the student participates in Truancy Court.</p>
Eligibility Criteria	<p>Statutorily truant students (5% youth as tertiary prevention participants): Students are referred to the local County Attorney offices by schools when they reach the statutory requirements to be considered truant. The participants are identified for the program by being reported to the truancy program and the state as truant. The Truancy Court Resource Officer discusses the case with the school and then meets with the student and family members to determine whether or not the program will be a good fit for them.</p>
Referral Source(s)	<p>Youth are referred by school officials to the Truancy Court Case Manager, who will perform a preliminary intake and meet with the student and parents. Recommendations will be made to the Truancy Court Collaboration Team, which consists of the Truancy Court judge, court staff, County Attorney, and Guardian Ad Litem regarding suitability for the program. If accepted, the youth and parents will receive notice to appear in District Court.</p>
Services Provided:	
<p>Students referred to the program by schools receive an intake and assessment of risk/needs. They appear before the Magistrate Judge initially every two weeks in Franklin and Anderson Counties. They appear once a month in Coffey and Osage Counties. Court appearances are then adjusted depending on successful progression through the phases of the program. The youth and their families receive case management services, collateral contacts with the school, court appearances, referrals for interventions and video conferencing between the youth, schools, and Court.</p> <p>Court appearances are scheduled to minimize the time the youth is absent from school and further supports the importance of school attendance. The Truancy Court Collaboration Team will meet immediately prior to the youth and parents appearing in court and will assess the student’s progress. The TCCM provides the team with a written status update of the student, which includes class attendance data, current class grades, information on phase requirement completion, and any other information the team may need to develop a continuing plan for the student. A system of rewards and sanctions is then utilized by the Truancy Court Judge.</p>	
Is there a cost or fee associated with the program?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If Yes, please explain:	

Best Practices:

The Truancy Court is considered a specialized Court, an intervention for youth classified as truant. The Court has established policies and procedures, goals, outcomes, attorney representation and a level system that signifies individual achievement. The Truancy Court Program is based on the successful Problem-Solving Court model used throughout the country.

1. A coordinated strategy that involves the court, school officials, parents/student, prosecutor, Guardian Ad Litem, juvenile services professionals, and other community-based resources.

Performance Benchmarks:

1. Initial and ongoing planning is carried out by a broad-based group, including court officials, school officials and juvenile services professionals.
2. Documents defining the Truancy Court's mission, goals, eligibility criteria, and operating procedures are collaboratively developed and agreed upon.

2. A non-adversarial approach that identifies the causes of absences and addresses roadblocks to successful school attendance and achievement.

Performance Benchmarks:

1. Emphasis is on assessing the needs of the student and finding solutions to problems.
2. The Truancy Court Judge will use a system of incentives and sanctions to motivate the student.

3. Students are identified throughout the school year and promptly receive intervention by schools, who would make timely referrals to Truancy Court if their efforts are unsuccessful.

Performance Benchmarks:

1. Eligibility is based on established written criteria.
2. Identification of eligible participants and referral to Truancy Court is prompt.

4. Constant and regular judicial interaction with the student and family throughout the Truancy Court process.

Performance Benchmarks:

1. The participants will have regular contact with the Truancy Court Judge through hearings in the court facility.
2. The Truancy Court Judge will receive regular updates on the participants' school attendance, behavior and achievement.

5. A coordinated strategy of incentives, sanctions and phases that govern the Judge's response to the student's compliance or non-compliance with Truancy Court directives.

Performance Benchmarks:

1. Defined incentives and sanctions will be utilized by the Truancy Court Judge.
2. The participants' progression through the program will be in defined and known phases.

6. Participation by prosecutors and Guardian Ad Litem to protect due process rights.

Performance Benchmarks:

1. The Respective County Attorney will be involved throughout the Truancy Court process, reviewing and filing formal cases when necessary.
2. An attorney will be present during all hearings to advocate for the participant and insure that all due process rights are being protected.

7. Monitoring and evaluation to measure the achievement of program goals.

Performance Benchmarks:

1. Statistics will be kept on the number participants, successful/unsuccessful completion of TC, regular attendance, school achievement, and academic progress.
2. Statistics will be reported for the number Truancy cases filed in the Counties, prior to and post creation of Truancy Court.

Completion Criteria:

Successful Truancy Court termination is upon successful completion of the three phases of Truancy Court, recommendation of the Collaboration Team, and completion of the graduation ceremony. Early termination may occur for good cause. Application for graduation should be made 30 days prior to the anticipated graduation and based on:

Truancy Court Termination Criteria:

- Successful completion of all 3 phases of Truancy Court
- Satisfactory attendance at school
- No unexcused absences from Truancy Court proceedings, meetings with the supervising officer or other mandatory programs
- Submission of a written graduation application

Truant Youth Termination Criteria:

- Satisfactory attendance at school

Who is responsible for annual evaluations of the program and program operations?

The Truancy Court Collaboration Team is comprised of Judge Kevin Kimball (District Court), Kim Robinson (Franklin County Attorney's Office), Kelly Johnson (District Court), Jessica Leffler (Defense), Jeanette Durbin (District Court), and Brandee McArthur (Court Services). Evaluation of the program will be led by Kelly Johnson.

Describe the process utilized for monitoring and evaluating the program.

Statistics will be kept regarding the number of participants, successful/unsuccessful completion rates, attendance, school achievement, academic progress and curriculum completion. Additionally, the program will maintain the number of Truancy cases filed in the respective counties.

At a minimum, the program will be evaluated on a quarterly basis by the TCCT. This will include a review of available data, progress towards meeting desired outcomes and continued review of the current practices, policies and procedures. Additionally, the program will use student evaluations, parent evaluations and school evaluations to assess the program and enhance services.

Immediate Measurable Outcomes

1. Schools refer students to Truancy Court immediately upon the student reaching the statutory non-attendance limit and the school has exhausted internal efforts to address the non-attendance problems. Whenever a child is required by law to attend school and is enrolled in school, and the child is inexcusably absent therefrom on either three consecutive school days or five school days in any semester or seven school days in any school year, whichever of the foregoing occurs first, the child shall be considered to be not attending school as required by law. A child is inexcusably absent from school if the child is absent there from all or a significant part of a school day without a valid excuse acceptable to the school employee designated by the board of education to have responsibility for the school attendance of such child. Internal efforts could consist of any of the following: meetings with youth, meeting with parents, local school programs designed to address truancy, meeting with school counselors or administrative staff, detention, in-school and out-of-school suspension, referrals to outside services to meet identified needs
2. Family contact by Truancy Court Resource Officer within seven days of referral.

Intermediate Measurable Outcomes

1. Identify causes of non-attendance as measured by reports from TCCM and student/family.
2. Increased attendance in school as measured by reports. (the number of unexcused absences upon entering the program compared to ongoing unexcused absences during their participation in the program and upon successful release)
3. Increased positive school attendance and achievement. (The goal is for the youth to meet with behavioral outcome baseline %. The truancy court panel that consists of the Judge, case manager, Guardian ad Litem, Clerk and Court Administrator visit this topic on an ongoing and individual basis based on reports from the school and outcomes of the truancy court hearings)

4. Decreased school behavior problems, if originally identified. (Negative behaviors such as acting out in school, not following the rules, suspensions, grades, completing homework assignments and disciplinary issues regarding rules, behavior and authority).

Long Term Measurable Outcomes

1. Successful completion of Truancy Court, elimination of non-attendance problems.
2. Continued regular attendance, school achievement, and academic progress, as measured by follow-up surveys of school officials and family.

Measurable Outcome Statement (goal) that will allow for the evaluation of program effectiveness.

The Truancy Court program will reduce the percentage of unexcused absences by 10% in FY2024.

What data will be measured to determine if the program has reached or is making progress towards its Measurable Outcome Statement (goal)?

The truancy case manager will maintain statistics related to the percentage of unexcused absences for each student at the time they enter the program and the subsequent percentage of unexcused absences for each youth during their participation in the program. The numbers and percentages of each participant, at each data point, will be reported out cumulatively.

Target date for when measured change (program effectiveness) is expected to be determined. This date should be within the grant award period (state fiscal year 2024)?

6/30/2024

What is the baseline? *A baseline is a data reference from a previous achievement that the outcome is built upon. The baseline should be a concise measurement of the data, from the most recent complete fiscal year of data (ex. FY21), that measures the same thing the stated outcome proposes to measure in FY24.*

The baseline is a 10% reduction in unexcused absences.

Please describe any efforts within the program to address racial, ethnic, geographic and other biases that may exist with the program.

The truancy program has allowed families to appear via Zoom or has rescheduled hearings if they are unable to appear in-person on the scheduled hearing date. The program has also allowed participants to be accompanied by individuals who are at least 18 years old when a parent is unavailable due to work schedules or other circumstances. A participant with a non-English speaking parent brought another family member to hearings to translate for the parent.