

Policy Briefing Summary

City Council



Regarding:	Resolution to appropriate funds from the Charlottesville/Albemarle Adult Drug Treatment Court Grant Award - \$227,892 (2nd reading)
Staff Contact(s):	Taylor Harvey-Ryan, Grants Program Manager
Presenter:	Taylor Harvey-Ryan, Grants Program Manager
Date of Proposed Action:	October 5, 2026

Issue

The City of Charlottesville, on behalf of the Charlottesville/Albemarle Adult Drug Treatment Court has received a Supreme Court of Virginia Drug Treatment Court Grant in the amount of \$227,892.00 for operations of the drug court program, which is operated by Offender Aid and Restoration (OAR). The City of Charlottesville serves as fiscal agent for the Supreme Court of Virginia Drug Treatment Court Docket Grant.

Background / Rule

The City of Charlottesville, on behalf of the Charlottesville/Albemarle Adult Drug Treatment Court has received a Supreme Court of Virginia Drug Treatment Court Grant in the amount of \$227,892.00 for operations of the drug court program, which is operated by Offender Aid and Restoration (OAR). The City of Charlottesville serves as fiscal agent for the Supreme Court of Virginia Drug Treatment Court Docket Grant.

Analysis

In its twenty-ninth year of operation, the Charlottesville/Albemarle Adult Recovery Court is a supervised 12 month drug treatment program that serves as an alternative to incarceration for offenders. Recovery Court is a specialized docket within the existing structure of the court system given the responsibility to handle cases involving non-violent adult felony offenders with moderate to severe substance use disorders. The program uses the power of the court to assist non-violent offenders to achieve recovery through a collaborative system of intensive supervision, drug testing, substance abuse treatment, and regular court appearances.

The total program budget is **\$396,030** and includes three funding sources:

Supreme Court of VA - \$227,892

City of Charlottesville: \$106,139, which has already been appropriated

Albemarle County: \$61,999, which has already been appropriated

This relates to providing support for persons interacting with the legal or criminal justice system and the City of Charlottesville's priority Public Safety. Recovery Court directly affects the community by reducing recidivism among Recovery Court participants and graduates. Additionally, Recovery Court mitigates risk by reducing drug and alcohol use among program participants and graduates. Reduction of drug and alcohol use fosters participant rehabilitation, public safety, and participant accountability; all of which are factors in helping the community achieve its stated goals. Reduced recidivism results in reduced public cost associated with re-arrest and incarceration, a reduction in potential victims of crime, and overall enhanced quality of life for community residents. As the writers of the Adult Drug Court Best Practice Standards state, "Drug Courts improve communities by successfully getting justice-involved individuals clean and sober, stopping drug-related crime, reuniting broken families, ... and

preventing impaired driving” Not only is Recovery Court an effective agent of change, it is an extremely cost effective approach. Numerous meta-analyses have concluded that Recovery Courts produce an average return on investment of \$2 to \$4 for every \$1 invested. Because of the above, ensuring that the 28 year old Recovery Court program remains available to residents of the City of Charlottesville and Albemarle County will help the community achieve its goals.

The Recovery Court is a direct service provider and is engaged daily with non-violent criminal offenders with drug driven crimes who are at a high level of risk for reoffending due to active addictions and long standing patterns of criminal behavior. By collaborating with the Court system, Region Ten Community Services Board, Addiction Allies, and the Sheriff's department, the Recovery Court provides these offenders with a highly structured, rigorously supervised system of treatment and criminal case processing that results in a significant reduction in recidivism rates for program participants and graduates. Participants gain access to the Recovery Court through referrals from police, probation, magistrates, defense attorneys and other local stakeholders. Participants have active criminal cases pending in the Circuit Court. If they successfully complete the program which takes a minimum of 12 months, participants may have their pending charges reduced or dismissed. If participants are unsuccessful and have to be terminated from the program, they return to court to face their original charges. Successful Recovery Court participants return the community's investment in them by maintaining full time, tax paying employment, providing for and taking care of their children and families including paying off back child support, behaving as good role models in the community, and supporting the recovery community in Charlottesville.

Financial Impact

There is no financial impact to the City, as the required match for this grant is \$106,139 which was appropriated as a part of the Fy 2027 Council Approved Budget as a part of the City's contribution to Offender Aid and Restoration.

Recommendation

Staff recommends the appropriation of the \$227,892.00 from the Supreme Court of Virginia to support the Charlottesville/ Albemarle Adult Recovery Court.

Recommended Motion (if Applicable)

I move to approve the resolution appropriating \$227,892 from the Supreme Court of Virginia to support the Charlottesville/ Albemarle Adult Recovery Court.

Attachments

1. FY27 Adult Recovery Court Resolution