



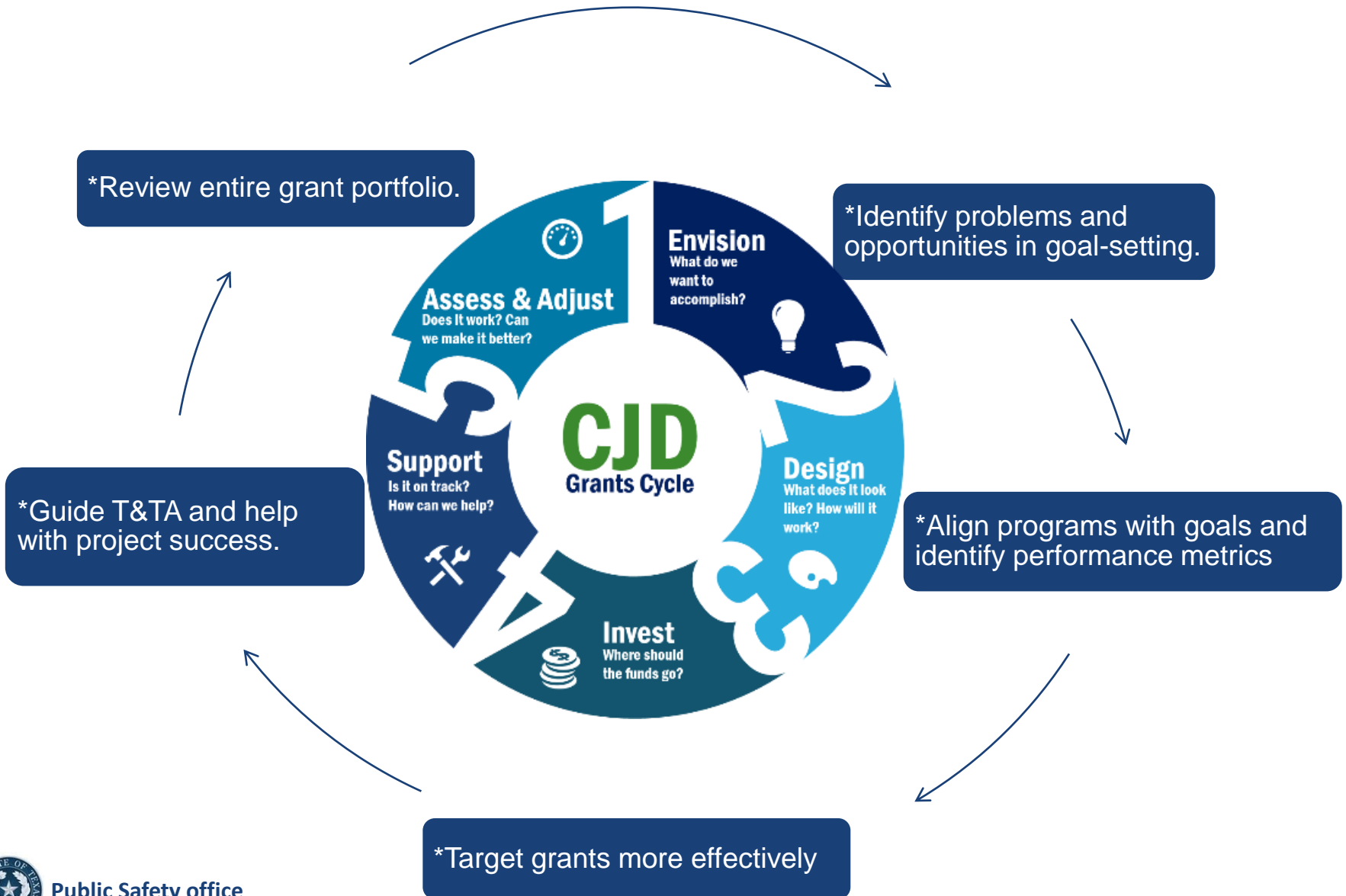
**Public Safety Office**  
**Office of the Governor**

# Performance Management Process

## *Specialty Courts*

October 2018

# Grant Planning Cycle



# What is a Specialty/Drug Court?

## Definition and Key Points

*“Drug courts are specialized court docket programs that target criminal defendants and offenders, juvenile offenders, and parents with pending child welfare cases who have alcohol and other drug dependency problems. Although drug courts vary in target populations and resources, programs are generally managed by a multidisciplinary team including judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, community corrections officers, social workers, and treatment service professionals. Support from stakeholders representing law enforcement, the family, and the community is encouraged through participation in hearings, programming, and events such as graduation.”*

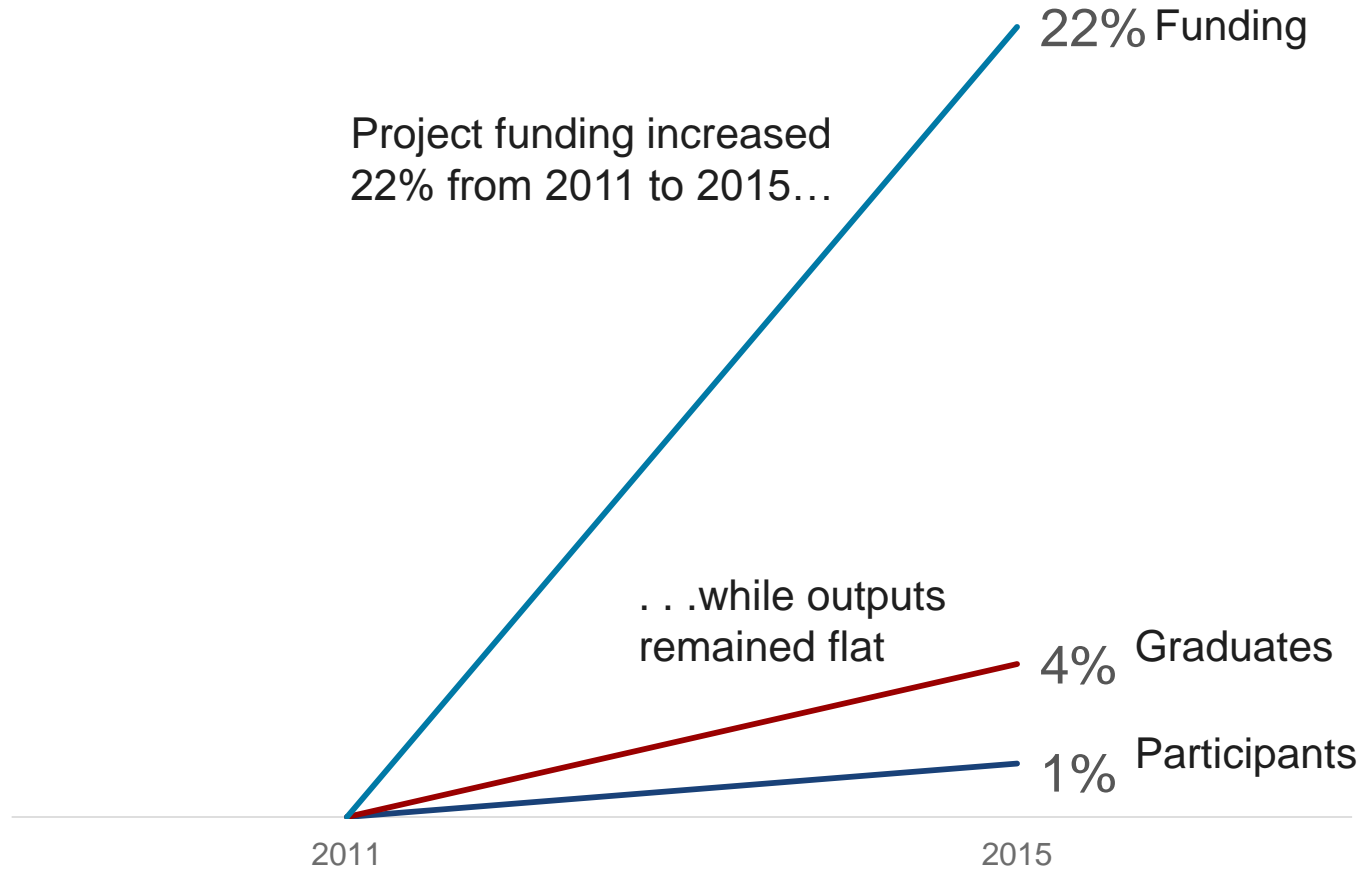
-“Drug Courts”, NCJ 238527. <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/238527.pdf>

- Targeted criminal population
- “High risk, high need” (for drug courts)
- Specialized treatment
- Alternative to incarceration



# Specialty Courts Performance Assessment

Problem: As funding level increased, outputs were not. Also, inputs were poorly measured and outcomes were not measured at all



# Specialty Courts Performance Assessment

Short-term: Analyzed short-term data to identify low-performing and poorly designed projects. Used analysis to inform immediate investment choices.

Grant	Reason for discontinued funding recommendation
1	53% of reported participants are low-risk
2	52% of reported participants are low-risk
3	83% of reported participants are low-risk
4	71% of reported participants are low-risk
5	64% of reported participants are low-risk
6	Lack of graduates - only 2 graduates in 18 months
7	Lack of participants - only 4 participants in 18 months

## Results

- Specialty courts funding stabilized at 5-year low
- Awarded new statewide training and technical assistance grant to address grantee challenges identified during the design process



# Specialty Courts Performance Assessment

Medium-term: Implement and refine full performance measurement system to inform future program planning and investments

- Develop benchmarks from best practices and grantee feedback
- Refine performance management system through further data collection and validation of metrics
- Examine high performing grants to inform training and technical assistance (T&TA)

Benchmarks for a Felony Drug Court:

Benchmark	Your Court	FY17 Adult Drug Court Average	Best Practice
Number of participants	96	89	NA
Number of graduates	27	25	NA
Graduation Rate	56%	71%	NA
Average time graduates spent in program (months)	14.3	17.0	NA
Percent of graduates employed or otherwise supported	100%	95%	100%
Percent of participants with low-risk TRAS score	2%	18%	0%
Average number of court sessions per month	3.7	2.0	2/1*

\*Adult Drug Court Best Practice Standards call for at least one session every two weeks only for phase 1, followed by at least one session every four weeks until the final phase.



# Specialty Courts Performance Assessment

Long-term: use outcome data to gauge program and project success

Supervision Type and Rearrest Timeframe	Re-arrest recidivism <sup>1</sup>
Within 1 year of release from State Jail	39%
Within 1 year of release from an intermediate sanction facility	33%
Within 1 year of release from Prison	23%
Within 1 year of beginning of Felony Community Supervision	21%
Within 1 year of start of parole	21%
Within 1 year of release from an in-prison therapeutic community program	20%
Within 1 year of release from SAFPF	20%
<b>Within 1 year of release from CJD Specialty Courts</b>	<b>16%<sup>2</sup></b>

*Problems: Different years, does not account for risk profiles, sampling bias (only CJD-funded)*

<sup>1</sup> “Statewide Criminal and Juvenile Justice Recidivism and Revocation Rates” January 2017, Legislative Budget Board. [http://www.lbb.state.tx.us/Documents/Publications/Policy\\_Report/3138\\_Stwide\\_Crim\\_Just\\_Recid\\_Revoc.pdf](http://www.lbb.state.tx.us/Documents/Publications/Policy_Report/3138_Stwide_Crim_Just_Recid_Revoc.pdf)  
Recidivism rates are averages of one-year rearrest recidivism reported for years 2011, 2012, and 2013

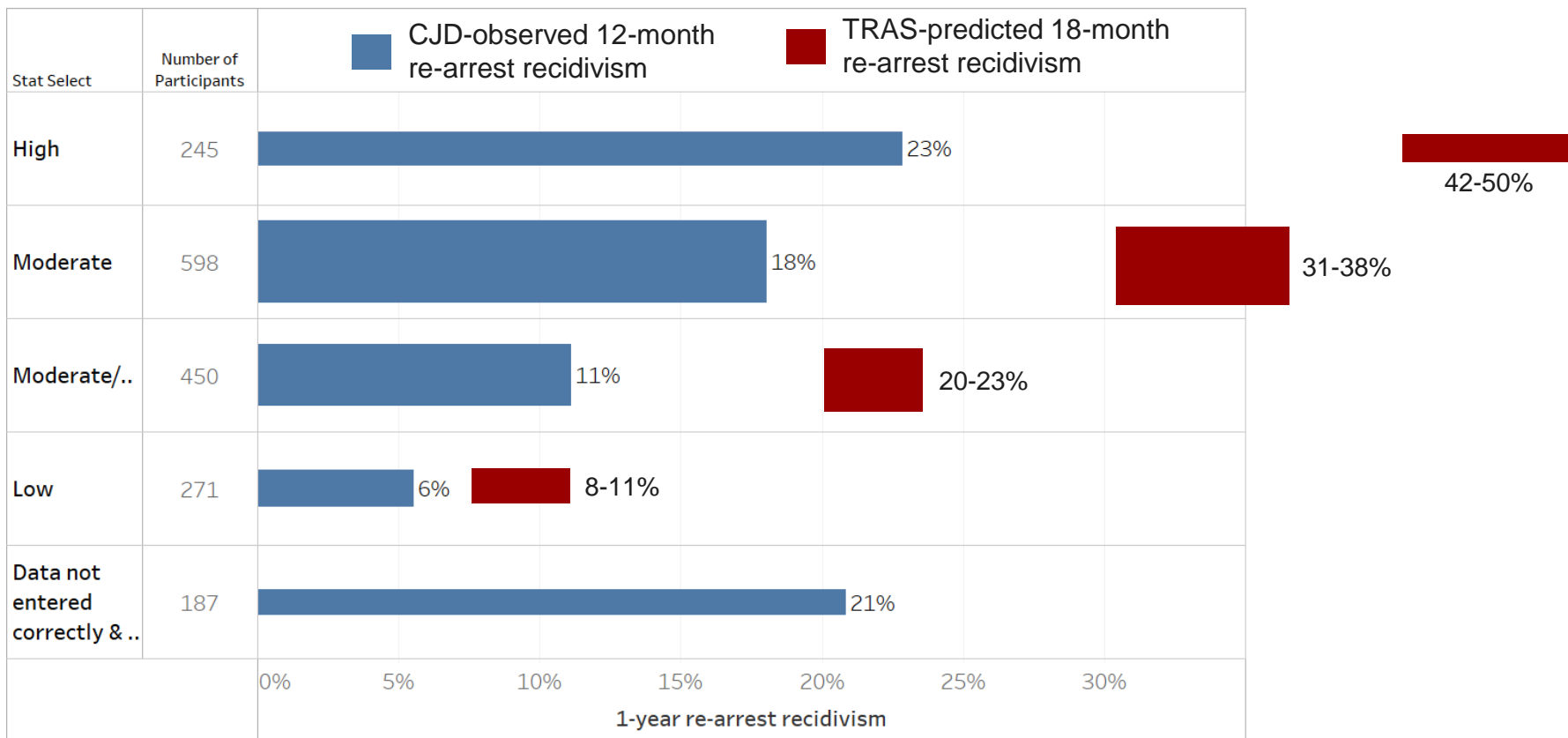
<sup>2</sup> “Portfolio Review: Recidivism Reduction and Community Supervision” February 2018, Office of the Governor – Criminal Justice Division (unpublished).



# Specialty Courts Performance Assessment

Long-term: use outcome data to gauge program and project success

Validity Test - All by Risk (Felony Tool)



*Problems: timeframe mismatch, inconsistent reporting, risk profile = poor comparison group*





# Applying Performance Assessment

## Goals for other PSO programs

- Efficiency gains in application review and grants management.
- Using data to inform training, technical assistance, and other support.
- Better coordination with stakeholders and grantees through sharing of performance and contextual data.
- Ability to measure success of grants and programs.
- Performance-informed grant-level and program-level decisions.

