

TASC diverts eligible individuals away from the justice system and helps them change their lives.

TASC, Inc. is an Illinois-based nonprofit agency committed to reducing justice involvement and its consequences by offering broad-scale solutions and by serving adults and adolescents who have a variety of social and health-related needs.

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Diversion and Alternatives to Incarceration

The majority of men and women who enter the criminal justice system have a substance use disorder, a mental health problem, or both. As the cornerstone of our mission, TASC strives to prevent the unnecessary and expensive incarceration of people who have substance use or mental health conditions.

TASC serves both individuals and the justice system by facilitating solid connections to treatment and recovery support in the community. We help individuals get into and remain in the services they need, and we guide them as they progress to self-sufficiency. Our diversion and alternative-to-incarceration programs reduce burdens on the justice system, reduce recidivism, save criminal justice costs, and increase health for individuals and communities.

Pre-Arrest and Prosecutorial Diversion

Designed and implemented by local law enforcement (pre-arrest diversion, or “deflection”) and state’s attorneys (prosecutorial diversion), diversion programs at the front end of the justice system can connect eligible individuals to health and social services instead of further entry into the justice system. In pre-arrest diversion, the individual is deflected to community-based services in lieu of arrest. In prosecutorial diversion, sentencing is deferred while participants engage in supervised programming in the community, and charges may be dropped after participants complete the program successfully. TASC is available to support law enforcement and state’s attorneys’ offices in developing diversion programs, screening individuals for program eligibility, conducting assessments to determine participants’ clinical needs, and facilitating referrals to appropriate services.

Probation and Court Services

For individuals whose offenses are related to a substance use or mental health problem, TASC helps individuals access the clinical services they need and also remain accountable to the mandates of the court. In jurisdictions across Illinois, TASC conducts clinical assessments, advocates treatment for those who need it, develops individualized service plans, places clients into appropriate treatment and recovery support, provides reports to the court, and offers ongoing monitoring and guidance over many months as clients work their way through the recovery process. TASC supports clients as they progress toward goals such as education, employment, housing, and other building blocks of stable recovery.

Matching individuals to the right types and levels of services, and following through with case management, not only improves individuals’ success, but also assures the efficient use of limited resources. Longer-term case management also provides continuity to ensure that individuals remain in services long enough to make substantial changes in their lives.

Making a Difference

People who receive TASC’s specialized case management services have significantly better outcomes than people who do not receive TASC’s services. For instance, formal evaluations show that individuals referred to substance use treatment by justice, corrections, or child welfare systems are significantly more likely to complete treatment when they also receive TASC specialized case management.

Working together with government systems and community-based service providers across Illinois, TASC helps create healthier families and safer communities.