

# Prosecutorial Diversion & TASC

*Saving Criminal Justice Costs while  
Accessing Clinical Resources*

## **Benefits of Prosecutorial Diversion**

Programs that divert first-time and low-level drug offenders out of the criminal justice system and into drug education or treatment programs can save the heavy criminal justice costs of further prosecution, defense attorneys, judicial services, court personnel, filing fees, and potentially detention. In addition, they promote justice by addressing the social, medical and personal factors associated with crime and recidivism, and providing services that reduce the individual's likelihood to reoffend.

## **TASC Can Help**

In conjunction with local prosecuting attorneys' offices and substance abuse treatment providers, TASC (Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities) creates and implements diversion programs designed to interrupt the cycle of substance abuse and crime in adults and juveniles before that cycle evolves into a pattern of addiction and criminal behavior. Such programs offer diversion options to prosecutors while maintaining the accountability of the offender.

In Cook County, Illinois, the State's Attorney's Drug Abuse Program (SADAP) identifies first-time and low-level drug offenders and places selected eligible participants in drug education classes. Participant assessments are conducted by TASC, and drug education services are provided by community-based treatment providers. Eligible participants include those who have been charged with low levels of:

- Possession of cannabis
- Possession of cannabis with intent to deliver
- Possession of a controlled substance
- Possession of a controlled substance with intent to deliver

The program has proven to be a successful and cost-effective diversion option for thousands of adult and juvenile offenders. Nine out of ten enrolled participants have completed attendance at all required drug education classes. Upon successful completion, participants may elect to have the offense expunged from their record.

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## **Offering Specialized Programming**

In addition to providing drug education and access to treatment to eligible participants, prosecutorial diversion programs can provide added services that respond to the particular needs of the community. TASC has designed specialized services for prosecutorial diversion, including:

- Gender-responsive drug education and intervention services to address issues specific to female offenders.
- Juvenile-focused programming to focus on the entrepreneurial aspects of juvenile drug involvement.
- On-site intake locations in district courts as well as branch courts.

## **About TASC**

Since 1976, TASC, Inc. has facilitated access to community-based treatment and recovery for persons with alcohol and drug problems who are involved in public systems such as criminal justice, corrections, child welfare, and public aid. Providing independent case management services throughout Illinois, TASC collaborates closely with treatment providers, policymakers, donors, and academic research institutions to achieve the most efficient use of clinical and financial resources.

For more information on how TASC can help your organization, please call (312) 573-8210.