The Colorado JDTR focuses on veterans with Trauma Spectrum Disorders (i.e. Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Major Depression, Anxiety Disorders, and co-occurring substance use disorders). The grant operates a pilot site in the 4th Judicial District (Colorado Springs), and expansion sites in the 2nd Judicial District (Denver) and 18th Judicial District (Arapahoe, Douglas, Elbert, and Lincoln Counties), which has the largest population of National Guard and Army Reserve service members in Colorado. Diversion occurs post-arraignment through veterans treatment courts. The majority of pilot participants are referred to the VA or to their military base for behavioral health services. The grant is transitioning its focus to statewide change, with a focus on the training of Colorado communities in trauma-informed care and working with returning veterans. The State Advisory Committee includes representatives from the Governor’s Office, legislative representatives, behavioral health providers, behavioral health advocates, criminal justice agencies, National Guard, Army Reserve, and the Colorado Domestic Violence Offender Management Board.

**Statewide Rollout and Sustainability**

The Program has developed a Sustainability Committee. The program’s success influenced state legislation to pass House Bill 10-1104, authorizing judicial districts to establish veteran treatment courts. The program has received grants from the Colorado legislature, the State Division of Veterans Affairs, and SAMHSA to continue or expand aspects of the program. Members of the Sustainability Subcommittee have been working with leadership from the Peak Military Care Network and the National Homeland Defense Foundation to develop a 501(c)3 to raise funds to cover ongoing treatment and wrap-around services for veterans and their families.

**Point of Diversion**

Intercept 3 – Diversion occurs in the Fourth JD VTC, the Second JD veterans track of the adult drug court, and the Eighteenth JD VTC

**Summary of JDTR Features**

**Trauma-Informed Care**

A goal of the program is to develop local champions of trauma-informed behavioral health and criminal justice initiatives in Colorado communities. This was kicked-off by the CO Office of Behavioral Health’s summit on trauma-informed care. The grant has trained 2,000+ behavioral health and justice system practitioners from over twelve Colorado counties in “Taking Off the Pack: PTSD, TBI and the Returning Veteran”. Audiences have included schools, service organizations, and service providers. The program plans to extend the training to the legislature.

**Veteran/Peer Involvement**

VTC program graduates are being used for mentoring and peer support. The Program is looking for an agency to take over operation of the peer program. Various funding sources to fund the peer program are being considered including SAMHSA. The Colorado Division of Military and Veterans Affairs provided $109,000 program to expand the Peer program.
# COLORADO

## Colorado Jail Diversion and Trauma Recovery Priority to Veterans Program

| Grant awarded September 2008 - ending September 2014 (with no-cost extension) |

---

## Program Overview

The Colorado JDTR focuses on veterans with Trauma Spectrum Disorders (i.e. Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Major Depression, Anxiety Disorders, and co-occurring substance use disorders). The grant operates a pilot site in the 4th Judicial District (Colorado Springs), and expansion sites in the 2nd Judicial District (Denver) and 18th Judicial District (Arapahoe, Douglas, Elbert, and Lincoln Counties), which has the largest population of National Guard and Army Reserve service members in Colorado. Diversion occurs post arraignment through veterans treatment courts. The majority of pilot participants are referred to the VA or to their military base for behavioral health services. The grant is transitioning its focus to statewide change, with a focus on the training of Colorado communities in trauma-informed care and working with returning veterans. The State Advisory Committee includes representatives from the Governor’s Office, legislative representatives, behavioral health providers, behavioral health advocates, criminal justice agencies, National Guard, Army Reserve, and the Colorado Domestic Violence Offender Management Board.

## Statewide Rollout

### Key Stakeholder Involvement

The State Advisory Committee (with most of its members) will be absorbed into the new Colorado Serves, Service Members, Veterans and their Families Committee, which has formed in relation to the SMVF initiative. Peers will be members of this new committee.

### Leadership and Organizational Changes at the State Level

Laura Williams, the JDTR Project Director, will co-chair the Colorado Serves, Service Members, Veterans and their Families Committee along with the Assistant Director of the CO Division of Military and Veterans Affairs.

### Training

In terms of statewide training efforts, "Taking Off The Pack: PTSD, TBI, and the Returning Veterans" has been delivered to well over 2,500 justice system practitioners, schools, service organizations, and service providers in 16 counties across the state. Recently incorporated into the training was the Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE) Study and Secondary Trauma Burnout.

### Policy Changes

State legislation (HB 10-1104) authorizing judicial districts to establish veterans treatment courts.

### Other Legacy Accomplishments

Ten Colorado jails now screen for TBI. The CO JDTR staff have provided consultation, contact, lessons learned, materials, and data to two additional Judicial Districts interested in starting Veterans Trauma Courts (the First and Seventh). The JDTR lead evaluator wrote a journal article on the 4th Judicial District's VTC that was recently published in the Journal of Substance Use and Misuse. Screening for Traumatic Brain Injury was included as a requirement of agency recipients of the Colorado State Jail-Based Behavioral Health Services grant which is a direct result of JDTR grant activities. In March 2014 the CO Veterans Treatment Court, whose development was funded by SAMHSA's Jail Diversion and Trauma Recovery - Priority to Veterans grant, was chosen by the National Institute of Corrections as 1 of 6 sites to be included in an NIC White Paper that will serve as a “Promising Practices” guide for Veterans Specialty Courts at the state and local levels.