

RSAT

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

16.593 RSAT Grant Program

Residential Substance Abuse Treatment for State Offenders Grants (CFDA # 16.593): The Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 establishes a program of federal grants administered by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. This program, known as Residential Substance Abuse Treatment for State Prisoners (RSAT), assists states and units of local government in developing and implementing residential substance abuse treatment programs within state and local correctional and detention facilities.

“Drug users are involved in approximately three to five times the number of crimes as arrestees who do not use drugs. Approximately three-fourths of prison inmates and over half of those in jails or on probation are substance abusers, yet only 10 to 20 percent of prison inmates participate in treatment while incarcerated. Simply punishing drug-dependent criminals is not enough. If crime is to be reduced permanently, addiction must be treated. Treatment while in prison and under post incarceration supervision can reduce recidivism by roughly 50 percent.”¹

Illegal drug use continues to be a major factor in crime and violence in America. A study by the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University (CASA) showed that 1.4 million offenders-or 80 percent of the 1.7 million incarcerated adults-were either high on drugs or alcohol when arrested, stole property to buy drugs, or have a history of drug and alcohol abuse. The study also suggested that residential treatment along with appropriate aftercare could reduce relapse and recidivism.

Approximately 70-80 percent of all state prison inmates are in need of substance abuse treatment according to a Corrections Program Office sponsored survey of state departments of corrections conducted in the fall of 1997. On average about 12.7 percent of the inmates in reporting states are receiving treatment on any given day, and only 15.3 percent complete a prescribed substance abuse treatment program prior to release from confinement. The respondents also estimate that just over one-third of those in need of treatment in the community following release will receive it.²

Proven treatment along with education, job training, and health care can significantly impact the economy and crime reduction. According to the CASA study, the cost of such rehabilitation would average about \$6,500 per year. Each inmate who successfully completes such treatment and becomes a law-abiding, tax-paying citizen would generate a ten-fold return on that investment in the first year. Comparatively, an estimated

reduction of one million crimes per year could be realized for every 10,000 drug – addicted inmates who stay off drugs and crime after release.³ Drug treatment for offenders while in custody is a logical, convenient, and cost-effective point of intervention in the fight to reduce crime and recidivism.⁴

The Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act, Pub. L. 90-351, Title I, 82 stat.197 (1968), as amended, provides funds to the states, through the Residential Substance Abuse Treatment for State Prisoners (RSAT) Program, to develop or enhance substance abuse treatment programs for offenders. It authorizes the Attorney General to award formula grants for substance abuse treatment programs in state and local correctional facilities.

The award will be made to the state office that is designated under Section 507 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act, codified at 42 U.S.C. 3757, to administer the Edward Byrne Memorial State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance Formula Grant Program. The state office may award subgrants to state **agencies** and units of local government.
