



Florida Smart Justice Alliance 2013 Priority Issues

Adult Civil Citation: This innovative idea is based on the 17-year-old concept of Juvenile Civil Citations. Adult Civil Citations (ACC) is a discretionary tool used by law enforcement officers when they wish to divert a first-time, non-violent misdemeanor from being arrested. It is similar to a Notice to Appear, but this has a treatment component. The cost of the treatment is borne by the defendant. If the treatment regimen, including community service hours, is completed successfully, the defendant does not have an arrest record. This two-year pilot program is being tested in Leon County, Florida, starting in 2013. For more information, please go to: <http://www.discvillage.com/sACC.html>

Legislation required? No
Funding required? No

Expand Community Drug Treatment: The Florida Department of Corrections (DOC) uses community residential drug treatment as part of its rehabilitative programs for non-violent probationers who have been identified as having substance abuse problems. These programs are for individuals who continue to fail their probation requirements due to continued drug use. The court utilizes these programs as a final intervention option prior to commitment to prison. Because these programs are cost-efficient, the recommendation is to fully fund the existing 1,061 beds as well as restore the capacity to the 2003 levels by adding 1,000 beds.

Legislation required? No
Funding required? Yes - \$ 1.3 million for existing beds and \$18 million for 1,000 beds to be restored

Reinvestment Grants: The Criminal Justice, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Reinvestment matching grant program provides funds to help communities develop and/or expand treatment alternatives to jails, prisons and state forensic hospital placements. Funds are provided through the Department of Children & Families for a three-year period. All grants must be matched 100% by the grantee counties and may include in-kind contributions. Grants can be used to fund initiatives such as mental health courts, diversion and re-entry programs, specialized law enforcement training, housing or employment services designed to support recovery in the community.

Legislation required? No
Funding required? Continue existing funding at \$3 million

Community-based Forensic Alternatives: Cross-over collaboration among the courts, the Legislature, and the Department of Children & Families is recommended to fundamentally rebuild the forensic delivery system to provide more effective and less costly treatment and prevention in local communities. This can be accomplished through community alternatives that divert individuals charged with less serious offenses from state forensic facilities to placement in community-based competency restoration and community reintegration programs.

Legislation required? Yes
Funding required? Yes - \$3.75 million

Continuation of Drug Court Expansion: Drugs courts provide a treatment-based alternative to incarceration for drug-related offenders. These programs keep non-violent offenders out of prison by providing community-based judicial supervision and intensive addiction treatment, and are proven to have lower rates of recidivism than inmates within Florida's correctional system. This means greater initial and long-term savings to the state. This initiative expanded the post-adjudicatory drug courts. Federal funding for this program expires June 30, 2013. The state Office of State Courts Administrator estimates this initiative has prevented more than \$18 million in prison costs to date.

Legislation required? No
Funding required? Yes - \$5.8 million

Ensuring Proper Identification for Released Offenders: A priority issue raised at the 2012 Justice Summit. Each and every inmate leaving prison, where possible, will be issued a government-issued identification card that will assist the inmate in returning to society at the end of his or her sentence. This ID card can be used to help secure a job and housing, which hopefully can lead to a lower recidivism rate for Florida inmates.

Legislation Required: Yes
Funding Required: Yes - less than \$2 million

Correctional Detention Treatment Programs: Florida currently has about 100,000 inmates in prison, of whom 40,000 are in for less than 39 months. The preponderance of these inmates are non-violent drug abusers (not traffickers) who have substance abuse, mental health or co-occurring disorders. By treating these inmates' underlying issues, Florida will have a better chance of reducing recidivism and thus creating fewer new crime victims. Each of these inmates, as they near the end of their sentences, can receive treatment at a DOC-built 400-bed prison in one of three locations (Baker, Gadsden and Miami-Dade counties), which are currently sitting empty. DOC would continue to assign inmates to these facilities at its discretion; no inmate is guaranteed treatment so no new cause of action will be created.

Legislation Required: Yes
Funding Required: Yes - about \$24 million, including 900 beds for Work Release expansion

Expand Re-entry Sentencing Options: This bill, a project of District Court of Appeal Judge Melanie May, is similar to HB 177, which was introduced in the 2012 legislative session and received overwhelming support from both the Florida Senate and House. The proposal provides judges with more discretion in their sentencing alternatives for inmates who are recommended for behavioral health care treatment.

Legislation Required: Yes
Funding Required: No

Juvenile Justice Education: The goal is to expand and improve on educational services for youth in the juvenile justice system. This can be accomplished by offering online, career and technical education; coordination of re-entry into public schools; improving accountability; GED testing when appropriate; and proper instructor accreditation.

Legislation required? Yes - HB441 filed by Rep. Janet Adkins
Funding required? Yes

The [Florida Smart Justice Alliance](#) is a coalition of organizations committed to changes in Florida's criminal justice and corrections system to make Florida's communities safer, save the taxpayers money and hold offenders accountable while providing the tools for them to live law-abiding lives. Not every priority issue requires legislative action. The FSJA supports local law enforcement and community coalitions in incorporating smarter justice policies at a local level.