



# CAOJ

**Council of Accountability Court Judges  
of Georgia**



# Introductions



**TAYLOR JONES**

Executive Director



**JOSH BECKER**

Assistant Director



**RACHEL MEYER**

Data and Research  
Program Manager



# Purpose

**The purpose of the Council will be to effectively carry forth the constitutional by-laws and legislative responsibility (HB 328) to improve accountability courts and their quality through the expertise of Judges. Another purpose and focus will be to establish standards and practices for all drug court divisions based on the National Drug Court Institute and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration with a state goal of reducing recidivism of offenders with drug abuse problems.**



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# Key Partnerships

O.C.G.A. §15 -1-18

Administrative Office of the Courts

[JC/AOC – Judicial Council of Georgia /  
Administrative Office of the Courts  
\(georgiacourts.gov\)](http://georgiacourts.gov)

Criminal Justice Coordinating Council

[Criminal Justice Coordinating Council  
\(georgia.gov\)](http://georgia.gov)

We would not be successful without their support.



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# CACJ Objectives



Take Georgia's accountability courts to scale



Reduce incarceration rates



Determine funding priorities



Encourage adherence to standards



Save lives and restore families



# Mission Statement

**To provide a unified framework that promotes and improves the quality, accessibility and administration of accountability courts.**



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# Our Mission & Goal



## OUR MISSION

To provide a unified framework that promotes and improves the quality, accessibility and administration of accountability courts.



## OUR GOAL

Making Accountability Courts Work to Benefit all Georgians



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# Guiding Principles



Equitable to all  
CACJ recognized  
courts



Sets achievable  
expectations and  
goals



Efficiently makes  
use of resources



Sustainable for the  
long term



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# Guiding Principles



Adheres to evidence-based research and best practices



Enhances public safety



Transparent to all



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# Strategic Objectives



Implement effective communication, education, and training



Secure and responsibly allocate sufficient funding

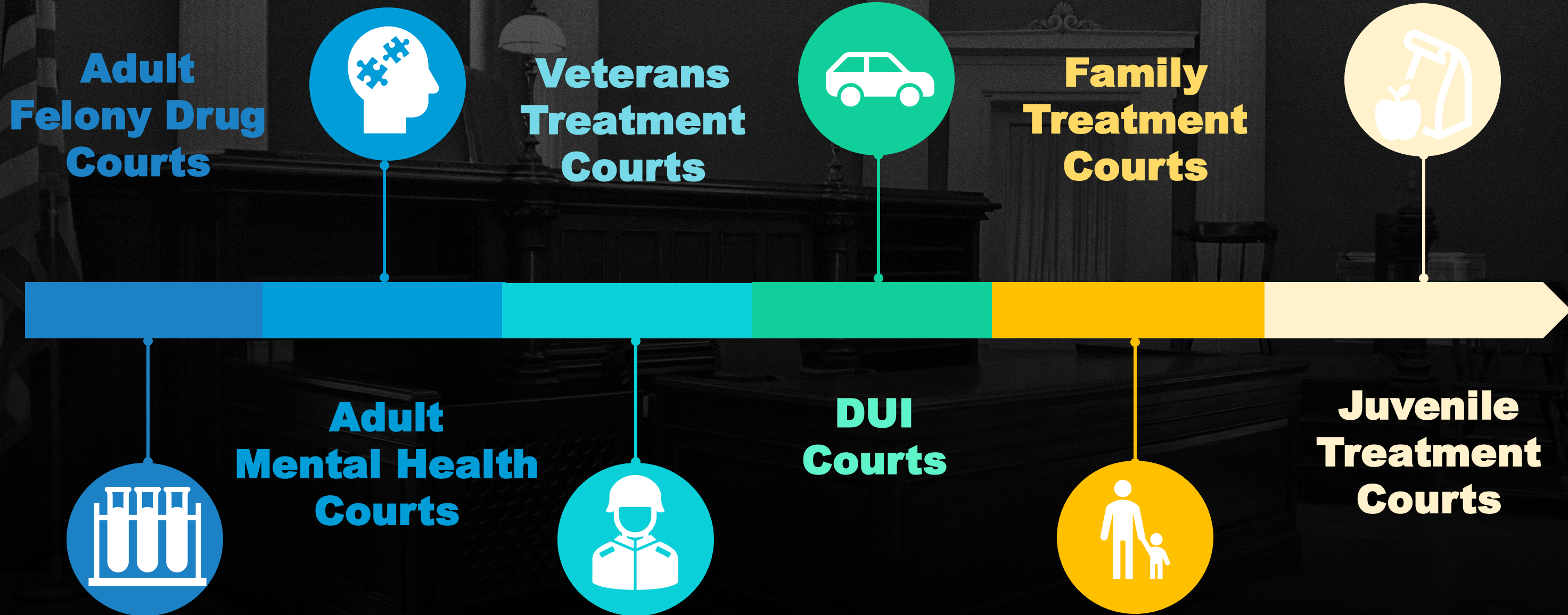


Create, promote, and enforce standards and policies



# CACJ Statutes, Constitution, By-Laws, and Rules

[Statutes, Rules, & Bylaws | Council of Accountability Court Judges \(georgia.gov\)](https://cacj.georgia.gov)



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# Council Membership & Standing Committees

- Executive Committee
- Training Committee
- Standards & Certification Committee
- Legislation Committee
- Nominations Committee
- Funding Committee
- Data and Research Committee
- Treatment Committee



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COUNCIL OF  
ACCOUNTABILITY  
COURT JUDGES

# Council Staff

*Helping Georgians Recover*

[CACJ Staff Directory | Council of Accountability  
Court Judges \(georgia.gov\)](https://cacj.georgia.gov)



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# Key Technical Assistance Offerings



- 01 | Certification and Peer Review
- 02 | Treatment Fidelity Monitoring
- 03 | Court Training and Education
- 04 | Data Collection and Analysis
- 05 | Medication Assisted Treatment



# Key Technical Assistance Offerings

01 | Certification and Peer Review

04 | Data Collection and Analysis



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# Georgia Accountability Court **Standards**

- Statutorily required for state funded accountability courts
- Developed and adopted by CACJ - Georgia judges
- Based on national research and best practices
  - Ten Key Components; Best Practice Standards Vol I & II; Essential Elements of MHC
- Improve court operations and outcomes



# 01a | Certification

- Primarily a paper audit
- Required by statute to receive state funding
- Application follows the Georgia Standards
- Court must indicate they meet the requirement and attach supporting documentation (P&P Manual, Participant Handbook, MOU, Tx Calendar...)
- No site visit component – self-report



# 01a | Certification

Key Components Adopted Standards Certification Requirements	Suggested Location, if any	Documentation	Mandatory Requirement OR Best Practice
<b>Key Component 1</b> <b>Courts integrate alcohol and other drug treatment services with justice system case processing.</b>			
<b>Adopted Standards Benchmark 1.1</b> Pursuant to statute, each court shall establish an accountability court team to create a work plan for the court. The work plan shall, “address the operational, coordination, resource, information management, and evaluation needs” of the court, and shall include all policies and practices related to implementing the standards set forth in this document.			<b>Mandatory Requirement</b>
<b>Certification Requirement 1.1</b> Ensure both the names and organizational affiliation of the court’s advisory committee, or those persons who are responsible for the ongoing planning of the court, clearly listed. (May be constituted by representatives of the accountability court team, although it is recommended to include community partners and evaluation expertise.)	Policy and Procedure Manual, Memoranda(um) of Agreement/Understanding (MOA/MOU)	Does your court meet this requirement? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No  Is there an attachment(s) to support this requirement? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Title(s) of the attachment(s) _____ Relevant page number(s) _____	
<b>Adopted Standards Benchmark 1.3</b> The court team shall collaboratively develop, review, and agree upon all aspects of court operations (mission, goals, eligibility criteria, operating procedures, performance measures, orientation, drug testing, and program structure guidelines) prior to commencement of program operations.			<b>Mandatory Requirement</b>
<b>Certification Requirement 1.3</b> Ensure the court program has each of the following documented: 1. Written Mission Statement <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Written Program Goals <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Written Eligibility Requirements <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Written Operating Procedures <input type="checkbox"/> 5. Written Urine Testing Procedures <input type="checkbox"/> 6. Written Guidelines for Placement Levels <input type="checkbox"/> 7. Written Incentive/Sanction Guidelines <input type="checkbox"/>	Policy and Procedure Manual	Does your court meet this requirement? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No  Is there an attachment(s) to support this requirement? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Title(s) of the attachment(s) _____ Relevant page number(s) _____	



# 01a | Certification

- CACJ Rules require for courts to meet all mandatory requirements to earn full certification
- Programs that earn a provisional certification are given the opportunity to address the committee's recommendations and resubmit for full consideration
  - Provisional Certification, 3 – 6 months
  - Full Certification, 2 years
  - Waiver for new programs, 6 months



# 01b | Peer Review

- Required by statute (every 3 years)
  - Improves court processes and participant outcomes
- Implemented in place of centralized audit/state reviews
  - Colleagues and subject matter experts
  - Worked with NPC Research to develop
- Peer team
  - Judge, coordinator, treatment representative from similar court
  - CACJ staff member attends each site visit



# 01b | Peer Review

- Planning Stage:
  - CACJ staff makes initial contact and gathers court dates
  - Connects with peer team (scheduling is the hardest part)
  - Site completes cover page
  - Site visit and interview schedule
  - Best practices survey



# 01b | Peer Review

On the ground:

- Two-day site visit – in-person is preferred, but may be virtual or hybrid
  - Observe staffing and court
  - Interview team members
  - Participant focus group
  - Exit interview

Post visit:

- CACJ staff and peer team complete report over next several weeks
- Send report, allow feedback, then finalized



# Fidelity Models

Work together to ensure accountability courts operate to standards and best practices.



**CERTIFICATION.**



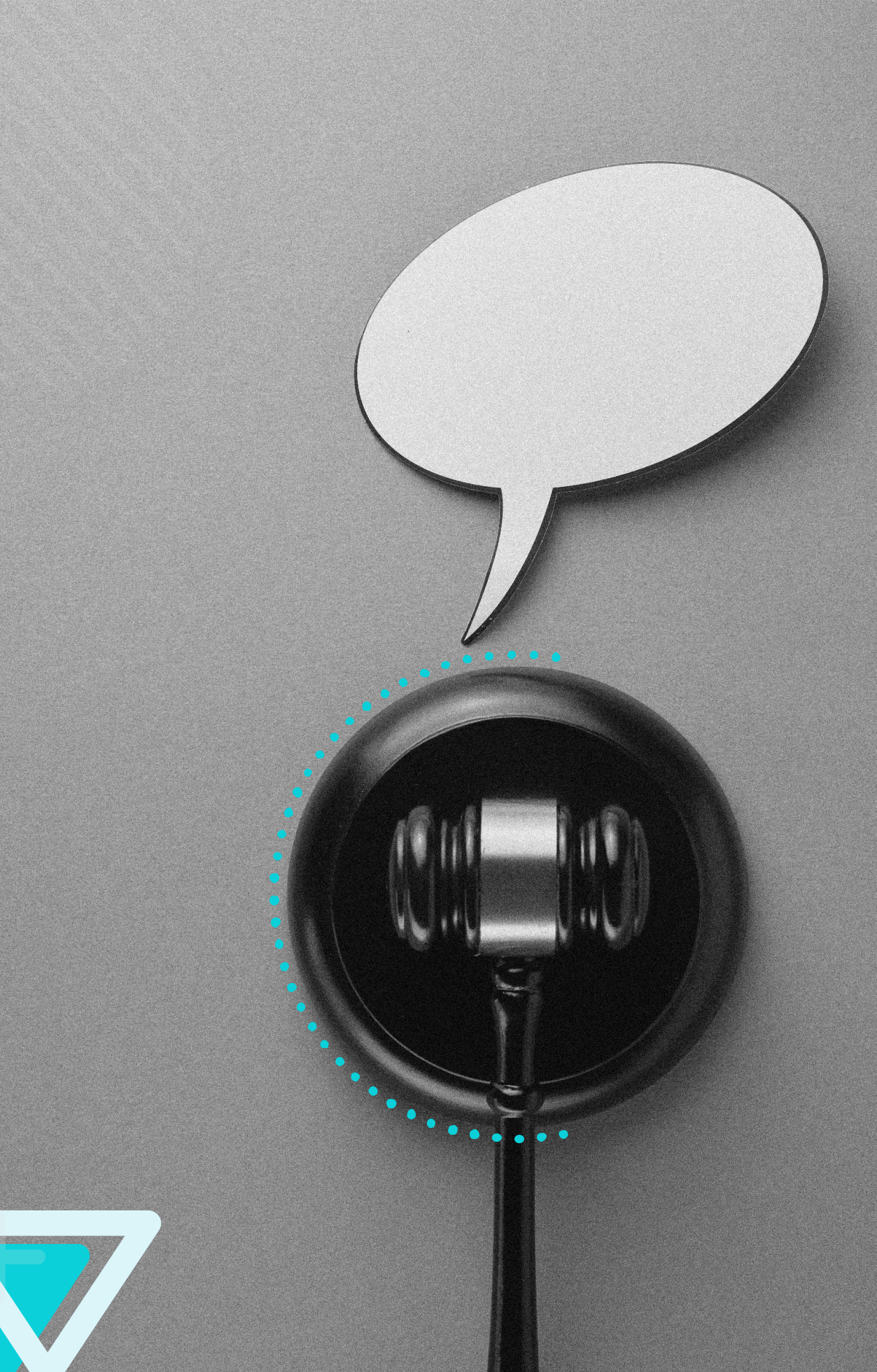
**PEER REVIEW.**



**DATA COLLECTION.**



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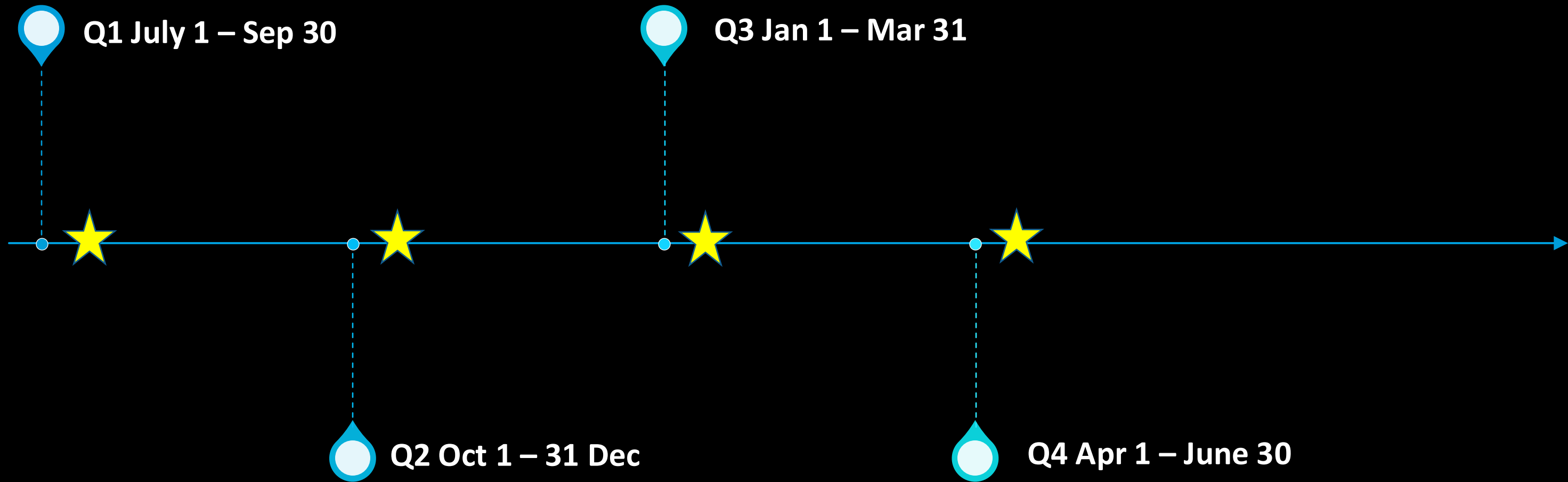


# Key Performance Indicators

- Number of adult offenders served
- Adult and juvenile diversion savings
- Number of state-funded accountability courts
- Number of juvenile offenders diverted
- Number of adult and juvenile graduates
- Total drug tests administered
- Total number of treatment sessions conducted
- Number of children reunited with participants in a FTC
- Number of drug free babies born
- Total amount of accountability court funding awarded
- Economic impact of adult graduates



# Quarterly Data Reporting



# Statutorily Mandated Data Points



Moderate- and high-risk participants



Drug test results



Employment



Graduates and Terminations



Recidivism



# Data Collection **Compliance**



- 01** | Grant Special Condition
- 02** | Rules and Regulations Article 9
- 03** | Certification



# Data Collection Resources

## 01 | Data Dictionary

Includes all data points and list values  
Provides data definitions  
Outlines conditions of requirements

## 02 | Data Collection Toolkit

Provides practical guidance  
Links to sample templates, workflow guides, and best practices lists

## 03 | Data Dictionary Addendum

Includes commonly used terms  
Tracks changes to data collection





██████████ Adult Felony Drug Court - 2024Q1

Report Date: 11/07/2023

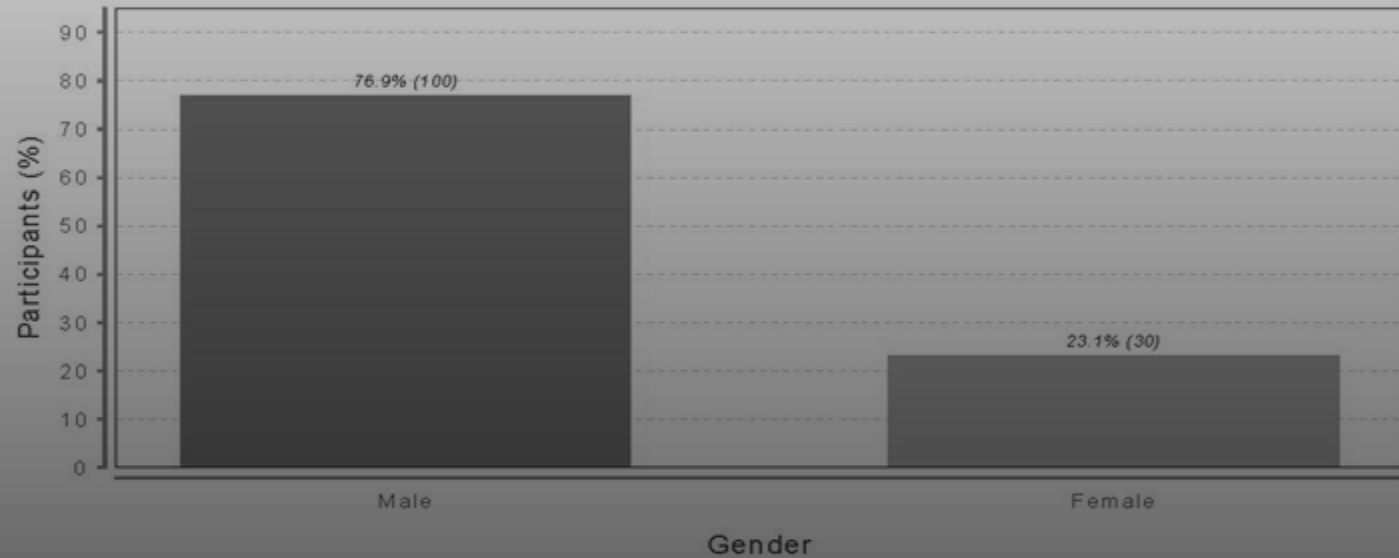
Participant's Counties of Residence\*: ██████████

Total Participants Submitted = 130  
Active Participants Reported = 114

Program Demographics

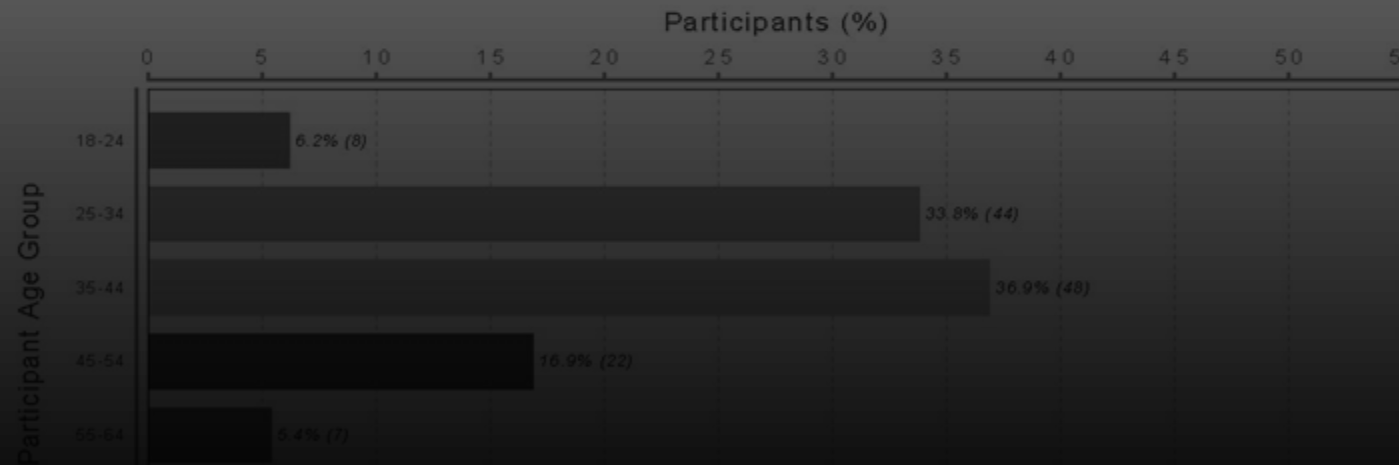
Participant Gender

Records Reported = 130



Participant Age

Records Reported = 130



# Quarterly Program Report

- Digital
- Program-specific
- Online archive
- Timely data analyses and summaries
- Resource and tool

## Program and participant demographics

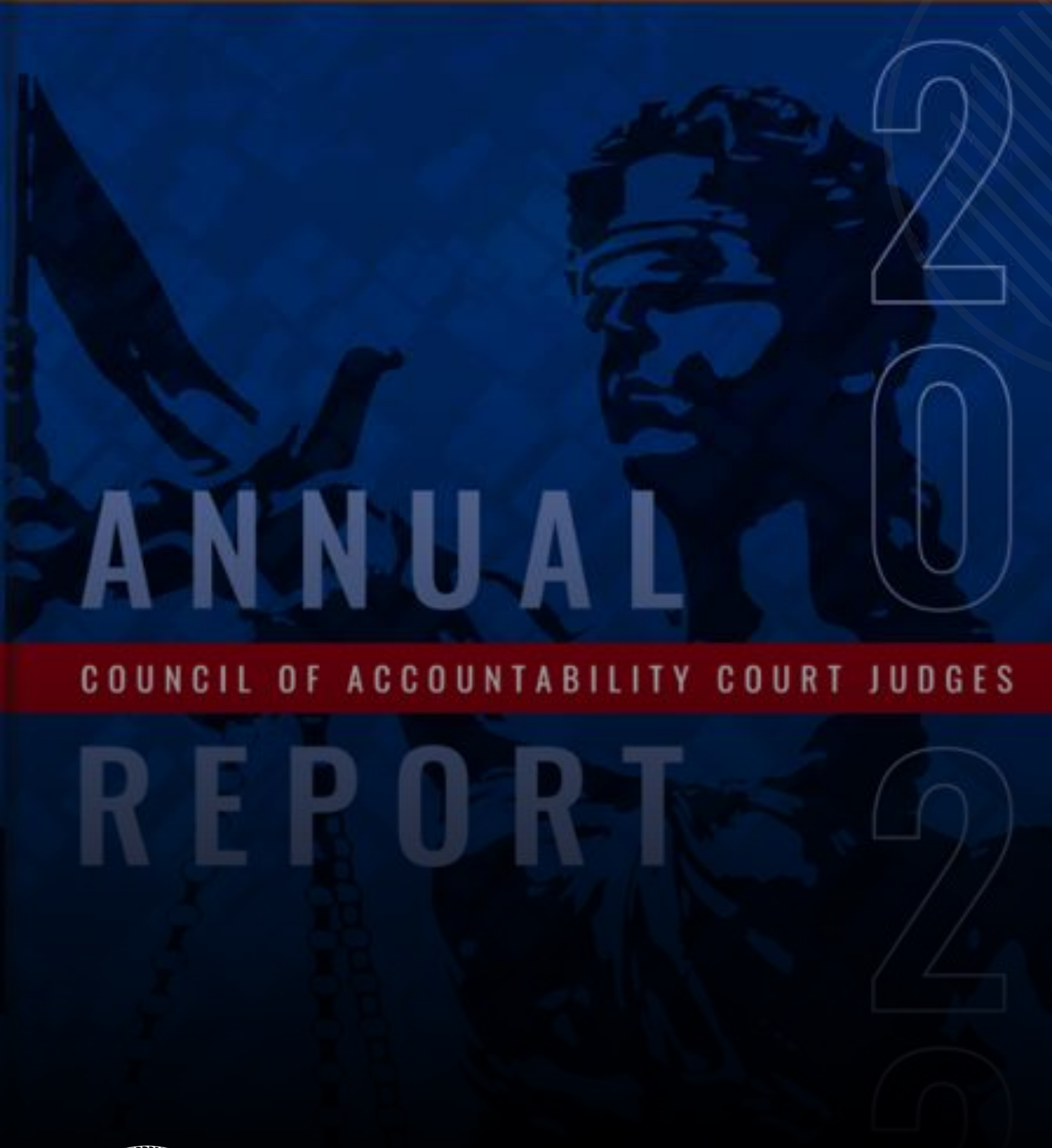
- Total participants submitted, active participants reported at end of quarter, gender, age, race, education, income, employment, military services, accepted cases by referral type, exit status

## Additional elements

- RPH, risk level, ASAM scores, diagnoses, treatment, drugs of choice, drug test methods and results, phase distribution



# Performance Measures **Report**



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# Georgia Publications

**01** | Process and Outcomes  
Report

**02** | Economic Impact  
Study

**03** | Recidivism Reports



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# Questions?

## More Information?

**Please contact us if there are any follow-up questions. We are happy to assist.**

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