



Walton County Resource Court DATE Allocation Request

The Walton County Resource Court is a state-authorized Accountability Court designed to serve individuals with co-occurring drug addiction and mental health diagnoses. While involved with the Resource Court, participants are drug tested multiple times a week, are visited in their homes by Sheriff's Deputies, receive intensive substance abuse and mental health treatment, and attend court weekly.

The Walton County Resource Court requests to use DATE Funds for two purposes: the purchase of drug testing supplies and over-time payment for the Sheriff's Deputies who perform the drug tests while conducting home visits and home searches.

Drug Testing Supplies

The Walton County Resource Court drug tests participants 2-3 times per week. All drug screens are performed randomly and observed by a Sheriff's deputy of the same gender as the participant, pursuant to state drug testing guidelines.

The Court currently has a contract for drug testing supplies with Redwood Toxicology. The Court is currently using a 13-panel cup, which costs \$7.60 per cup. The 13-panel cup tests for amphetamines, barbiturates, buprenorphine, benzodiazepine, cocaine, methamphetamine, methadone, opiates, oxycodone, phencyclidine (PCP), propoxyphene (PPX) (related to morphine), tricyclic antidepressants (TCA) (often abused as alternative to other stimulants) and marijuana. As new alternative drugs are moving from metro areas such as Athens and Atlanta to more rural areas, this expanded drug testing panel is needed to ensure participants are not hiding drug use.

The Court also has a contract with Rockdale County's DUI Court Lab to perform initial screening of samples for substances that cannot be detected by urine cups. The most common test performed is for EtG, which can indicate if a person has been drinking in the past 72 hours. EtG tests cost \$15/test. These screens are used primarily for those participants with a substantial history of alcohol abuse.

Sheriff's Deputies

Sheriff's Deputies perform an integral role in the Resource Court. As a prison diversion program, it is imperative that the Court monitor the safety and stability of the participants. The Sheriff has assigned 3-4 deputies who have the requisite training in substance abuse and mental illness to serve the Resource Court. These deputies visit participants in their homes and are often able to detect signs of drug use or relapse that might otherwise go undetected by treatment and the court team. Deputies also perform observed drug screens and breath tests to ensure that the participants are not using drugs or adulterating the samples given to the Court. Deputies perform intensive searches of the participants' homes if there is a suspicion of drug use, and in the past year, deputies have detected multiple instances of participant relapse and notified the Court so that appropriate action could be taken.

Samuel D. Ozburn,
Eugene M. Benton, *Judge*
Amanda Lewis Day, *Coordinator*



Walton County Resource Court

Alcoy Judicial Circuit

Although the Resource Court now has deputies assigned to it, other deputies do occasionally perform overtime to assist the program, and overtime funding at a rate of \$25 per hour is needed to cover those costs.

For this reason the Court is requesting funds to pay deputies overtime for an additional 2 hours per week to perform drug tests and home visits.

Total Request

| Type of Request | Calculation | Amount |
|-----------------------|---|-----------------|
| Drug Testing Supplies | $\$7.60/\text{test} \times 2/\text{wk} \times 52 \text{ wks} \times 15$ participants | \$11,856 |
| EtG Tests | $\$15/\text{test} \times 8 \text{ tests}/\text{wk} \times 52 \text{ wks}$ | \$4,680 |
| Sheriff's Deputies | $2 \text{ hrs}/\text{wk} \times 52 \text{ wks}/\text{yr} \times \$25/\text{hr}$ | \$2,600 |
| Total | | \$19,136 |

Questions

If there are any questions regarding this allocation request, please contact the Court Coordinator, Amanda Lewis Day, at 678-209-3618, or at alewis@co.newton.ga.us.