



**Frequently Asked Questions:
Tribal Healing to Wellness Court Planning Initiative (THWCPI)
Foundational Training Program**

What is THWCPI?

The Tribal Healing to Wellness Court Planning Initiative (THWCPI) is a foundational training program developed by the National Drug Court Institute (NDCI) in partnership with the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) and Tribal Law and Policy Institute (TLPI). This six-part training program provides a structured curriculum designed for adult tribal healing to wellness courts (THWCs) not yet operating, adult THWC teams that have had significant staff changes, or adult THWC teams that have not previously participated in implementation training. The THWCPI foundational training program includes a six-month facilitated process designed to develop or review existing program structures, policy and procedure manuals, and positive team dynamics.

The THWCPI foundational training program begins with a pre-training consultation with NDCI staff, followed by assigned pre-training webinars, and finally, a six-part training curriculum. Led and facilitated by NDCI and TLPI staff and consultants, this curriculum educates participants on the research and science supporting the adult drug court and THWC models and, through facilitated breakouts, reviews policies and procedures reflective of proven best practice standards. At the end of the training, the adult THWC team will have an action plan.

After completing the training, NDCI staff continues as a resource to coach and facilitate the adult THWC team's progress on its action plan.

What are the benefits of attending the THWCPI foundational training program?

Jurisdictions will receive training from seasoned adult drug court and THWC practitioners. The training will provide teams with the most effective path to establishing an adult THWC and established adult THWCs the opportunity to review their practices for fidelity to the model and proven best practice standards. The THWCPI foundational training program delivers an overview of the research related to the effectiveness of THWCs using the Ten Key Components of Tribal Healing to Wellness Courts and the Adult Drug Court Best Practice Standards, and facilitates teams in their local application. Participants will also receive aid in the development of policies and protocols specific to their court.

THWCPI Foundational Training Program Application and Approval Process

How does our jurisdiction apply to participate in the program?

The application process opens in the fall of each year. Jurisdictions must complete an online application to be considered for acceptance. Each team must consist of:



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- Judge
- Prosecutor
- Defense counsel
- Treatment court coordinator
- Community supervision
- Community treatment provider
- Law enforcement
- Tribal elder, community or council member

Upon acceptance, these individuals must commit to the following:

- Attend the six-part training session
- Actively participate in all discussions and training breakouts
- Identify an appropriate substitute if the need arises
- Complete all homework assignments and webinars
- Respond to all requests for information
- Sign a letter of commitment reflecting the above

How will applicants be selected?

Priority will be given to jurisdictions that have not participated in the program in the past and are in the process of planning an adult THWC. Applicants already operating an adult THWC will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis to determine their training needs. Once submitted, applications move through a two-tiered review process:

- Tier 1: Application is reviewed by NDCI staff to ensure eligibility and make recommendations.
- Tier 2: Application is forwarded to BJA for final selection and approval of teams.

How will jurisdictions be notified?

Approximately 30 days after the application closing date, each applicant's point of contact will receive an email from NDCI to notify of acceptance, denial, or movement to the waitlist. Those placed on the waitlist are selected to participate if/when previously selected teams withdraw.

How many THWCPI foundational trainings does NDCI conduct each year?

NDCI delivers up to 10 THWCPI foundational trainings each year.

THWCPI Foundational Training Program Required Commitment

Who from my jurisdiction is required to participate in the THWCPI foundational training program?

To participate in the training, each jurisdiction must identify individuals representing the following disciplines to form an adult THWC planning team:

- Judge
- Prosecutor
- Defense counsel
- Treatment court coordinator
- Community supervision
- Community treatment provider
- Law enforcement
- Tribal elder, community or council member



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My jurisdiction has been accepted to receive THWCPI foundational training. Now what?

Upon acceptance into the training program, each participating team member must commit to the following:

- Attend the six-part training session
- Actively participate in all discussions and training breakouts
- Identify an appropriate substitute if the need arises
- Complete all homework assignments and webinars
- Respond to all requests for information
- Sign a letter of commitment reflecting the above

In addition, the court coordinator must serve as the team point of contact for all coordination activities. The coordinator will ensure all relevant information is disseminated to team members in a timely fashion, participate in an introductory webinar, complete pre-training conference calls, respond to requests for information, and coordinate with NDCI staff and faculty.

THWCPI Foundational Training Program Preparation (Pre-Training), Virtual Training, and Follow-Up (Post-Training) Requirements

What are the pre-, virtual, and post-training activities of the THWCPI foundational training program?

THWCPI foundational training program participants will have regular contact with NDCI staff and faculty during the course of the six-month planning process. In addition:

- All team members must complete six pre-training webinars.
- All team members must attend the six-part virtual training program.
- Team representatives (usually the judge and/or coordinator) must complete two training follow-up conference calls.

THWCPI Foundational Training Logistics

Where will the THWCPI foundational training take place?

For 2022, NDCI will deliver THWCPI foundational trainings virtually. Each team will participate in keynote presentations and team-specific breakouts.

When will the agenda be available?

The draft agenda will be available by December 31, 2021.



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How long is the training?

The training consists of both pre-recorded webinars and live training. There are eight webinars, and the six-part live training will be conducted for four hours each day over the course of two weeks.

What are the technology requirements for the virtual training?

The six-part live training will take place through NDCI's training platform. The training platform will use Zoom as the video conference software. To facilitate the breakout sessions and conversations, each participant will require access to a camera and microphone. Attendees must be at their own computer terminal for the training. Teams who meet as a group in one room will forfeit training.

Can additional people attend the training?

Yes, additional stakeholders may attend the meeting as observers.

How much does this training cost?

There are no direct costs associated with the training for your jurisdiction.

Whom do I contact for more information about the THWCPI foundational training program?

For questions, please contact:

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