

**Drug Court Practices that Work:
Adult Drug Court Practices Related to “Cost Savings” (Costs Avoided)**

What interests many individuals is the bottom line: what practices save money. This table lists the practices in NPC’s studies of drug courts in four states that were significantly related to larger cost “savings” due to lower recidivism. (Total # of drug courts included in these analyses = 34).

Key Component	Drug Court Practices Related to Cost Savings
1	The drug court has a single treatment provider agency (that can make referrals to other treatment as needed).
1	A treatment representative is expected to attend all drug court sessions.
1	All team members (especially judge, attorneys, coordinator and treatment) attend staffing meetings
2	The prosecution is expected to attend all drug court team meetings (participant progress meetings).
2	The prosecution is expected to attend all drug court sessions.
2	The defense attorney is expected to attend drug court team meetings (participant progress meetings).
3	Non-drug charges (e.g., property, prostitution) are included as drug court eligible charges.
3	The drug court expects 20 days or less to pass from a participant’s arrest to drug court entry.
4	The drug court program is expected to take one year or more for participants to complete.
4	Drug court has guidelines on the frequency of group treatment sessions that a participant must receive.
4	Drug court has a phase when participants learn relapse prevention and are otherwise prepared to for leaving the program.
4	Anger management classes are offered to participants
4	Educational assistance is provided to participants
5	In the first phase of drug court, drug tests are collected at least 2 times per week.
5	Drug court staff usually has drug test results within 48 hours.
5	The drug court requires participants to have greater than 90 days “clean” before graduation.
6	Only the judge provides clients with tangible rewards.
6	There are written rules regarding team response (incentives and sanctions) to participant behavior.
6	Team members are given a copy of the rules for sanctions
7	The judge is assigned to drug court for a term greater than 2 years (or indefinitely).

Key Component	Drug Court Practices Related to Cost Savings
7	At court appearances the judge spends at least 3 minutes per participant
7	In the first phase of drug court, participants appear before the judge in court once every 2 weeks.
7	In the final phase of drug court, the clients appear before the judge in court at least once per month.
8	The drug court maintains data critical to monitoring and evaluation in an electronic database (rather than paper files).
8	The drug court collects program statistics and uses them to modify drug court operations.
8	The drug court uses the results of program evaluations to modify drug court operations.
8	The drug court has participated in more than one evaluation conducted by an independent evaluator.
9	Team members received training in preparation for the implementation of the drug court.
9	All new hires to the drug court complete a formal training or orientation.
9	All members of the drug court team are provided with training.
10	The drug court team includes a representative from law enforcement (not including probation).
10	The drug court has a formal partnership with community members that provide services to participants.