



## DRUG TREATMENT ALTERNATIVE TO PRISON PROGRAM (DTAP)

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### DTAP IN THE NEWS

## New program helps drug addicts avoid prison, get treatment

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TUCSON - A new Pima County project announced today aims to offer non-violent drug offenders a chance to avoid jail and overcome their addiction.

The Drug Treatment Alternative to Prison (DTAP) program has been given a \$1 million, 3-year grant from the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services and the Department of Justice. The program will offer drug-addicted offenders the chance to receive in-patient substance abuse treatment in lieu of a prison sentence.



“Prison is an appropriate sentence for most drug traffickers and repetitive offenders,” says Pima County Attorney Barbara LaWall. “It takes them off the streets and protects society. But prison is counterproductive for some drug-addicted offenders,” she continued, “especially those who are motivated to get clean and sober, overcome their addiction but simply don’t have the means to do so. These individuals need the opportunity for residential substance abuse treatment. “

Funding for the program will allow up to 80 repeat drug possession offenders over the next three years to join an in-patient drug treatment program instead of going to prison. Defendants that are to be convicted of a third or more drug possession charge are eligible.

DTAP will also offer recovery support to these 80 defendants, and it will enhance existing support for 300 other Drug Court participants on probation for first and second-time possession charges.

“The Pima County Drug Court has played a critically important role in the criminal justice system since its inception in 1998,” says LaWall. “DTAP has added another valuable tool to its toolbox, one that will benefit all involved. I am honored to be working with the fine members of the DTAP Task Force and thank them for their hard work and dedication.”

<http://www.kvoa.com/news/new-program-helps-drug-addicts-avoid-prison-get-treatment/>