The Oregon Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) has developed a peer review process to assist in the alignment of Oregon treatment court programs with national best practices. The CJC has standards to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of treatment courts statewide. These standards are research-based, organized on the foundation of the 10 Key Components of Drug Courts, and include guidelines for policies and practices that will help ensure that programs increase access to treatment and other needed services, reduce recidivism, and are cost effective.

What's the purpose?
The peer review process is intended to create a learning community in Oregon among treatment court teams. The idea is for peers to help each other identify ideas for program improvements and share successes and challenges. This will allow Oregon’s treatment court community access to information and support at a low administrative cost while building relationships between programs. It will also provide important information to the CJC about areas of needed technical assistance and training, and how to focus those resources most effectively.

How does it work?
Individuals who are involved in a treatment court will assess another program and provide feedback about that program’s alignment with Oregon treatment court standards. The peers will be trained in how to conduct the review, including an in-person visit to the other program, and compile the information into a simple report that includes suggestions and resource ideas. In turn, the peer will have the opportunity to learn about innovative and successful practices that have been implemented in another program.

The main activities involved in the peer review process include:

- Online survey about program characteristics, policies, and procedures completed by the program being reviewed.
- 2-day site visit where peers observe staffing and court hearings, interview team members and partner agency staff, talk with program participants, and review program documents.
- On-site debrief of findings.
- Summary report of feedback, including a table of treatment court best practice standards and which ones the program is meeting, recommendations for program improvement, documentation of innovative/successful practices to share with other programs, and requests for future training or resources.

Who participates?
All grant programs will be expected to participate in the review process, allowing peers to visit and conduct the review. A review will be planned for each program every 4 years. Programs needing more support or requesting a review may be visited more frequently. Peer reviewers are volunteers, who are expected to be paid by their home program for the time they devote to a review. Training is provided at no cost to the volunteer. Travel expenses for both reviews and training will be paid by the CJC. Team members or partners who are interested in being a peer reviewer should contact Ben Wyatt (ben.wyatt@oregon.gov; 503-378-2655).