

U.S. Department of Justice  
Office of Justice Programs



# Treatment Alternatives to Street Crime TASC Programs

## Bureau of Justice Assistance

PROGRAM BRIEF

MF-1

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**U.S. Department of Justice  
National Institute of Justice**

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# Bureau of Justice Assistance

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## Program Brief

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ACQUISITIONS

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Guidelines for Implementing and Operating

Treatment Alternatives  
to Street Crime

TASC Programs

that are eligible for  
Criminal Justice Block Grant Support  
Administered by the Bureau of Justice Assistance,  
Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice

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January 1988

**U.S. Department of Justice**  
**Office of Justice Programs**  
*Bureau of Justice Assistance*

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The Assistant Attorney General, Office of Justice Programs, coordinates the criminal and juvenile justice activities of the following program Offices and Bureaus: National Institute of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and Office for Victims of Crime.



U.S. Department of Justice

Bureau of Justice Assistance

Office of the Director

Washington, D.C. 20531

I am pleased to present to you this Treatment Alternatives to Street Crime (TASC) program brief. I hope that this document provides you with the information you need to begin a TASC program in your community, or to expand and improve a case management program that you already have.

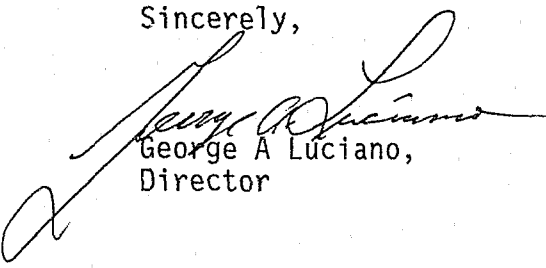
The TASC program is intended to interrupt the persistent drug-using behavior of offenders by linking the sanctions of the criminal justice system to the therapeutic processes of drug treatment programs. We know that repeat offenders tend also to have drug and alcohol problems. We also know that the continuing criminality of these people can be interrupted, curtailed and, in many cases, stopped.

TASC bridges the gap between the justice system and the treatment community by making necessary services available to drug dependent offenders who would otherwise continue to move in and out of the justice system. TASC also serves as a reminder of the justice system's oversight of the offender while that individual is in treatment.

This program brief is the result of extensive review and analysis of TASC programs by the experts. We asked what works, and how does it work? I believe this document presents the elements critical to managing an effective TASC program.

Our work continues. Subsequent editions of this program brief will incorporate information on performance standards and measuring outcomes. And, BJA will continue to make training and technical assistance available to State and local governments interested in establishing a TASC program or in improving an existing program.

Sincerely,

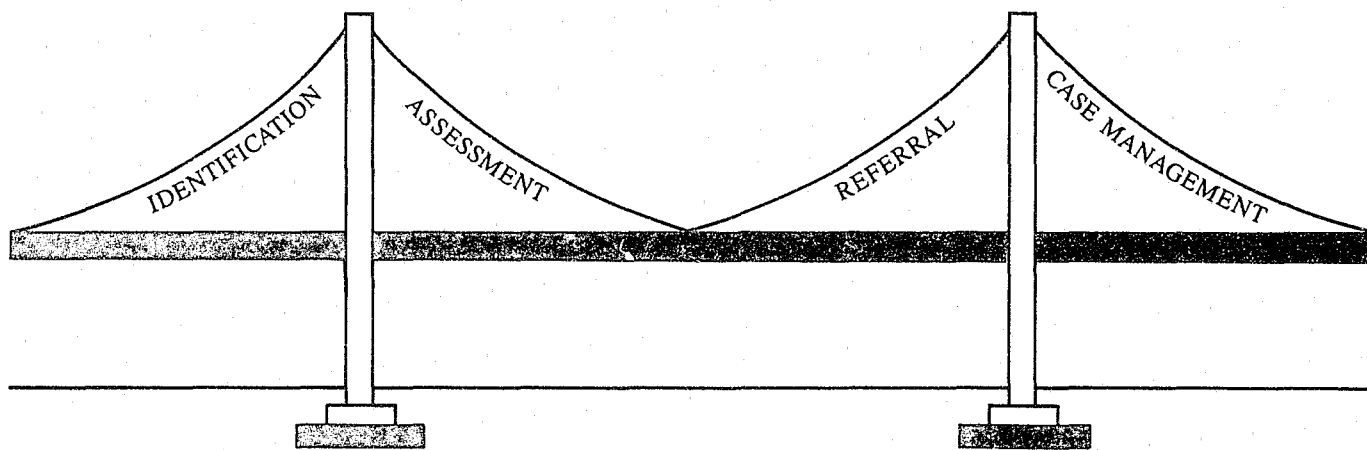
  
George A. Luciano,  
Director

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# The TASC Bridge



## Justice System

- legal sanctions
- community safety
- punishment

## Treatment System

- therapeutic relationship
- changing individual behavior
- reducing personal suffering

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# The TASC Mission and Philosophy

Treatment Alternatives to Street Crime (TASC) provides an objective and effective bridge between two separate institutions: the *justice system* and the *treatment community*. The justice system's legal sanctions reflect community concerns for public safety and punishment; whereas, the treatment community emphasizes therapeutic relationships as a means for changing individual behavior and reducing the personal suffering associated with substance abuse and other problems. Under TASC supervision, community-based treatment is made available to drug-dependent individuals who would otherwise burden the justice system with their persistent and associated criminality.

TASC programs were initiated in 1972 in response to recognized links between substance abuse and criminal behavior. The mission of TASC is to participate in justice system processing as early in the continuum as acceptable to participating agencies. TASC identifies, assesses, and refers appropriate drug- and/or alcohol-dependent offenders accused or convicted of non-violent crimes to community-based substance abuse treatment as an alternative or supplement to existing justice system sanctions and procedures. TASC then monitors the drug-dependent offender's compliance with individually tailored progress expectations for abstinence, employment, and improved social-personal functioning. It then reports treatment results back to the referring justice system component. Clients who violate conditions of their justice mandate, TASC, or treatment agreement are usually sent back to the justice system for continued processing or sanctions.

TASC combines the influence of legal sanctions for probable or proven crimes with the appeal of such innovative justice system dispositions as deferred prosecution, creative community sentencing, diversion, pretrial intervention, probation, and parole supervision to motivate treatment cooperation by the substance abuser. Through treatment referral and closely supervised community reintegration, TASC aims to permanently interrupt the vicious cycle of addiction, criminality, arrest, prosecution, conviction, incarceration, release, readdiction, criminality, and rearrest.

TASC programs not only offer renewed hope to drug and alcohol dependent clients by encouraging them to alter their lifestyles while remaining in their own communities, but they also provide important incentives to other justice and treatment system participants. TASC can reduce the costs and relieve many substance abuse-related processing burdens within the justice system through assistance with such duties as addiction-related medical situations, pretrial screening, and post-trial supervision.

The treatment community also benefits from TASC's legal focus, which seems to motivate and prolong clients' treatment cooperation and ensures clear definition and observation of criteria for treatment dismissal or completion. Public safety is also increased through TASC's careful supervision of criminally involved clients during their community-based treatment.



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# The Development and Success of TASC

Chemical addiction is an illness rather than a crime, and the State may force an addict to submit to treatment and impose criminal sanctions for failure to comply with the treatment program. These were some provisions of a 1962 landmark Supreme Court decision, *Robinson vs. California*. In the context of the times, when penal coercion was disavowed as an effective rehabilitation incentive and community-based treatment for substance abuse was only slowly gaining acceptability and credibility, alternatives to routine criminal justice system processing for drug dependent offenders seemed worthy of serious consideration.

In the years following, several conceptual and strategic models were developed to implement these new understandings. By the early '70s a Presidentially-appointed *Special Study Commission on Drugs* established a definite link between drugs — particularly narcotics and crime. A small number of addicts were found to be responsible — for a large percentage of crimes, and a disproportionate share of criminal justice system resources were being absorbed by their recidivism.

Discussions on how to link treatment and the judicial process and interrupt the relationship between drugs and property crimes were held by the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA), the White House-established Special Action Office for Drug Abuse Prevention (SAODAP), and the National Institute on Mental Health's Division of Narcotic Addiction and Drug Abuse (DNADA) — predecessor to the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA).

The resulting Federal initiative, modeled after earlier experiments with diversion programs and two demonstration projects in New York City and Washington, D.C., was funded under the Drug Abuse Office and Treatment Act of 1972 and christened TASC — Treatment Alternatives to Street Crime. The first TASC project, opened in Wilmington, Delaware, in August 1982, provided pretrial diversion for opiate addicts with non-violent criminal charges who were identified in jail by urine tests and interviews. After assessment of their treatment suitability and needs, arrestees who volunteered for TASC were referred and escorted to appropriate community-based treatment and monitored for continued compliance with treatment requirements. Successful completion usually resulted in dismissed charges.

LEAA issued program guidelines for replication of the TASC model — focusing on pretrial diversion and sentencing alternatives for drug-dependent offenders — and awarded "seed" grants with the understanding that successful demonstration projects would gain local or State funding to continue the programs within a three-year period. In 1972-73, 13 TASC projects were initiated by local jurisdictions in 11 States. By 1975, 19 more such projects were under way, making a total of 29 operational sites in 24 States. Before Federal funding was withdrawn in 1982, TASC projects were developed at 130 sites in 39 States and Puerto Rico.

LEAA made a special effort to fund TASC programs in various geographic areas and jurisdictions, including large metropolitan areas, smaller cities, suburban and rural counties, regional conglomerations and statewide networks of sites. Original client participation criteria were also expanded to include polydrug and alcohol abuses, juveniles, and, in some places, domestic violence and mental health demonstrations projects. Also evolving were TASC services to the alcohol and drug related traffic offender.

All of the LEAA-funded TASC programs were required to conduct independent evaluations of their effectiveness, and more than 40 of these local assessments were completed over the ten-year period of LEAA oversight. Although a few evaluators found that some TASC programs had unduly optimistic expectations for client success or were underutilized, the majority concluded that local TASCs effectively:

- ⊙ Intervened with clients to reduce drug abuse and criminal activity;
- ⊙ Linked the criminal justice and treatment systems; and
- ⊙ Identified previously untreated drug dependent offenders.

During the same period, three national assessments of the TASC program focused on the success of multiple sites in meeting general TASC goals. Evaluators of five early TASC projects in 1974 (System Sciences) concluded that these sites each handled a substantial proportion of repeat offenders with long histories of addiction, initiated more than half of the identified clients (55 percent) into their first treatment experience, and reduced their criminal recidivism.

A 1976 Lazar Institute study of 22 operational TASC sites found several commonalities in the success of TASC programming: TASC had gained the broad-based support of the justice system; its legally sanctioned referral mechanism to treatment was found more effective than informal treatment and therefore had the support of the treatment system; its monitoring function was found to improve the clients' treatment performance; and TASC involvement seemed to reduce rearrest rates — only eight percent of clients in all sites were known to have been rearrested for new offenses while in the TASC program. However, TASC continued to have no solid data base instrument that would allow for long-term evaluation and comparison of the program's impact on drug-related crime or the processing burdens of the justice system.

A subsequent 1978 evaluation of 12 TASC sites (also by System Sciences) found the model offered a beneficial and cost effective alternative to the criminal justice system for handling drug-abusing offenders; that its major functions and procedures were effective; that a majority of clients were admitted to TASC prior to trial; that its threat of legal sanctions added a positive factor to the treatment process; that projects achieved remarkably progressive success rates with clients (considering the seriousness of the crimes and the drugs involved); and that the quality of the staff was more important to program success than organization and other factors. Poor record keeping and information management, however, were found to be more widespread among TASC programs.

Two reports from NIDA's Treatment Outcome Prospective Study (TOPS) have examined the impact of TASC or similar programs for drug-dependent offenders on clients' in-treatment and post-treatment behavior. These 1983 and 1985 studies compare criminal justice-involved clients (in TASC and under other justice system supervision) with voluntary controls on demographic characteristics, treatment retention, treatment progress, and predatory behaviors in the year following the end of treatment.

Criminal justice-referred clients were more likely to be male, nonwhite, young, and to have previous justice-

system involvement in the year before treatment than did their volunteer counterparts. More important, TASC clients were found to improve as much in relation to drug use, employment, and criminal behavior as other clients during the first six months of treatment. TASC clients under legal coercion also tended to remain in both residential and outpatient drug-free treatment modalities six to seven weeks longer than other criminal justice-referred or voluntary clients — a finding usually associated with better treatment outcomes. The monitoring/case management function of TASC seemed to encourage this longer treatment participation. Unfortunately, predatory crime and arrest before treatment were still the most consistent predictors of criminal reinvolved, as measured by arrest records and self-reports, in the first post-treatment year.

Nonetheless, perhaps the most eloquent testimony to the "success" of TASC is the continued fiscal and program support provided to more than 100 sites in 18 States after Federal funding was withdrawn in 1980. Many of these local programs also continued communications with each other through a National TASC Consortium, which was reestablished in 1984.

Overall, then, these studies demonstrate TASC's success and effectiveness in programming through specific critical program elements. Among the more successful: the establishment of the broad-based support by the justice and treatment system; the use of offender eligibility criteria that assist in the early identification, assessment, and referral of the previously unidentified drug-dependent offender; and a comprehensive monitoring or case management system that holds the client accountable and has been proven to reduce client rearrest rates and improve the treatment performance of the drug-dependent offender.

Conversely, these studies have also shown that the lack of data collection and evaluation as critical program elements has hindered TASC programming. Furthermore, staff training is indeed a critical program element as the staff is seen as a major focus in the program's success.

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# Current Block Grant Funding Objectives and Requirements

After a nearly five-year funding hiatus, the Justice Assistance Act of 1984 revived Federal endorsement and fiscal support for TASC. This legislation authorizes a criminal justice block grant program to encourage State and local government implementation of specific programs of proven effectiveness deemed highly likely to improve criminal justice system functioning — with a special emphasis on violent crime and serious offenders. The Justice Department's Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), Office of Justice Programs, which has administrative authority for the block grants, published regulations for grant applicants in May 1985.

The Act designates 18 eligible purposes for which funds may be subgranted to local or State agencies by the recipient State offices. Among these are "purpose 8" programs that "identify and meet the needs of drug-dependent offenders." TASC, in turn, is one of only 11 specific models cited in the legislation as immediately eligible, given its "proven" and successful track record.

BJA — under the coordination of the Assistant Attorney General of the Office of Justice Programs and in consultation with the National Institute of Justice, the Bureau of Justice Statistics, and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention — selected TASC as one of the 11 "certified" programs because of its extensive earlier demonstration and evaluation.

TASC and similar projects that "identify and meet the needs of the drug-dependent offender" are also included among the seven prescribed purposes of the 1986 Drug Enforcement, Education and Control legislation. This legislation, which authorizes State block grant awards for improving State and local control efforts (Subtitle K, Part M), is administered by the Bureau of Justice Assistance.

As part of its administrative responsibilities for encouraging and assisting with the development of viable and effective TASC projects, BJA has assumed authority for defining and improving TASC's:

- Orthodoxy;
- Transferability; and
- Permanency.

*Orthodoxy* implies the clear definition of essential, distinct and interrelated elements of a model — both functional and organizational that, in their totality, comprise a core program. Such elements must be sufficiently accepted by and adhered to among program practitioners to distinguish the generic framework and performance standards from other similar programs and to ensure their replication. Orthodoxy also implies common understanding of terminology that is critical to clear communication.

*Transferability* means a model's adaptability or potential for replication in a variety of settings because it meets common needs, has simplicity of purpose, can be easily implemented, and garners continuing support. Transferability adds flexibility to the core standards required by orthodoxy and encourages both communication and innovation.

*Permanency* is defined as durability and stability expressed in the adequacy of program resources — both human and material — for continuing commitment and organizational viability. Permanency implies a network of well-qualified peers dedicated to maintaining program operations and visibility across specific site and time boundaries.

The following program elements and performance standards have been defined as "critical" to TASC programs by a 16-member Advisory Panel of program practitioners and experts approved by the BJA monitor of TASC projects. The panel was convened to discuss and vote on solicited recommendations for these elements from the existing network of TASC programs. The initial draft of these critical elements and performance measures was recirculated among field practitioners for further review and comment in August 1986.

The time frames for implementing each of these "critical program elements" will vary from one local jurisdiction to another. It should, however, take no more than three months to have the *organizational* elements in place. To have the program fully operational — to include all *operational* elements — should take no more than another three months. Overall, it will take at least six months to implement a TASC program that runs effectively and efficiently.

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# Critical Program Elements and Performance Standards

## TASC Program Elements

### Organizational Elements

#### Element 1

A broad base of support within the justice system with a protocol for continued and effective communication

#### Element 2

A broad base of support within the treatment system with a protocol for continued and effective communication

#### Element 3

An independent TASC unit with a designated administrator

#### Element 4

Policies and procedures for required staff training

#### Element 5

A data collection system to be used in program management and evaluation

### Operational Elements

#### Element 6

A number of agreed upon offender eligibility criteria

#### Element 7

Procedures for the identification of eligible offenders that stress early justice and treatment intervention

#### Element 8

Documented procedures for assessment and referral

#### Element 9

Documented policies and procedures for random urinalysis and other physical tests

#### Element 10

Procedures for offender monitoring that include criteria for success/failure, required frequency of contact, schedule of reporting and notification of termination to the justice system

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## Organizational Elements

### Element 1: Broad-Based Support by the Justice System

#### Purpose

To establish and maintain necessary communication and formal agreements for client referrals from justice system components and effective and accountable operation of TASC.

#### Performance Standards

1. Documentation of meetings convened by TASC staff with each justice system representative (e.g., from the defense and prosecuting attorney's offices, courts, probation, parole, police, corrections, jail, etc.) within two months of program initiation to:

- Provide participants with an explanation and written description of the TASC mission and services; and
- Negotiate memorandums of understanding between TASC and cooperating justice system components outlining TASC responsibilities and procedures for service delivery and the minimum requirements for effective justice system communication.

2. Documented procedures outlining an understanding of contacts and expectations between TASC and each participating component of the justice system that specify — at minimum — client screening responsibilities, referral arrangements, court appearance/testimony requirements, progress reporting, termination criteria, and protocols.

3. A documented schedule and protocol for regular communications between TASC and participating justice system components, including court activities.

### Element 2: Broad-Based Support by the Treatment Community

#### Purpose

To establish and maintain the necessary linkages and understanding between TASC personnel and representatives of the treatment community for ensuring the availability of appropriate treatment program options, making effective client referrals, and conducting necessary tracking and monitoring activities.

#### Performance Standards

1. Documentation of a meeting(s) convened by TASC personnel within two months of program initiation with representatives of State/local authorities that license, approve, and/or certify substance abuse and other appropriate treatment agencies to:

- Provide a full explanation and written description of TASC services and requirements; and
- Solicit cooperation from those treatment modalities that will serve the TASC clientele and that are officially approved and reflect the locally available continuum of care.

2. Written agreements between TASC and each cooperating treatment agency that detail — at minimum — client eligibility criteria for TASC and treatment, standard procedures for referrals, normal services provided during treatment (including schedules), TASC and treatment success/failure criteria, and routine TASC monitoring/progress/reporting/termination notification requirements.

3. A documented schedule and protocol for regular communications between TASC and cooperating treatment system agencies.

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### **Element 3: An Independent TASC Unit with a Designated Administrator**

#### **Purpose**

To ensure TASC program integrity and organizational capability to carry out the program mission and meet agreed-upon expectations of the justice and treatment systems.

#### **Performance Standards**

1. Documentation should appear in the original TASC proposal to establish an independent TASC unit, including:
  - ⊗ Articles of incorporation for a nonprofit agency or specific written assurances from the administrator(s) of the host organization(s) that TASC will function as a full-time and independent unit;
  - ⊗ An organizational chart showing TASC as an independently functioning entity; and
  - ⊗ Confirmation that a full-time and qualified TASC administrator(s) with the appropriate experience in the field of substance abuse and/or criminal justice has been hired or appointed, along with a specific job description.
2. Appropriate written policies and procedures for TASC operations and services.

### **Element 4: Policies and Procedures for Regular Staff Training**

#### **Purpose**

To ensure that all professional TASC staff sufficiently understand both the TASC mission and philosophy and specific procedures of their local site, thus enabling them to perform their designated job function according to the specific site's established performance standards.

#### **Performance Standards**

1. An annually revised and documented training plan for the TASC unit that includes TASC-related goals for the organization, for each staff member, and the necessary policies, procedures, and schedule for that plan's implementation.
2. Documented provision of at least 32 hours of TASC-relevant training annually to each professional TASC staff member (e.g., TASC mission and philosophy, pharmacology, sentencing practices, assessment of drug dependency, substance abuse treatment modalities and expectations, case management).
3. Documentation in personnel records that each TASC staff member is provided with an up-to-date written description of the TASC program, his or her individual job responsibilities, and appropriate operational guidelines for job performance within a specific time period after employment or promotion.

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## Element 5: A Management Information-Program Evaluation System

### Purpose

To provide timely, accurate, and necessary information to TASC administrators and other staff for managing and developing program services, determining operational effectiveness, providing appropriate information to funding sources, and meeting public information needs.

### Performance Standards

1. To define those standardized reports to be used by a specific site or jurisdiction that will provide the most practical information to the program administrators and staff.

2. Documented procedures for regularly scheduled, quality-controlled data collection on standardized data collection forms that include information on:

- ③ Number of potential TASC clients identified/referred/accepted from each cooperating component of the justice system;
- ③ Client demographics and socio-economic characteristics — age, race, sex, education, employment status — at admission to TASC;
- ③ Other TASC-related client characteristics at admission — criminal or other charges, drug-

dependent status, primary drug of abuse or other diagnosis, urinalysis or other diagnostic testing results;

- ③ Number of clients within the TASC system at each milestone of the program, from interview with the client to admission into treatment to progress through treatment, including successful or unsuccessful termination from TASC, client rearrest and intervening court appearances, during a specified time period;
- ③ Number of specified services provided to TASC clients by designated staff during a specified time period;
- ③ Number of clients with different TASC/treatment outcomes — success/failure categories, rearrest rate and other subcategories — during the specified time period; and
- ③ Expenditures by budget line-item category during the specified time period.

3. Analysis of the data collected to determine program effectiveness, problem resolution, public information, management planning, program evaluation, and quality control.

4. Documented evidence that the collected data are reported to the appropriate administrator(s) and staff.

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## Operational Elements

### Element 6: Clearly Defined Client Eligibility Criteria

#### Purpose

To set clear standards for inclusion and exclusion of individuals from TASC programs so that all TASC staff and cooperating justice system components and treatment agencies understand exactly who is eligible for TASC services.

#### Performance Standards

1. Client eligibility criteria must be formally established and include, at a minimum, the following three elements:

- Justice system involvement — evidenced by a formal charge or diversion agreement for each TASC client excluding anyone accused or convicted of a violent crime, unless otherwise ordered by the court;
- Current and/or previous drug dependence — carefully defined and evidenced by client's own testimony, medical and/or social histories from other agencies, physical examination, urinalysis, and/or other laboratory testing; and
- Informed voluntary consent — evidenced by a signed agreement to participate in the TASC program and comply with the TASC, justice and treatment requirements detailed in a written statement that is read to/by the candidate before acceptance.

2. Written evidence that established client eligibility criteria are understood and agreed to by each cooperating justice system component and treatment agency.

### Element 7: Screening Procedures for Early Identification of TASC Candidates Within the Justice System

#### Purpose

To ensure the earliest appropriate identification and screening of TASC candidates within the justice system.

#### Performance Standards

1. Documented procedures for initial screening of TASC candidates by each cooperating justice system component that clearly specify which agency, TASC or justice, has responsibility and how the maximum number of potential TASC-eligible clients will be identified from the total pool of detainees/arrestees/offenders at that point in the system.

2. Evidence that the program is seeking to have clients referred to them by the justice system at the earliest point possible in the justice continuum, from:

- Deferred prosecution;
- Bail;
- Pretrial;
- Presentencing;
- Sentencing;
- Probation; to
- Parole.



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## **Element 8: Documented Procedures for Assessment and Referral**

### **Purpose**

To provide a standardized assessment process for potential TASC clients that ensures all eligibility criteria are met and clients' appropriateness for treatment and modality determined with standardized data collected.

### **Performance Standards**

1. Documentation of a face-to-face assessment interview with each potential TASC client by a qualified TASC staff member within a specified time period from the initial justice system referral point.
2. Standardized assessment instruments and procedures for confirming, at minimum, each potential client's:
  - ⊙ Drug-dependent status;
  - ⊙ Justice involvement and justice history; and
  - ⊙ Agreement to participate in TASC, an understanding of confidentiality rules and regulations and the understanding of and agreement to follow TASC and treatment program rules and regulations;
3. Determination of appropriateness for a specified type/modality of substance abuse treatment noting specified need(s) for ancillary services.
4. Referral to and acceptance by the recommended treatment agency within 48 hours of TASC assessment. If immediate placement be unavailable due to waiting lists, office monitoring by TASC staff must be available for an interim period.
5. Data must be collected from assessment.
  - ⊙ See Program Element #5.

## **Element 9: Policies, Procedures and Technology for Monitoring TASC Clients' Drug Abuse Status — Through Urinalysis or Other Physical Evidence**

### **Purpose**

To reliably monitor each client's use/abuse of, or abstinence from, specified drugs.

### **Performance Standards**

1. Documented procedures for conducting urinalysis or other appropriate physical tests for the presence of specified drugs on each TASC client — including instructions for collecting, processing, analyzing, and recording findings from the specimens.
2. Specification of specimen collection and/or testing frequency for each phase of TASC participation — according to clients' progress level. Clients referred to outpatient treatment must comply with random requests for specimen submissions during at least the first six months of TASC participation.
3. Formal contract(s) with certified or licensed laboratories/professionals to conduct urinalyses and other tests of physical specimens that specify all quality control procedures and standards and how a chain of custody will be established that is legally acceptable evidence. This will also include the certification of any on-site equipment and licensing of on-site personnel.

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## **Element 10: Monitoring Procedures for Ascertaining Clients' Compliance with Established TASC and Treatment Criteria and Regularly Reporting Their Progress to Referring Justice System Components**

### **Purpose**

To ensure effective and efficient tracking and case management of all clients' progress through the treatment system, including accurate and timely reporting of their status to referring justice system components.

### **Performance Standards**

1. Documented criteria for successful and unsuccessful TASC termination that are agreed to by cooperating justice system components and treatment agencies and include — at minimum:

- ⊙ Success for:
  - Completion of a master case management plan that is documented and approved within 30 days of treatment admission by TASC, the treatment program and the client; and
  - Compliance with other court/legal orders.
- ⊙ Failure for:
  - A specified number of unexcused absences from scheduled treatment or TASC appointments;
  - A specified number of positive urinalysis tests or other physical evidence of continuing drug use or abuse;
  - Rearrest; and/or
  - Lack of cooperation/participation in the treatment program evidenced by the treatment counselor's consistent and formal documentation of violating program rules.

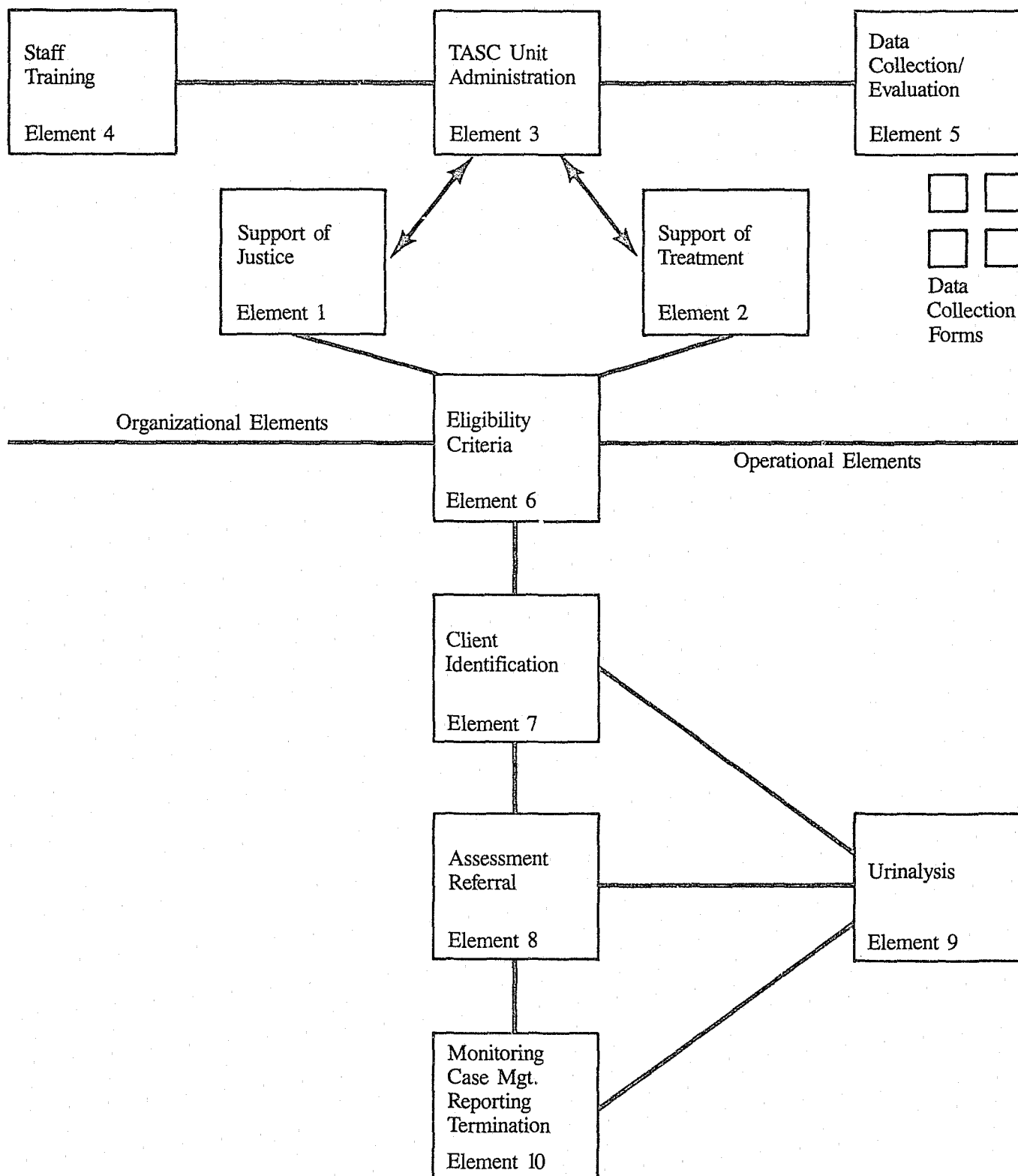
2. Individual client treatment and TASC case management plans that are periodically revised/reviewed with the client and specify — at a minimum — the treatment services to be delivered, the frequency and justification for contracts with TASC and treatment counselors, and the content/frequency of progress reports to TASC and the referring justice system component.

3. Documented procedures for reporting clients' treatment progress to referring justice system components must include:

- ⊙ Notification of each client's TASC acceptance, treatment placement, and service plan — within a specified time after justice system referral;
- ⊙ Specified intervals for (a) TASC receipt of progress reports from the treatment agency — at least monthly — and (b) dissemination of these progress reports to criminal justice components on a regular basis — at least monthly — through the orientation phase and initial treatment phase of each specific treatment modality; and
- ⊙ Immediate notification — within 24 hours — of any client's TASC termination.

4. Documentation in a separate file folder for each TASC client of his/her progress through the system — from TASC admission to discharge. This includes written notation by the assigned TASC counselor of the date and content for decision-making purposes of all face-to-face and telephone contacts with the client or (on his/her behalf) representatives of the referring justice system component and receiving treatment agency(s).

## The TASC System Flow by Element



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## Technical Assistance and Training Cooperative Agreement

To enhance and complement the provision of Criminal Justice Block Grants to the States, the Justice Assistance Act of 1984 authorizes the award of discretionary grants to public or nonprofit agencies for four purposes, one of which is technical assistance (TA) and training to States and local governments.

In May 1986, BJA entered into a cooperative agreement with the National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors (NASADAD) to provide national TA and training related to TASC programming. This TA and training is available to States that are implementing newly approved TASC or "purpose 8" projects as part of the 1984 Act and also to pre-existing TASC sites desiring problem resolution or further development. The training and on-site assistance is provided by TASC practitioners and other experts from the justice and substance abuse treatment fields.

NASADAD's TA and Training project will:

- Provide specifically requested on-site technical assistance;
- Recommend and convene a select Advisory Panel to make revisions/refinements in the critical program elements outlined in the *TASC Program Brief*;

- Develop a TASC Implementation Manual that sets performance standards for the revised/refined critical program elements;
- Design and field test a model training curriculum for TASC projects; and
- Assess the feasibility and use of interns as a method for TASC training.

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## A Glossary of TASC Terms

1. **Ancillary Services:** auxiliary or supplemental assistance provided to the TASC client in addition to primary treatment for drug and/or alcohol problems (e.g., employment training, medical services unrelated to the dependency, financial counseling).
2. **Assessment:** the evaluation or appraisal of a TASC candidate's suitability for substance abuse treatment and placement in a specific treatment modality/setting, including information on current and past use/abuse of drugs, justice system involvement, and medical, family, social, education, military, employment and treatment histories.
3. **Case Management Plan:** an individualized scheme for securing, coordinating, and monitoring the appropriate treatment interventions and ancillary services for each TASC client's successful TASC, treatment and justice system outcomes.
4. **Chain of Custody:** necessary safeguards for ensuring the "purity" and intactness of specific materials collected for later use as legal evidence in court — most usually applied in TASC projects to clients' urine specimens that are forwarded for laboratory analysis.
5. **Court Liaison:** communications between TASC and justice system personnel for establishing and maintaining mutual understanding during the transaction of judicial business — most frequently referring to court visibility and testimony about specific clients by TASC staff.
6. **Criteria:** rules, standards, principles, or tests by which the TASC client is measured, judged or assessed (e.g., success/failure in treatment, eligibility for TASC participation).
7. **Drug Dependent:** a loss of self control with reference to the use of licit or illicit substances, including alcohol, to the extent that physical, psychological, or social problems and/or harm result.
8. **Eligibility:** meeting the requisite criteria qualifying one to be chosen.
9. **Identification:** the act of establishing whether an offender is a TASC candidate — potentially eligible for acceptance into the project.
10. **Justice System Components:** any functioning part of the legal administration continuum — from police through parole.
11. **Monitoring:** supervising or overseeing clients through the application of specific criteria in efforts to determine their "progress" and success/failure.
12. **Office Monitoring:** temporary supervision by TASC staff of a client who is waiting for available space in a treatment program after assessment/acceptance by the TASC project — generally including orientation to TASC and the specific treatment facility, urine monitoring, and some social skills counseling.
13. **Referral:** assignment of a TASC client to the most appropriate and available treatment facility and/or other ancillary service.
14. **Reporting:** officially accounting to TASC and/or the referring justice system component for the client's cooperation with an approved treatment plan, using prescribed and objective facts and observations.
15. **Screening:** a systematic examination of all accused or convicted offenders at particular point(s) in justice system processing to determine their potential suitability or eligibility for TASC.
16. **Tracking:** maintaining contact with and keeping informed about the whereabouts of each TASC client.
17. **Treatment Modality:** specific types of therapeutic processes or interventions that may be used for treatment of substance abuse and can be conducted in residential or outpatient settings (e.g., methadone maintenance, drug-free counseling, detoxification, psychotherapy, other forms of chemotherapy).
18. **Urinalysis:** examination of urine samples by various technical methods to determine the presence or absence of specified drugs or their metabolized traces.
19. **Voluntary Informed Consent:** agreement by the TASC candidate to participate in the project after a thorough and completely comprehensible explanation of its advantages and disadvantages, including potential benefits and sanctions by the justice system, TASC and treatment program rules and requirements, confidentiality effects, and known consequences of successful or unsuccessful termination.

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