



ADULT REDEPLOY ILLINOIS

St. Clair County-Adult Redeploy Illinois

Goals and background: *Adult Redeploy Illinois (ARI) provides financial incentives to local jurisdictions that design evidence-based services to supervise and treat non-violent offenders in the community instead of sending them to state prisons. ARI is based on the premise that local jurisdictions can reduce crime and the costs of the criminal justice system by understanding and addressing the reasons why people commit crimes. Results expected with ARI include reduced prison overcrowding, lowered cost to taxpayers, and an end to the expensive and vicious cycle of crime and incarceration.*

Start date: January 1, 2011; First enrollment: May 31, 2011

Grant amount: \$250,000

Supplemental funding requested (January 2012): \$100,000 granted; for \$350,000 total

Program model: Intensive probation supervision/specialized mental health court docket

Need for ARI in St. Clair County: A lack of mental health screening and assessment to identify offenders with mental health and co-occurring disorders left many individuals cycling in and out of jail without access to treatment. Once identified, service providers have limited resources to further assess and engage these individuals. The two large mental health centers in St. Clair County face large caseloads, limiting their capacities for outreach, engagement, and service delivery. Access to medications for the many individuals lacking Medicaid funding, and a lack of shelter space and housing step-down options, such as crisis, residential, and transitional, are ongoing issues for the population targeted by the St. Clair County ARI program.

Evidence-based/promising practices in use: Motivational interviewing, trauma-informed therapy, assertive community treatment, solution-focused brief therapy, illness self-management and recovery, family psychoeducation, cognitive-behavioral treatment, dialectical-behavior therapy

Target population and reduction goals: From 2007 to 2009, St. Clair County committed an average of 308 ARI-eligible offenders to IDOC. Based on St. Clair County’s target population of adults exhibiting mental health and substance abuse disorders with charges of retail theft, retail theft subsequent, possession of cannabis, or Class 3 and 4 revocations of property offenses, the county is targeting 120 individuals out of the 308 for diversion. St. Clair County’s 25% reduction goal for the grant period, based on these recent commitment levels within their identified target population, is 30.

Overview of jurisdiction: With a population of 270,056, St. Clair County consists of 28 municipalities. Belleville, the county’s largest city, has a population of 44,000. East St. Louis and five surrounding townships are recognized as distressed communities where 49% of the residents are low-income. In this area, the average number of families below the poverty level exceeds state and national averages. St. Clair County has seen an increasing divide between relatively affluent suburban communities and impoverished, struggling communities characterized by loss of jobs, a reduced tax base, older and deteriorating housing stock, racial segregation, poverty, and higher rates of mental illness, substance abuse, and violence.

St. Clair County characteristics

Characteristics	Total
Population (2010)	270,056
Adults (ages 18 and over)	75% of population
Unemployment rate (2012)	11%
Percent of population below poverty line (2010)	16%
Percent of population with high school diploma (2010)	87%
Percent of population with a bachelor’s degree or higher (2010)	24%
Adult felony probation caseload (2010)	1224
Court imposed sentences to felony probation (2010)	601
IDOC commitments (excluding technical parole violators, 2010)	442
Average daily jail population (2009)	124 (2008 capacity: 330)

Program model:

The St. Clair County Probation Department directs the ARI program of a specialized mental health docket and intensive probation supervision for non-violent offenders. The program consists of a court mental health team that meets regularly and extensive cross training for both criminal justice and mental health staff on the needs of the targeted offenders and specific evidence-based practices. An ARI program coordinator facilitates linkage to treatment for offenders and provides intensive case management through a smaller caseload, allowing for closer monitoring and implementation of evidence-based practices. Offenders receive intensive case management, mental health and substance abuse treatment, and ancillary services such as access to medications, housing assistance, vocational training, and transportation. A jail screen worker identifies offenders and a therapist provides trauma-informed therapy to offenders in need.

Pathways into program:

The St. Clair County State's Attorney initially reviews a potential participant's criminal history and current charges and then refers offender for a jail screen.

1. Jail screen worker completes a brief jail screen.
2. A team including probation, the ARI coordinator, the state's attorney and the defense attorney review potential offenders and determine program eligibility.
3. If eligible, the service planning/coordination team meets with the offender in the jail, explains the program, and recommends an initial service plan to the court.
4. If the offender agrees to the program, the offender is sentenced to the specialized docket. The ARI coordinator works with mental health case managers to further assess and establish a treatment plan.

Key partners:

Lead agency and fiscal agent: St. Clair County Probation Department

Key partners/stakeholders: 20th Judicial Circuit Judiciary; 20th Judicial Circuit Court Services and Probation Department; St. Clair County Mental Health Board; Treatment Provider

Contracting social service/treatment providers: Chestnut Health Systems; Comprehensive Behavioral Health Center; A Call for Help, Inc.; Genoa Pharmacy; National Alliance for the Mentally Ill