



HISTORY OF PROBLEM-SOLVING COURTS

The first drug court in the United States began operating in 1989 in Miami, FL. There are currently more than 3,500 Problem-Solving Courts operating in every state in the nation. (Bureau of Justice Assistance, bja.ojp.gov)

The first Nebraska Problem-Solving Court (PSC) started in 1997 in Douglas County and is still operating today.



NEBRASKA'S PROBLEM-SOLVING COURTS

Nebraska currently has 35 Problem-Solving Courts, operating in all 12 judicial districts. These include Adult Drug Courts in every judicial district, four Veterans Treatment Courts, three Reentry Courts, two DUI Courts, one Juvenile Drug Court, one Young Adult Court, one Mental Health Court, and two Family Treatment Courts.

When applicable, Nebraska Problem-Solving Courts adhere to Nebraska's Best Practice Standards. New courts can only be established with the approval of the Nebraska Supreme Court. Nebraska Problem-Solving Courts are designed to serve high-risk, high-need individuals.

Most Problem-Solving Courts in Nebraska operate under the Administrative Office of the Courts and Probation (AOCP), with the exception of the Adult Drug Court in Douglas County. Family Treatment Courts (FTC) typically operate within both the Courts and the Department of Health and Human Services.

Nebraska PSC's operate under a multidisciplinary team approach where a judge, prosecutor, defense counsel, coordinator, community supervision officer, law enforcement representative, treatment provider, and other designated community members all work together with the participant to protect public safety and increase the likelihood of successful rehabilitation.



DATA

In 2025, Nebraska's 35 Problem-Solving Courts **served nearly 2,000 individuals.**

The [Annual PSC LB50 Report](#) for calendar year 2024 showed a **24% Statewide Recidivism Rate** (adults only) and a **58% Graduation Rate.**

In fiscal year 2025, the average per-day cost to supervise a Problem-Solving Court participant was approximately **\$13.71 per day or \$5,000 per year** (the approximate cost per day to supervise an individual is based on the total cost of probation personnel and operating expenses divided by the total population of individuals supervised).

Since fiscal year 2020, Nebraska has seen a **41% increase** in the number of adult and juvenile Problem-Solving Court participants.

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