

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE November 30, 2018

TO Honorable Members of the Economic Development & Housing Committee

SUBJECT Community Courts "Transition for Poverty to self Sufficiency"

On Monday, December 3, 2018, the Economic Development & Housing Committee will be briefed on Community Courts "Transition for Poverty to self Sufficiency". I will be presenting the briefing along with Dianne Gibson, Community Courts Section Head. The materials are attached for you review.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "C. Caso".

Christopher J. Caso
Interim City Attorney

T.C. Broadnax, City Manager
Carol A. Smith, City Auditor (Interim)
Biliera Johnson, City Secretary
Preston Robinson, Administrative Judge
Kimberly Bizer Tolbert, Chief of Staff to the City Manager
Majed A. Al-Ghafry, Assistant City Manager

Jon Fortune, Assistant City Manager
Joey Zapata, Assistant City Manager
Nadia Chandler Hardy, Assistant City Manager and Chief Resilience Officer
M. Elizabeth Reich, Chief Financial Officer
Directors and Assistant Directors

Community Courts

“Transition from Poverty to Self-Sufficiency”

**Economic Development and
Housing Committee**

December 3, 2018

**Christopher J. Caso
Interim City Attorney**

**Dianne Gibson
Community Courts Section Head**



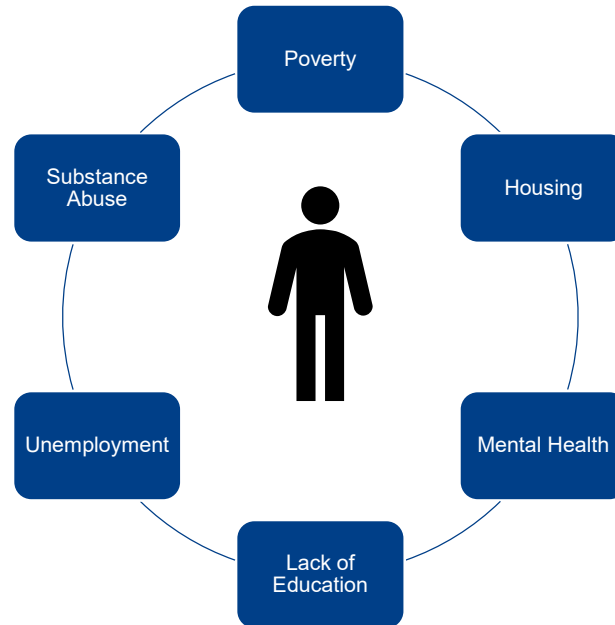
City of Dallas

Presentation Overview

- Program Overview
- Methodology
- Performance
- Questions

Catalyst for Change

The Community Courts Program reduces barriers that make it more difficult for individuals to address their underlying issues that lead to criminogenic behaviors through a concentrated effort of collaboration with City departments, local non-profits, and other governmental entities. This approach is designed to prevent defendants from committing higher level offenses.



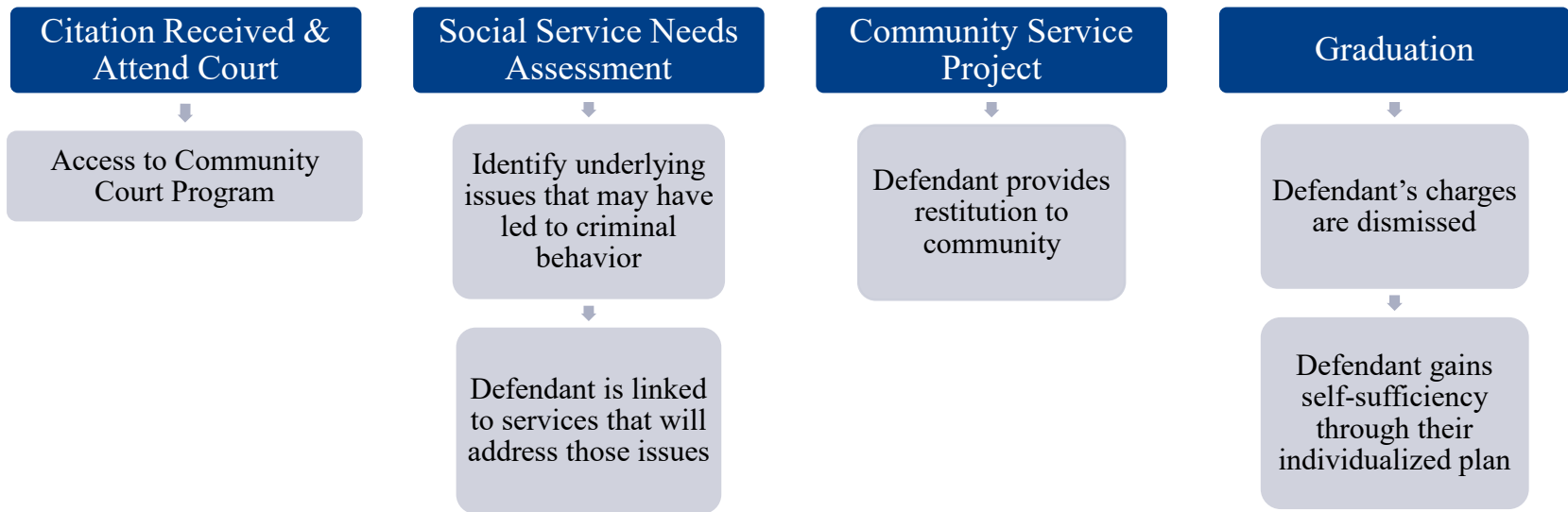
An Effective Model that Works

- How does this work?
 - Creative problem-solving and community-focused approach
 - Strong collaborations and partnerships
 - Community engagement and restitution
 - Assessment-driven service plans are implemented
- Why does this work?
 - Reduced recidivism leads to more productive, contributing members of society
 - Community services leads to beautification of communities

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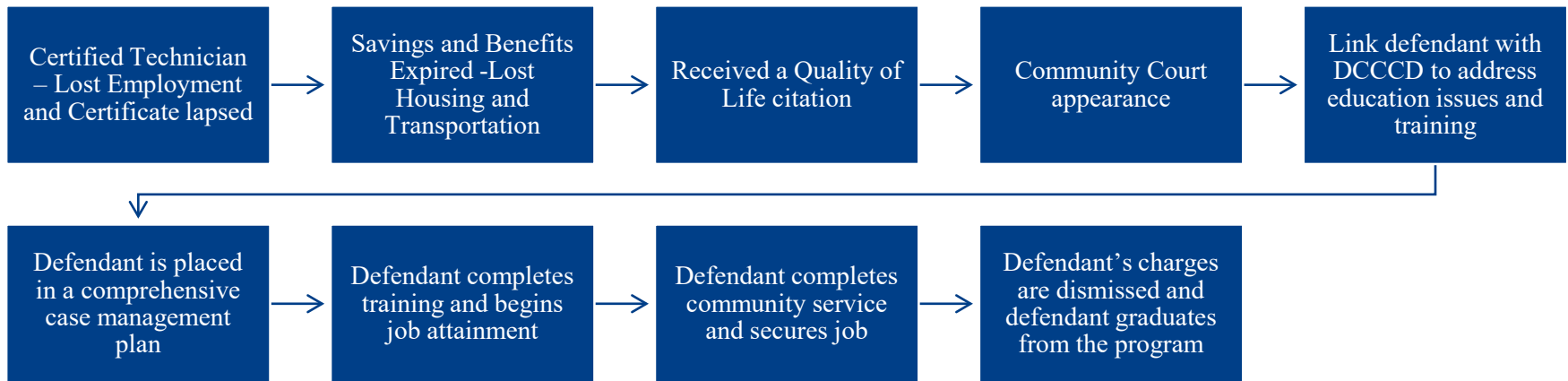
An Unique Approach to Addressing Poverty

A study by the Mayor's Task Force identified nine main drivers of poverty in Dallas. Addressing many of these drivers would require focusing on the individual's criminal background as it can impair one's ability to secure state-issued identification, affordable sustainable housing as well as limit access to receive financial aid and other educational opportunities, which will have a negative effect on obtaining employment and career advancement.



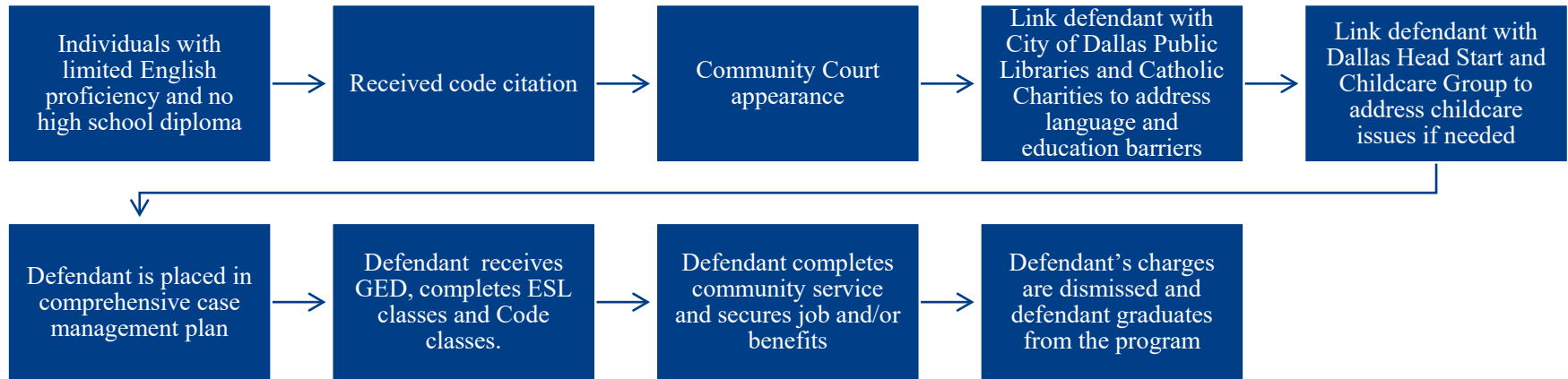
Example 1: Defendant A

- Poverty Drivers: Lack of educational attainment, lack of affordable transportation, neighborhoods of concentrated poverty



Example 2: Defendant B

- Poverty Drivers: Lack of proper housing, lack of educational attainment, and limited English-proficiency.



Performance

- **Rehabilitate.**

- Cases processed: 39,981

- **Restore.**

- Number of Community Service Hours: 16,683
 - Saves Dallas Tax payers \$173,002
- 359 Graduates

- **Dignity and Respect.**

- “They helped me the same day I came to them.”
- “I am living proof that there are better ways to help people than to put them in jail.”
- “I now have my license in A/C maintenance and repair and can make a living.”

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QUESTIONS

