

Mission Statement

The Community Court mission is to build a stronger and safer Tacoma. This model will promote increased accountability and personal growth by connecting community members to needed health and social services. Individuals who are charged with misdemeanor offenses are often dealing with significant life challenges such as education barriers, food insecurity, housing instability, mental health concerns, limited job opportunities, substance use disorder, and trauma.

In Community Court, we utilize a collaborative and problem-solving approach that brings together case management, community partnerships, and treatment providers to reduce recidivism and increase overall independence and rehabilitation.

**Community Court is held
Thursday afternoons at
1:30pm or 3pm**

The court will inform participants when they should arrive.

CONTACT US

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TACOMA MUNICIPAL COURT

Community Court

What is Community Court?

Community Court is a therapeutic program designed to address the unmet needs that lead to court involvement. Each participant creates their own goals to connect with community resources and treatment programs that can help them live healthy, independent lives.

What are the benefits compared to traditional court?

Community Court hearings are held outside of the courthouse in a welcoming, approachable environment. The program offers wrap-around support from court staff, a case manager, and treatment providers.

We partner with the District Court Resource Center to help participants access beneficial community resources such as transportation assistance, education/employment services, housing, and more in an easy, timely manner.

Participants who successfully complete all Community Court requirements will have charges **dismissed** at the end of the program.

Program Requirements

Community Court Participants must be willing to:

- Engage in the screening process and complete recommended assessments
- Complete mental health and substance use disorder evaluation and treatment (when applicable)
- Attend Community Court hearings as scheduled
- Maintain law-abiding behavior
- Complete a designated number of service hours. There are many activities that can count towards service hours, including community service, education/employment programs, and time spent pursuing community resources. Participants are encouraged to select activities that are best suited to their individual interests and needs.

Eligibility

There is a presumption of admission for justice-involved potential participants dealing with significant life challenges such as education barriers, food insecurity, housing instability, mental health concerns, limited job opportunities, substance use disorder, and trauma. Anyone can make a referral to Community Court, though final eligibility determination will be made by the city prosecutor, defense attorney, and Community Court team.

Exclusions

Certain cases are excluded from Community Court pursuant to RCW 2.30.030(3), including those who have been previously convicted of the following offenses:

- a serious violent offense
- a sex offense
- an offense alleging intentional discharge, threat to discharge, or attempt to discharge a firearm in furtherance of the offense
- vehicular homicide
- an offense alleging substantial or great bodily harm or death of another person