



**THE TRIAL COURT OF MASSACHUSETTS
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE TRIAL COURT**

John Adams Courthouse
One Pemberton Square, 1M
Boston, MA 02108

Heidi E. Brieger
Chief Justice of the Trial Court

Thomas G. Ambrosino
Court Administrator

March 26, 2025

Senator Michael J. Rodrigues
Chair, Senate Ways and Means Committee
State House, Room 212
Boston, MA 02133

Representative Aaron Michlewitz
Chair, House Ways and Means Committee
State House, Room 243
Boston MA 02133

Re: Report on Specialty Court Line Item 0330-0601

Dear Chairs Rodrigues and Michlewitz:

Pursuant to the provisions of Fiscal Year 2025 budget line item 0330-0601, we are pleased to report on the Trial Court's use of specialty court funding, specifically the interdepartmental transfers of funds to various departments of the Commonwealth.

The Massachusetts Trial Court greatly appreciates the Legislature's leadership and support in funding the costs of maintaining and operating 63 existing specialty courts operating across Massachusetts. Every Specialty Courts has a full-time or part-time Specialty Courts Clinician who provides bio-psych-social assessments and referrals to care, short term case management while the participant is connecting to outside treatment providers, and ongoing monitoring of participants' engagement in treatment.

For FY2025, the Trial Court provided the Department of Mental Health (DMH) with \$4,223,585 through an Interdepartmental Service Agreement, calculated to cover the costs of the Specialty Court Clinicians working in the 63 specialty courts. As of March 26, 2025, DMH has expended \$3,886,897.19 and there is a balance of \$336,687.81 remaining in the ISA that will be expended by June 30.

Also, in FY2025, the Trial Court provided the Department of Veterans Services (DVS) with \$210,000 through an Interdepartmental Service Agreement to defray the costs of assigning a member of the DVS SAVE Team to each of the 7 Veterans Treatment Courts located across the Commonwealth. As of March 4, 2025, DVS has expended \$170,385.11 with \$39,614.69 remaining.

The successful operation of specialty courts, as enabled by the budget appropriation, results from unprecedented collaboration by the Trial Court, Department of Mental Health, Department of Public Health's Bureau of Substance Addiction Services, and Department of Veterans Services.

We greatly appreciate your support for this important work.

Sincerely,



Heidi E. Brieger
Chief Justice of the Trial Court



Thomas G. Ambrosino
Court Administrator

cc: Honorable Karen E. Spilka, Senate President
Honorable Ron Mariano, Speaker of the House of Representatives
Honorable Lydia Edwards, Senate Chair, Joint Committee on the Judiciary
Honorable Michael S. Day, House Chair, Joint Committee on the Judiciary