



Drug court in Nashua recognized as national mentor



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[Grace Finerman](#)

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NASHUA, N.H. —

A drug court in Nashua is receiving a major recognition and will be used as a model for other courts across the country.

There are more than 3,000 drug courts in the United States, but just 10 have been named mentor courts. Hillsborough County Superior Court-South's Adult Drug Court is one of them and will now host visitors from other courts that are just starting up or struggling to succeed.

Drug courts offer people a chance at treatment and supervision to deal with addiction and misuse, an alternative to the traditional paths in criminal justice courts.

Officials said such programs are vital in dealing with the drug problem.

"What we try to do in the court system is focus on the people that are constantly recycling through the jails and prisons," said Superior Court Chief Justice Tina Nadeau. "We see them over and over again in court, and the

traditional court system model alone doesn't really help stop the root cause on why people are committing crime."

Officials from courts from across New England are expected to visit Nashua, and the opportunity is also open for courts across the country.

"It really is amazing when you see that effort put in and the outcomes on the other side," said Program Manager Julie Christenson-Collins. "It's not easy. It's definitely not easy for people."