

# Project Summary

Eight years after state funding cuts ended Jefferson County's family drug court in 2010, the National Council of Jewish Women Louisville Section has raised enough money to open a new court in October 2018.

The Jefferson Family Recovery Court works as a voluntary, one-year program with four phases. The recovery court judge will make weekly contact with treatment and service providers, participants and their families to help provide them access to services.

The nation's drug epidemic has devastated towns and [led to more than 72,000 overdose deaths](#) in 2017, according to the National Institute On Drug Abuse. More than 400 people died from drug overdoses in Jefferson County last year, according to a news release from the Jefferson Family Recovery Court.

Participants will be identified by social service staff with the Cabinet for Health and Family Services and will undergo regular drug testing during the program, expected to last about a year. They will appear in court about once a week for updates on their progress.

The goal is to get parents off drugs and help families stay together. The recovery court will begin with about 35 participants. By next the end of 2019, family court expects to add a second docket under a different judge. Eventually all 10 family court judges in Jefferson County would like to add a recovery court to their dockets.

Among those eager to do so is Judge Derwin Webb, who said he regularly sees children affected by addiction in his courtroom. And he knows some parents, with the proper help, can get past addiction and keep families together.