



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
22ND JUDICIAL DISTRICT
ROBERT F. STEPHENS DISTRICT COURTHOUSE
150 NORTH LIMESTONE, SUITE 531
LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY 40507
PHONE 859-246-2247 OPTION 9

JUDGES CHAMBERS

FAYETTE DISTRICT COURT

February 9, 2026

Dear Mayor Gorton and Members of Council:

We are pleased to offer our continued and unwavering support for the Fayette Mental Health Court (FMHC). Because this Court continues its proven exceptional performance, measurable outcomes, and profound impact on both participants and the broader community, we believe it must continue in our county. The FMHC's results in 2025 alone demonstrate a level of effectiveness, fiscal responsibility, and public safety benefit that warrants recognition and continued support.

Over the life of the program, FMHC has served 623 individuals. This includes 105 successful graduates. Moreover, the program's overall recidivism rate of 17.7% underscores its effectiveness in reducing repeat involvement with the justice system, particularly among individuals with complex behavioral health needs.

In 2025, a banner year for FMHC, 25 participants successfully graduated from the program, generating an estimated \$3,166,462 in total savings to the community. This figure includes \$2,926,750 in avoided incarceration costs as well as an additional \$239,712 in savings related to reduced policing and court expenditures. These numbers reflect not only cost avoidance, but meaningful system-level efficiency.

Also in 2025, FMHC served 40 participants, with 25 new individuals entering the program. FMHC's impact on participant stability is particularly noteworthy. Nearly half of participants entered the program unhoused. After one year of participation, 97% were considered safely housed. Additionally, approximately 90% of participants entered the program with co-occurring diagnoses of serious mental illness and substance use disorder. Among those individuals, 60% maintained complete abstinence from mood- or mind-altering substances after one year in the program.

These tremendous outcomes reflect a program that is rigorous, humane, fiscally responsible, and grounded in evidence-based practice. FMHC continues to exemplify how alternative, problem-solving courts can improve individual lives while strengthening community safety and stewarding public resources wisely.

We continue our strong support of the Fayette Mental Health Court without reservation and commend its leadership in Judge John Lindsay Tackett, staff, and partners for their dedication and results.

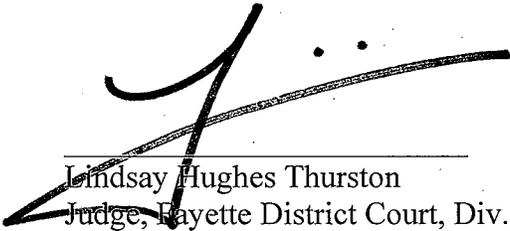
Respectfully submitted,



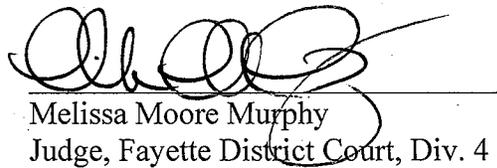
T. Bruce Bell
Chief Judge, Fayette District Court, Div. 2



Denotra Spruill Gunther
Judge, Fayette District Court, Div. 1



Lindsay Hughes Thurston
Judge, Fayette District Court, Div. 3



Melissa Moore Murphy
Judge, Fayette District Court, Div. 4



Administrative Office of the Courts

Debra Hembree Lambert
Chief Justice of the
Commonwealth

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Frankfort, Kentucky 40601
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Zach Ramsey
Director

Office of Urban County Council
Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government
200 East Main Street
Lexington, Kentucky 40507

January 22, 2026

To Whom It May Concern:

The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) is proud to express support for the Fayette Mental Health Treatment Court and its request for continued local funding. AOC also recognizes that establishing a second Mental Health Court in Fayette County would be a valuable expansion, allowing the courts to increase capacity and serve more justice-involved individuals affected by serious mental illness and co-occurring substance use disorders.

The Fayette Mental Health Treatment Court has played a vital role in reducing recidivism among justice-involved individuals living with serious mental illness and co-occurring substance use disorders. It served as a model mental health court during the statewide expansion overseen by the Administrative Office of the Courts, providing invaluable assistance and guidance in the successful implementation of new mental health courts across several counties in Kentucky.

The Administrative Office of the Courts fully supports this continued local funding request and the collaboration necessary to ensure that justice-involved individuals in Fayette County have access to essential treatment, resources, and services. The investment represents a meaningful step toward improved outcomes for individuals, the justice system, and the broader community.

Sincerely,

Zachary Ramsey

Zach Ramsey, Director
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