



# VETERANS JUSTICE COURT

A SNAPSHOT

## WHAT IS VJC?

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Veterans Justice Court is diversion program for justice involved Veterans. The court provides an opportunity for Veterans charged with eligible crimes to avoid incarceration by participating in programming such drug and alcohol rehabilitation, counseling, job training and more. Every Veteran has a tailored plan designed to set them up for success and stability after graduation.

## WHAT TYPES OF VETERANS PARTICIPATE?

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In San Francisco, all Veterans are eligible for VJC regardless of their discharge status. Typically the Veterans we serve in VJC are high needs and are fighting addiction, a history of trauma and/or mental health challenges.

## HOW MANY VETERANS ARE SERVED BY VJC?

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Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Participated	124	126	113	91	87
Graduated	44	30	39	18	24

## HOW DOES VJC NEED YOUR HELP?

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- The Veterans in VJC deserve continuity of legal representation.
- The vast majority of Veteran participants in VJC are represented by the office of the public defender.
- However, the assigned public defender changes frequently.
- For example, four different public defenders have been assigned to VJC over the last 6 months.
- Please communicate to the Office of the Public Defender that providing consistent and quality legal representation to our Veteran community should be a priority.

