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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS AWARDS \$1 MILLION TO ADULT DRUG COURTS, DELIVERS NALOXONE BOXES FOR EVERY COURTROOM IN ARKANSAS**

(Little Rock, Arkansas) – The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) announced today that it has presented \$1 million in awards to the forty-five (45) adult drug court programs currently operating throughout Arkansas. Officials from the AOC presented the awards beginning in February.

The awards must be used to provide restorative services for drug court participants, including transitional and chemical-free housing, substance abuse and mental health services, peer support recovery services, childcare assistance, and educational services and programming. The Arkansas Attorney General’s Office provided the funds to AOC as part of the state’s opioid litigation settlement allocation.

“These funds will better equip the Adult Drug Courts in Arkansas with the resources they need to address the ongoing opioid epidemic within our state,” said John Dan Kemp, Chief Justice of the Arkansas Supreme. “As a former drug court judge and as chair of the Specialty Court Program Advisory Committee, I understand that the state’s drug courts and other treatment courts play a critical role in addressing the cruel impact the opioid crisis is having in our communities.”

AOC officials also delivered Opioid Overdose Rescue Boxes and a supply of Naloxone so that every courtroom in the State of Arkansas has the life-saving medication on hand. The Naloxone medication helps overdose victims survive by blocking and reversing the effects of opioid drugs on a person’s body. Funding for the rescue boxes and Naloxone kits was provided by the U.S. Department of Justice.

“Given their close work with those suffering from opioid addiction, it is important that our courts and court personnel have a readily available supply of Naloxone on hand,” said Marty Sullivan, Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts.

“As our office has traveled throughout the state delivering these checks, we have heard countless stories from drug court judges about the immediate impact these funds will have on participants’ treatment and recovery,” Sullivan said. “The AOC is proud to support the hard work of drug court teams as they fight on the frontlines of the addiction crisis gripping our state, and we are actively pursuing ways to provide continued funding to support their work,” Sullivan added.

Sullivan also noted the hiring of a staff attorney to act as the statewide specialty court coordinator as part of AOC’s efforts to provide enhanced support for both the legal and programmatic sides of drug courts and other treatment courts.

According to data from the Arkansas State Crime Lab, there were over 2,586 deaths from overdose statewide between 2017 and 2023.