



American Samoa

PRISON PROGRAM

Tafuna Correctional Facility

Prison Program



Tafuna Correctional Facility

Current FY 18 Funding: \$49,179*

OVERVIEW OF PROGRAM

Tafuna Correctional Facility, the only correctional facility located in American Samoa, serves the functions of both jail and prison. The RSAT program located there is the only residential substance use disorder program in American Samoa.

This six-month program serves up to 20 people at a time. The program consists of three eight-week sessions with breaks between them. Both men and women may participate in the program, but they receive services separately, on different days. The male participants are housed in a separate designated housing facility.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA, SCREENING/ASSESSMENT, AND TREATMENT PLANNING

The program is open to individuals who meet the criteria of having been convicted of a drug- or alcohol-related crime, are diagnosed with a substance use disorder (SUD), and voluntarily agree to enroll. Individuals who have SUD diagnoses but were convicted of non-drug-related crimes are also considered if there is program capacity. Those convicted of violent offenses are not necessarily ineligible, but are subjected to more rigorous screening.

Screening is completed at the jail by a contractor who is a licensed social worker; each potential participant meets one on one with the social worker. In addition, the medical contractor for the facility conducts an assessment. Individual treatment plans are not developed, as everyone receives the same treatment and participates in the same curriculum.

MODALITY OF RSAT PROGRAM

Program participants must successfully complete each of the three eight-week sessions to move on to the next session and graduate. Some participants do not complete the program due to early release or work release, but people are not discharged from the program for disciplinary reasons.

*Funding information estimated or extracted from best available information and may be subject to change.

Treatment and counseling services are provided by a contractor. In each eight-week session, clients participate in RSAT classes two to three days a week and are required to complete homework assignments. Each client also participates in group therapy and receives individual counseling; if people need or want more individual therapy, it is made available to them. Women and men participate in the groups and classes on different days. On days they are not participating in classes, groups, or counseling, participants either are pursuing other educational opportunities or have work assignments.

To graduate, participants must attend all required groups, classes, and counseling sessions and complete all homework assignments. In addition, participants cannot have had any behavior problems serious enough to warrant removal from the program. In the past 12 months, 21 clients completed the program. Recidivism rates are very low.

CONTINUING CARE/REINTEGRATION

There are a limited number of SUD treatment services in American Samoa, and the program is still working toward trying to arrange access to sufficient re-entry and continuing care services. A private organization, Catholic Social Services, offers some outpatient treatment, but it is not sufficient to meet the needs of all re-entering clients. The program is working with the parole staff to try to get help with this problem. They would like to be able to offer access to residential SUD treatment in Hawaii, their nearest U.S. neighbor, but so far, they have not been able to arrange it. One participant who served his sentence asked to be re-admitted to the facility in order to get SUD treatment, but that was not possible.

PROGRAM CONTACT INFORMATION

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