Survey to Chief APOs

Issue: Community Service to Reduce Financial Obligations

Question: (from Fayette County)

I am interested in finding counties who, either through their own collections unit or clerk of courts, allow their offenders to perform community service in order to reduce their financial obligations, e.g. fines costs, etc. My PJ is interested in establishing a program here and any policy or procedure that you would be willing to share would be helpful!

Allegheny County

Allegheny County adult probation does not but our juvenile division has a program like this. We are totally separate entities so I do not know much about the program but I do know it exists.

Beaver County

Our Judges in Beaver County will check a box on the court order that gives a defendant permission to complete community service in lieu of fines/costs.

Our office then contacts the clerk of courts to establish a number of hours that can be completed.

Cambria County

Cambria County has a program called the Work Crew. Offenders that are unable to pay costs and fines can be court order onto the work crew. I can speak with you in depth about the program.

Dauphin County

Dauphin does not permit CS in lieu of fines and costs.

York County

York County offers community service in lieu of payment of court costs (not all, some must be paid), fines and supervision fees. We have liability insurance that covers any issues that may arise for the defendant and the provider. We also have a work crew program for those who are limited where they can do their CS hours...such as sex offenders.