

ELIGIBILITY:

All the following criteria must be met for an individual to be considered for AOT:

- Is 18 years of age or older;
- Is a resident of Bernalillo County;
- Has a primary diagnosis of serious mental disorder;
- Has a demonstrated history of lack of adherence with mental health treatment which has led to:
 - a. Two or more hospitalizations or incarcerations in the last four years, or
 - b. One or more acts of serious violent behavior toward self or others or threats of, or attempts at, serious physical harm to self or others in the last for years, or
 - c. Incarceration or hospitalization for six months or more;
- Is unlikely to voluntarily participate in outpatient treatment that would enable him or her to live safely in the community;
- Is in need of AOT as the least restrictive alternative to prevent a relapse or deterioration which would likely result in serious harm to self or others; and
- Is likely to benefit from AOT.

PARTNERS:



Program Partners are committed to recovery, self-determination, and consumer choice.

SAMHSA

Substance Abuse and Mental Health
Services Administration

*The AOT Program is funded by
SAMHSA grant #1H79SM063539-01*

For additional information:

(505) 841-7627

Albd-aot-grp@nmcourts.gov

To make a referral:

(505) 764-8231

aot@hopeworksnm.org

[https://www.hopeworksnm.org/
assisted-outpatient-treatment-aot/](https://www.hopeworksnm.org/assisted-outpatient-treatment-aot/)

SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

Honorable Judge
Beatrice J. Brickhouse

Assisted Outpatient Treatment Program

*A new civil court program to facilitate
the delivery of community-based
behavioral health treatment to
individuals with serious mental illness*





WHAT IS AOT?

Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) is a **civil** legal procedure in which a court can order an individual with a serious mental disorder to follow a treatment plan in the community. The goal of AOT is to ensure individuals do not suffer a break in their continuity of care, thereby reducing the risk of incarceration or hospitalization while improving their health and well-being.

WHO CAN REQUEST AOT?

- An adult roommate of the person;
- A parent, spouse, adult child or adult sibling of the person;
- The director of a hospital where the person is hospitalized;

Individuals receive treatment and services in a way that is collaborative, respectful, and driven by his or her own goals and desire for recovery.

- The director of an organization where the person lives and provides mental health services to the person;
- A qualified professional who is providing or supervising the person's mental health treatment or had supervised or treated the person within the last 4 years; or
- A surrogate decision maker, such as a power of attorney or guardian

HOW DOES A PERSON RECEIVE SERVICES THROUGH AOT?

If the individual meets the eligibility criteria, he/she is examined by a qualified professional who determines whether the person will benefit from court ordered treatment. The court receives documentation, including a petition and treatment plan for the individual. A court hearing is then scheduled, and an attorney is appointed to represent the person. If the judge

finds by clear and convincing evidence that the facts stated in the petition are true and all requisite criteria are met, an AOT order is issued for up to one year.

WHAT SERVICES CAN THE COURT ORDER INCLUDE?

Such services SHALL include:

- Case management services or Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) services

AND may also include:

- Medication
- Periodic blood tests or urinalysis to determine adherence with prescribed medications
- Individual or group therapy
- Day or partial day programming activities
- Educational and vocational training or activities
- Alcohol or substance abuse treatment and counseling and periodic tests
- Supervised living arrangements
- Any other services to support the person with living in the community