

# The State of Washington



## Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, the lives of thousands of drug court and other therapeutic court participants, along with their families and children, are transformed each year through their participation in a therapeutic court process that provides the support and structure they need to overcome substance use and mental health conditions; and

**WHEREAS**, annual Department of Social and Health Services' analyses show that Washington's adult drug courts can reduce recidivism and increase employment among program participants; and

**WHEREAS**, therapeutic courts promote equity by providing an off-ramp from incarceration and loss of parental rights for individuals involved in the criminal and child welfare legal systems, thereby lessening the impact of systemic racism that has caused people of color to be disproportionately represented within these systems; and

**WHEREAS**, therapeutic courts provide treatment, medications, case management, peer support, comprehensive resources, expectations, and accountability that support long-term recovery; and

**WHEREAS**, therapeutic courts intervene to reduce overdose deaths, decrease homelessness, reunite families, improve parenting skills, and create safer, healthier communities that benefit us all;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim May 2022, as

### *Drug Court Month*

in Washington, and I encourage all people in our state to join me in this special observance.



Signed this 25<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2022

A handwritten signature of Jay Inslee in blue ink, written in a cursive style.

Governor Jay Inslee