

DAVIS POLICE DEPARTMENT
Collateral Assignments
Special Needs Assessment Team

The Davis Police Department recognizes that interaction with people who have special needs is an important community caretaking function. For the purposes of this assignment, a person with special needs includes any individual suffering from mental illness, or a developmental or physical disability. Those with special needs are often affected by disruptions in thinking, the ability to relate to others, and/or the ability to function normally on a daily basis. Those who are close to these individuals, such as family members, friends, and the community, are also affected by the circumstances in which special needs individuals find themselves.

Using a follow-up based approach, the Special Needs Assessment Team will guide the agency's response to individuals who have special needs when they find themselves in contact with law enforcement. By identifying necessary resources, creating support networks, communicating with relatives, officers will attempt to find solutions that best serve these individuals and the community, with the additional desired outcome of reducing future necessity for the individual or their family to engage law enforcement under crisis circumstances.

Duties of Special Needs Assessment

- Evaluate 5150 W&I reports taken by Davis Police Department to ensure that department personnel are responding professionally and within legal requirements to incidents involving mentally ill individuals.
- Provide training to department staff on best practices when responding to individuals with mental illness and/or special needs.
- Identify individuals within the City of Davis who, due to mental illness or special needs, have had multiple contacts with law enforcement. After identifying these individuals, team members will work with them, their family members, legal service providers, and/or County social service agencies to help stabilize the individual and reduce the likelihood they will need to be contacted in the future.
- Follow-up with mental health staff and/or family members to assess the effectiveness of intervention provided by police.
- Provide front-line law enforcement staff with an avenue in which to direct and receive information regarding problems in their beats that involve persons who are mentally ill or identified as having special needs.
- Meet as a team to discuss issues.
- Engage in liaison with Yolo County Mental Health and other county agencies.

Minimum Requirements

32 hours POST Crisis Intervention Training

Application Process

Upon announcement of a vacancy, qualified officers must submit a letter of interest to Professional Standards, which includes; time in law enforcement, previous specialty assignments, and any special skills possessed which could benefit the team. Applicants who meet the minimum requirements for the position may be invited to participate in an interview panel. The interview panel, if used, and/or the team coordinator will then make a recommendation to the Police Chief, or their designee, who will make any final appointment.

Supervision

Special Needs Assessment Team Officers will report to COPPS/ILP Sergeant.