

Self-Sustaining SCRAM Programs

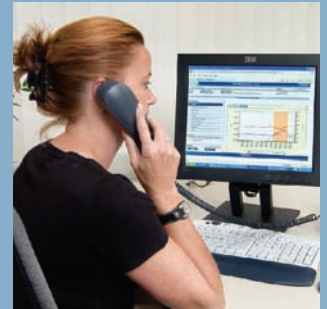
SCRAM® (Secure Continuous Remote Alcohol Monitor) helps courts continuously monitor alcohol offenders to ensure they're not drinking. Because SCRAM tests for alcohol every half hour around the clock, it is a much more effective alternative to random testing or incarceration.

SCRAM provides numerous benefits because it:

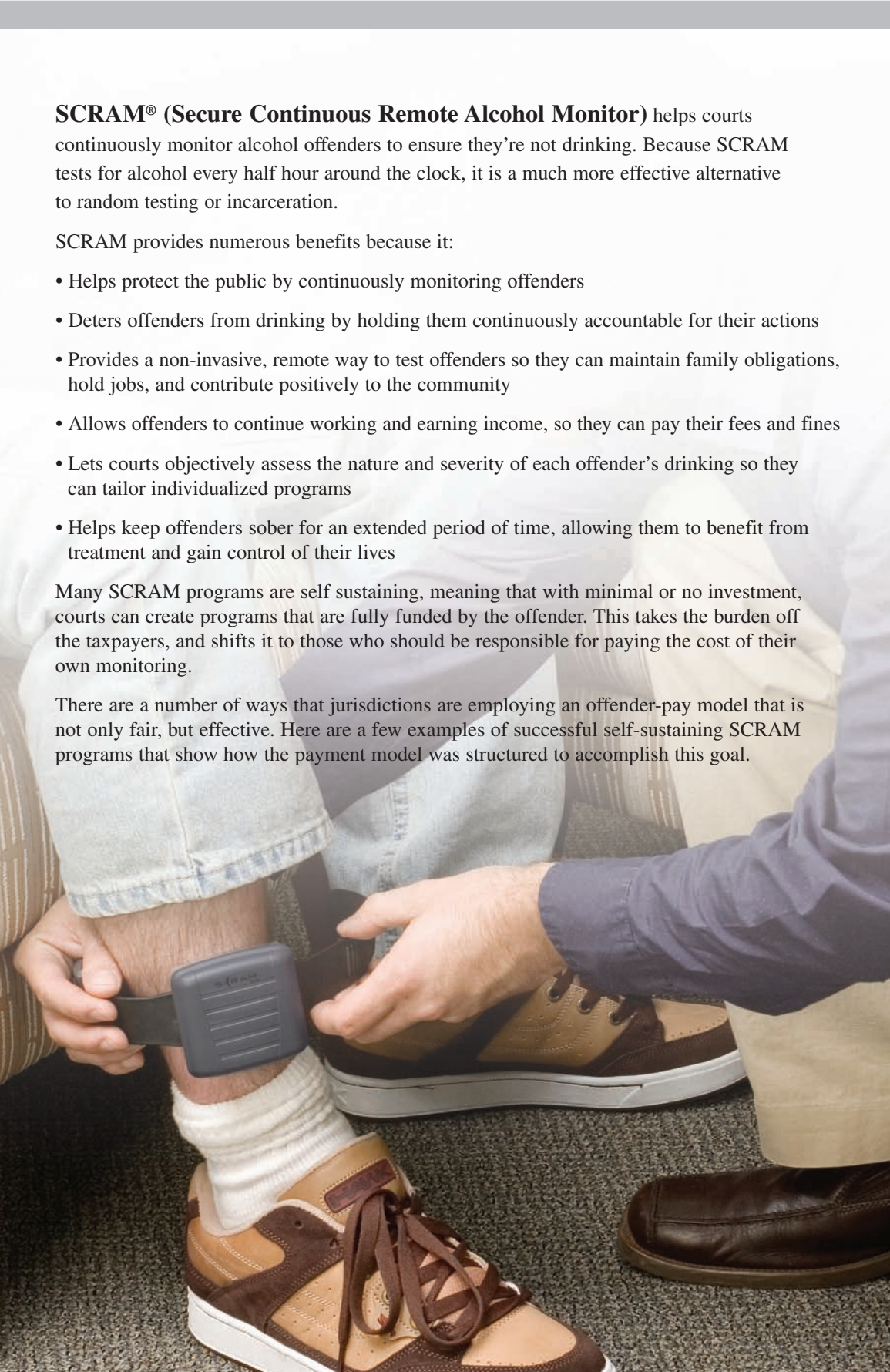
- Helps protect the public by continuously monitoring offenders
- Deters offenders from drinking by holding them continuously accountable for their actions
- Provides a non-invasive, remote way to test offenders so they can maintain family obligations, hold jobs, and contribute positively to the community
- Allows offenders to continue working and earning income, so they can pay their fees and fines
- Lets courts objectively assess the nature and severity of each offender's drinking so they can tailor individualized programs
- Helps keep offenders sober for an extended period of time, allowing them to benefit from treatment and gain control of their lives

Many SCRAM programs are self sustaining, meaning that with minimal or no investment, courts can create programs that are fully funded by the offender. This takes the burden off the taxpayers, and shifts it to those who should be responsible for paying the cost of their own monitoring.

There are a number of ways that jurisdictions are employing an offender-pay model that is not only fair, but effective. Here are a few examples of successful self-sustaining SCRAM programs that show how the payment model was structured to accomplish this goal.



Many SCRAM programs are self-sustaining, meaning there is little or no cost to the courts or taxpayers.



Hancock County, IN – Daily Scale Program

Hancock County, located in central Indiana, has approximately 60,000 residents with Greenfield being the primary city.

Over the past three years, Hancock County Community Corrections has monitored offenders with SCRAM for the Superior Court and the Circuit OVWI Court, which is a drug and alcohol court for the most serious offenders. The County currently has 40 SCRAM devices. Most of these offenders are placed on SCRAM as part of their sentence, although occasionally a few are monitored in lieu of bond. The County also uses SCRAM for misdemeanor cases where probation terms have been violated due to alcohol abuse, and are also beginning to use it in lieu of an Antibus program as a condition of probation.

In January 2003, the County started a “day scale” fee schedule system for all its electronic monitoring programs that charges offenders one hour of pay for each day of monitoring (even if they only work part-time). There is no preset maximum limit, but program supervisors will adjust payments based on unusual need or financial circumstances. This program replaced a previous one where all offenders paid a flat fee of \$7.50/day. Supporters say that the new program is more equitable because it is based on actual earned income.



For its SCRAM program, the County contracts directly with Alcohol Monitoring Systems, Inc. (AMS) to drive its costs down. Its SCRAM program started in November 2005 with ten units, and has grown from there. “Because the offender pays for his or her own SCRAM monitoring, the benefit is that there is no cost to our budget for this program,” explains Pat Powers, Executive Director of Community Correction for Hancock County. “This includes no expense for our support staff who are administering the program. Instead, we’ve diverted these funds to having an in-house substance abuse counselor on our staff, which is directly benefiting the offenders.”

Highlights of Hancock County’s self-sustaining SCRAM program:

- Minimum rate: \$7.00/day (adjustments made on a case-by-case basis)
- Ranges from the minimum up to \$45/day
- Offender’s employer must verify employment and income
- Average current daily intake: \$9-10
- Agency’s actual daily cost: \$5.40/unit
- Profit pays for all man hours required to run this program
- SCRAM Program has been self-sustaining since Summer 2006

Vigilnet Northwest – Sliding Scale Fee Structure

Vigilnet Northwest is a SCRAM Service Provider located in Portland, OR, with additional offices in Omaha, NE and Los Angeles, CA. Since 2007, the company has been offering SCRAM to courts within Multnomah County, OR, which includes the Greater Portland area. Vigilnet Northwest charges offenders and collects fees from them directly, so the County is not involved in the process.

SCRAM is used in the County’s DUI Court for both misdemeanor and felony DUI cases. Additionally, it is used outside the DUI Court for a variety of cases involving alcohol abuse. The device is leveraged in a variety of ways, including being an integral part of court-mandated treatment programs.

Jake Dawes, the Regional Director of Vigilnet Northwest, explains that “having a 100% offender-funded model offers several benefits. First, it opens up SCRAM program participation to a wider range of offenders, mainly those who are low or no income. Our minimum daily fee is \$9, which is significantly less than similar programs in this industry. The courts who refer to us know that just about anyone who is working can afford to be on SCRAM.”

Dawes adds that Vigilnet's offender-pay model lets courts receive the benefits of a comprehensive SCRAM program without incurring any costs. "Our SCRAM program helps save taxpayer dollars, while holding offenders responsible for their actions and allowing them to reinvest in their own rehabilitation," he says.

Highlights of Vigilnet Northwest's self-sustaining SCRAM program:

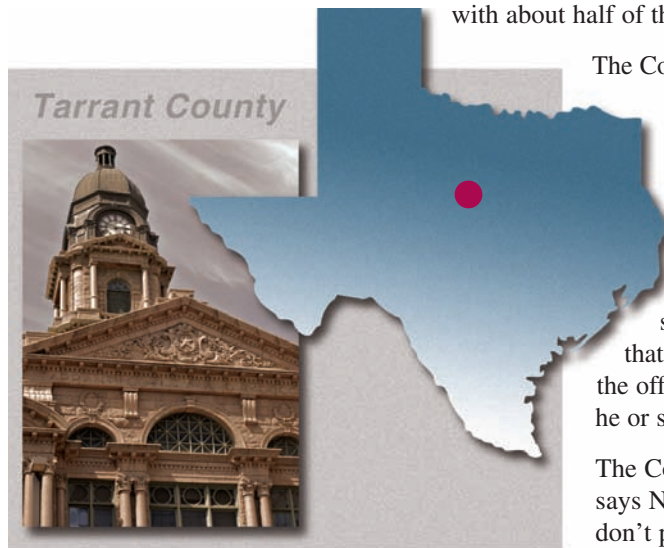
- Fully funded by the offender
- Charges the offender a daily fee for SCRAM based on their gross hourly wage
- Ranges between a minimum of \$9 to a maximum of \$25
- Average rate paid by offender - \$12/day
- Rate may be adjusted down if the offender has extenuating circumstances or very high debt



Tarrant County, TX – Sliding Scale Fee Structure

As one of the fastest-growing urban counties in the country, Tarrant County is located in north central Texas, with Fort Worth serving as the county seat to a population of approximately 1.7 million citizens.

Tarrant County uses SCRAM to continuously monitor its felony DWI offenders – both in pre-trial and as a condition of probation. Its SCRAM program is managed by Recovery Healthcare Corp., a Dallas/Ft. Worth-based SCRAM service provider that also has local offices in Houston, San Antonio, and Austin, TX. Currently, Recovery manages about 125 units for Tarrant County's SCRAM program, with about half of those allocated for pretrial cases.



The County's SCRAM program is self-sustaining, as the offenders subsidize its cost and pay according to a sliding scale. "We charge them what they make in an hour as their daily rate," explains Richard Newton, SCRAM Program Director for Recovery Healthcare. "But we also consider other factors when calculating what they'll pay, such as the number of people in their family that they're supporting." Newton adds that if the offender is not employed or has mental issues, he or she may not be charged for monitoring.

The County's collection rate is "pretty good," says Newton, as the offenders know that if they don't pay their monitoring fees, they'll have to go back to court and could end up back in jail

at the judge's discretion. Newton adds that the County "is very supportive in helping us collect our SCRAM fees by enforcing various sanctions for non-payment. If SCRAM is used in pre-trial, the offenders also know they have to pay their fees before they can be on probation."

Highlights of Tarrant County's self-sustaining SCRAM program:

- Funded by the offender
- Charges the offender a daily fee for SCRAM based on their hourly wage
- Considers other factors, like family size, in calculating final rate
- Ranges between a minimum of \$6 to a maximum of \$12/day
- Average SCRAM monitoring period: 120 days



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***- Pat Powers,
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Community Correction,
Hancock County, IN***

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Portland, OR***

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