



# The AIM to B'More Program

## INTRODUCTION

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### What is AIM to B'More?

AIM to B'More (AIM), was created by Baltimore City State's Attorney, Marilyn Mosby in 2015 as an alternative to incarceration to improve the quality of life for first-time low-level felony drug offenders who did not commit an act of violence. AIM is a diversion program that gives individuals charged with "Possession with Intent to Distribute" or "Distribution" the opportunity to avoid incarceration and a permanent criminal record. Instead, they can plea to a two-year "probation before judgment" and are connected to a team of people who help them address their needs and help them gain employment. In this program, they are able to meet their personal goals and reduce their likelihood of recidivism.

### GOALS

Ultimately, AIM seeks to provide individuals with a means of earning a legal income through problem solving, by increasing opportunities for self-development, while encouraging accountability and responsibility. Additionally, AIM uses a collaborative approach that helps improve coordination across agencies and access to services.

### STRUCTURE AND PARTNERS

Participants are offered a two-year supervised probation, including 100 hours of community service, career coaching, and are required to maintain consistent full time employment for one year. Upon successful completion of AIM, including full compliance with the terms of the probation and no new convictions, the case may be expunged.

AIM is comprised of a team of about 10 people; 4 people from the Baltimore City State's Attorney's Office, including a Program Coordinator, a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, an Assistant State's Attorney, and a Program Director.

Existing in partnership with public and private agencies, including the Office of Community Service and the Division of Parole and Probation in the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services AIM to B'More fills a critical void within the criminal justice system for offenders who sell drugs for income.

## **The Participant Track through AIM**

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### **Intake and Assessment**

First, participants attend a “preliminary meeting” with their counsel where they are given a brief orientation and undergo an amenability assessment to identify any chronic behavioral, social and psychological disorders and barriers to employment. The participant is then presented a probation contract (sample below), which they must sign before pleading into AIM.

### **AIM Plea**

AIM pleas take place on a Court designated day each month before the AIM Judge. These hearings will take place virtually over Zoom through the end of 2022.

### **Onboarding**

After the plea, participants must do the following three things:

1. Register with the Office of Parole and probation at 428 E. Preston St.,
2. Register with the Office of Community Service (Courthouse East room 504, 410 978 5746); and
3. Attend an action plan meeting with Program Coordinator at their agreed upon date/time

### **In AIM Program**

Participants continue to work with social worker, program coordinator and probation agent on the following goals throughout the two-year probation: job readiness, employment placement, workforce development, personal development interest, mentoring needs, wrap around support, and treatment as necessary.

### **Graduation**

Upon completing the program, participants must attend one of the scheduled biannual graduation ceremonies. Attendance is mandatory.

### **Expungement**

Generally by statute, Probation Before Judgements are eligible for expungement three years after the PBJ is entered. However, upon successful completion of the AIM to B'MORE Program, graduates of AIM must contact their counsel/attorney/defense attorney to help them file for expungement. After the necessary paperwork has been filed, AIM graduates **MUST** attend an expungement hearing and present “a showing of good cause” to petition the Court for an earlier expungement. At that hearing, the State’s Attorney’s Office/the State will notify the Expungement Court that the defendant is a graduate of the AIM to B'MORE Program.

## PROGRAM DATA THROUGH MAY 2021

§ 157 individuals pled into AIM

§ 89 individuals referred under (old) condition of 3 year PBJ

§ 68 individuals referred since modification of 3 to 2 year PBJ

§ 78 individuals graduated

§ 7 individuals referred to Drug Treatment Court for chronic/serious substance use

§ 15 individuals are active

§ 8 individuals are suspended

§ 57 individuals are terminated (VOP) – this is the recidivism rate (36%)

§ Over 12,043.59 community service hours completed

§ 70% of individuals have maintained full time employment in and through the program

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## AIM ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

An offer exists only after the AIM team finds the referred individual to be **legally eligible and amenable**. At any time before the plea, AIM can accept or reject a referred individual to the program.\*

### Legal Eligibility Checklist:

1. 18 years or older
2. First time felony drug offender
3. Non-violent felony drug offender
4. Agrees to all standard and AIM special conditions (phases 1 – 4) for two (2) years supervised probation.

### B. FLEXIBLE CRITERIA

1. Baltimore City Resident
2. Any defendant on an active adult probation must request a VOP transfer into AIM, however the Judge is unable to grant a transfer unless the individual lives in Baltimore City and we have approval from pending probation judge, the AIM Judge\* and current probation agent. VOP transfers from another jurisdiction are rare. If the probation cannot be transferred, then the person may still proceed into AIM as long as the conditions of the current probation do not cause an obstacle for the AIM probation, i.e. a violation of the current probation where the ASA is requesting a period of incarceration.

### C. UNALLOWABLE

1. No open case(s) in any jurisdiction, but for the initial referral, including Baltimore City, that are not resolved by the AIM plea date; but see flexible criteria above for those on probation.
2. If defendant is under age 21, a juvenile finding of delinquency for a crime of violence or hand gun violation will usually disqualify.
3. Any adult on an active juvenile probation will be disqualified.
4. No cases where the defendant is also charged with a firearm or ammunition offense, unless the trial ASA will definitively nolle prose that charge.
5. No conviction of the following crimes:
  - ☐ Murder: Criminal Law Article 2-201, 2-204
  - ☐ Manslaughter: Criminal Law Article 2-207
  - ☐ Rape: Criminal Law Article 3-303, 3-304
  - ☐ Abduction or kidnapping: Criminal Law Article 3-502, 3-503
  - ☐ First Degree Assault: Criminal Law Article 3-202
  - ☐ Sex offense (3rd degree): Criminal Law Article 3-307
  - ☐ Child Abuse: Criminal Law Article 3-601, 3-602,
  - ☐ Robbery: Criminal Law Article 3-402, 3-403
  - ☐ Arson: Criminal Law Article 6-102, 6-103
  - ☐ Handgun: Criminal Law Article 4-203, Public Safety Article 5-133
  - ☐ Burglary: Criminal Law Article 6-202, 6-203, 6-204
  - ☐ Theft: Criminal Law Article 7-104
  - ☐ Animal Cruelty: Criminal Law Article 10-606, 10-607, 10-608

To learn more about the eligibility criteria for participation in the AIM to B'More Program or for additional information, contact Program Director, Angel White, at [anwhite@attorney.org](mailto:anwhite@attorney.org) or Baltimore City Assistant State's Attorney, Ajshay Barber, at [abarber@attorney.org](mailto:abarber@attorney.org).

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## HOW DO I MAKE REFERRAL?

1. Send offer sheet, trial date, and any personal info about the defendant to ASA Barber at [abarber@attorney.org](mailto:abarber@attorney.org) or Program Director Angel White at [anwhite@attorney.org](mailto:anwhite@attorney.org)
2. AIM ASA performs legal eligibility check
3. AIM ASA sends scheduling email to defense counsel (cc trial ASA) for preliminary meeting (orientation and assessment)
4. AIM staff will conduct preliminary meeting
5. AIM ASA notifies all parties of admission decision
6. Prior to plea, AIM ASA sends probation contract tailored to referred individual, to be signed