16 Strategies of Juvenile Drug Courts

1. **Collaborative Planning** - Engage all stakeholders in creating an interdisciplinary, coordinated, and systemic approach to working with youth and their families.

2. **Teamwork** - Develop and maintain an interdisciplinary, nonadversarial work team.

3. **Clearly Defined Target Population and Eligibility Criteria** - Define a target population and eligibility criteria that are aligned with the program’s goals and objectives.

4. **Judicial Involvement and Supervision** - Schedule frequent judicial reviews and be sensitive to the effect that court proceedings can have on youth and their families.

5. **Monitoring and Evaluation** - Establish a system for program monitoring and evaluation to maintain quality of service, assess program impact, and contribute to knowledge in the field.

6. **Community Partnerships** - Build partnerships with community organizations to expand the range of opportunities available to youth and their families.

7. **Comprehensive Treatment Planning** - Tailor interventions to the complex and varied needs of youth and their families.

8. **Developmentally Appropriate Services** - Tailor treatment to the developmental needs of adolescents.

9. **Gender-Appropriate Services** - Design treatment to address the unique needs of each gender.

10. **Cultural Competence** - Create policies and procedures that are responsive to cultural differences and train personnel to be culturally competent.

11. **Focus on Strengths** - Maintain a focus on the strengths of youth and their families during program planning and in every interaction between the court and those it serves.

12. **Family Engagement** - Recognize and engage the family as a valued partner in all components of the program.

13. **Educational Linkages** - Coordinate with the school system to ensure that each participant enrolls in and attends an educational program that is appropriate to his or her needs.

14. **Drug Testing** - Design drug testing to be frequent, random, and observed. Document testing policies and procedures in writing.

15. **Goal-Oriented Incentives and Sanctions** - Respond to compliance and noncompliance with incentives and sanctions that are designed to reinforce or modify the behavior of youth and their families.

16. **Confidentiality** - Establish a confidentiality policy and procedures that guard the privacy of the youth while allowing the drug court team to access key information.
10 Key Components of Drug Court

**Key Component #1**
Drug courts integrate alcohol and other drug treatment services with justice system case processing.

**Key Component #2**
Using a nonadversarial approach, prosecution and defense counsel promote public safety while protecting participants’ due process rights.

**Key Component #3**
Eligible participants are identified early and promptly placed in the drug court program.

**Key Component #4**
Drug courts provide access to a continuum of alcohol, drug, and other related treatment and rehabilitation services.

**Key Component #5**
Abstinence is monitored by frequent alcohol and other drug testing.

**Key Component #6**
A coordinated strategy governs drug court responses to participants’ compliance.

**Key Component #7**
Ongoing judicial interaction with each drug court participant is essential.

**Key Component #8**
Monitoring and evaluation measure the achievement of program goals and gauge effectiveness.

**Key Component #9**
Continuing interdisciplinary education promotes effective drug court planning, implementation, and operations.

**Key Component #10**
Forging partnerships among drug courts, public agencies, and community-based organizations generates local support and enhances drug court program effectiveness.