

**COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE  
INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION**

**Date:** December 18, 2018

**To:** Milwaukee County Board Chairman Theodore Lipscomb, Sr.

**From:** Michael Hafemann, Superintendent, Milwaukee County House of Correction (HOC)

**Subject:** From the Superintendent of the House of Correction (HOC), requesting authorization to accept the JAG EBDM Jail Reentry Pilot Site Project (2017) from the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program

---

**REQUEST**

Retroactive approval to accept the JAG EBDM Jail Reentry Pilot Site Project (2017) from the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program.

**Discussion**

The Wisconsin Department of Justice (DOJ), through its Justice Programs Section has made funds available to local jurisdictions in Wisconsin to support pilot projects to develop a model of jail reentry designed to prevent recidivism, ensure individuals have a plan for housing, health care, employment and training, and benefits and/or other services so they can successfully reintegrate and become part of the community upon release. The goal of the pilots is to develop a model that can be tested and evaluated to determine the effectiveness, to potentially lead to replication in other counties.

This reentry pilot project will afford the HOC the opportunity to establish the same level of integrity in its reentry services at the point of release as well as post return. Currently inmates are encouraged to connect to a variety of service providers when they are released and these providers have pledged to provide the supports and connections returning citizens need to experience a smooth transition back to the community. However, the process for making these connections is informal and not yet clearly articulated in a reentry plan. Because the process has not been institutionalized, returning citizens often do not have their critical risk factors intentionally addressed. This pilot will extend all of the established cross-systems planning to include deeper and more intentional reentry planning both within various departments of the County as well as among the HOC's vast network of community partners. Individuals selected for enrollment in the program will benefit from the existing network of services and providers while they are incarcerated as well as from a clearly articulated and highly individualized reentry plan and network of service providers that connects returning citizens to the specific resources and services needed to successfully transition back to the community. We anticipate these services to involve items and processes, which include housing, health insurance, mental health/substance abuse counseling, employment services, and family reunification supports to name a few.

The HOC applied and won this grant in 2018. See file number 18-131. The HOC had to apply again to continue services in year two (2) of this four (4) year project. The HOC Reentry Pilot Project will continue its relationship with Employ Milwaukee as the lead connector of services both pre and post release. The HOC has a five (5) year contract with Employ Milwaukee to operate this pilot program which was approved by the Board of Supervisors. See file number 18-176. Through this funding the

HOC will continue Employ Milwaukee's contract to retain a Case Manager that is charged with reentry planning and coordination with partners, Office of the Sheriff, HOC administration and Department of Health and Human Services. The Case Manager will identify the training and technical assistance needed for the pilot project and the team will work together collaboratively on all aspects of the development and local implementation of the reentry pilot including the development of a set of guiding principles that complement the priorities established by the State.

**Fiscal Effect**

Approval of this request will result in receiving the preliminary approved award amount of \$80,000.

**Recommendation**

In order to allow this pilot program to continue it is recommended that the HOC be retroactively authorized to January 1, 2019 to accept the JAG EBDM Jail Reentry Pilot Site Project from the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program for 2019 and for two future years if the HOC is successful in winning future grants.

I am respectfully requesting that this item be placed on the agenda for the appropriate committee(s) as an action item.

Respectfully Submitted,



Michael Hafemann, Superintendent  
Milwaukee County House of Correction

- cc:
- Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, County Board
  - Supervisor James "Luigi" Schmitt, Chair, Committee on Finance and Audit
  - Raisa Koltun, Chief of Staff, Office of the County Executive
  - Scott Manske, CPA, Milwaukee County Comptroller
  - Teig Whaley-Smith, Director, Department of Administrative Services
  - Joseph Lamers, Director, Office of Performance, Strategy, and Budget, Department of Administrative Services
  - Stephen Cady, Research and Policy Director, Office of the Comptroller
  - Erica Hayden, Research & Policy Analyst, Office of the Comptroller
  - Shanin Brown, Committee Coordinator, Office of the County Clerk
  - Janelle Jensen, Chief Committee Coordinator, Office of the County Clerk