

2017 RES-333

IN SUPPORT OF INCREASING STATE FUNDING FOR AND EXPANDING ACCESS TO THE
TREATMENT ALTERNATIVES AND DIVERSION (TAD) GRANT PROGRAM

Wisconsin's state prisons are overcrowded, understaffed and, in some cases, very near the end of their physical viability. New OWI laws, the heroin epidemic, and the continuing crisis of methamphetamine addiction are threatening to further increase the population of our prisons.

Wisconsin has many proven, evidence-based, cost-effective alternatives to incarceration. Drug Treatment Courts, Veteran's Courts, Family Courts, OWI Courts, the Safe Streets Treatment Options Program (SSTOP), and other interventions have all proven to be more effective than incarceration for reducing recidivism. Legislatively-mandated evaluations of the programs funded by the Treatment Alternatives and Diversions (TAD) fund show that they save taxpayers almost \$2 for every \$1 the state has invested. Dane County's diversion programs such as its OWI Treatment Court, a Veterans Treatment Court, Drug Court programs and the Deferred Prosecution Unit have been proven to save thousands of jail bed days and the associated expense while improving public health and safety by addressing root causes of addiction.

Dane County and all local units of government in Wisconsin are statutorily restricted in their ability to raise revenue to fund local initiatives such as those described above.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Dane County urges the Governor and State Legislature to enhance public safety and reduce unnecessary Corrections related expenditures by:

1. Increasing funding for the Treatment Alternatives and Diversion (TAD) Grant Program by \$15 million annually.
2. Changing the TAD statute so that people who were once convicted of a violent crime can be eligible if the new crime is non-violent in nature.
3. Changing the statute so that people with a mental health issue (and not a co-occurring addiction issue) can be eligible.
4. Focusing the growth in TAD in three main areas:
 - a. Expansion of OWI Courts, SSTOP, and other programs that address drunk driving;
 - b. Expansion of Drug Treatment programs that can help deal with the growing heroin problem, as well as the lingering issues of methamphetamine, crack and other drugs;
 - c. Expansion of funding for treatment alternatives that are targeted to the communities that have the state's highest incarceration rates.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Dane County legislative delegation and to Governor Scott Walker.