



DANE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT

**Juvenile Court Program**

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<http://www.countyofdane.com/juvenilecourt/>



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March 29, 2019

Juvenile Corrections Grant Committee (via email)  
ATTN: Shannon Carpenter, Assistant Deputy Secretary

Dear Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit a letter of interest in order to convey plans for constructing and operating a SRCCCY. Dane County is excited about the opportunity to be a part of a larger statewide plan that serves youth under correctional orders closer to their homes. Dane County has been actively involved in discussions about these changes from the very beginning of the development of the legislation that resulted in Act 185, through the current discussion of additional technical fix legislation and the grant process.

Dane County has also conducted numerous listening sessions, tours and discussions with a wide range of stakeholders since mid-2018 including, but not limited to: Dane County Judges; Juvenile Detention youth; DOC staff; County Board members; NAACP; 100 Black Men of Madison; Senate and Assembly Legislators; Legislative Council staff, Legislative Fiscal Bureau staff; Human Services staff; State of WI DOA staff; DCF staff; the local WISDOM chapter; county staff; and other community leaders and groups. There will be more presentations and discussion as plans move forward, but thus far, there has been universal support for our construction and programming vision.

Dane County's plans for a SRCCCY include a facility that is attached to the current Juvenile Detention facility on the second floor of the City County Building at 210 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Most of the second floor of the building was demolished and newly constructed for the current facility, which began occupancy in August 2007. Best practice guidelines were used when planning this facility, so it contains skylights and other natural light, long site lines and glass for

supervision, many open spaces for programming, large dining and visitation areas, intake and administrative spaces, a gym and numerous other features that enhance the supervision, safety and programming for youth. Many of the existing spaces would be utilized by youth in the SRCCCY, either separate or together with Juvenile Detention youth, as regulations allow. There have also been facility updates since opening, including updates of the digital security system cameras, secure control system and digital storage systems.

Construction plans for a SRCCCY include completing a vacant pod (approximately 2075 square feet) and adding space on the west side of the building that is adjacent to the current facility and contains various county offices (approximately 7225 square feet). This space would be remodeled and would be contiguous with the current facility. An outdoor recreation area is also included in the plans (approximately 4000 square feet). The County contracted with an architect in 2018 to develop preliminary plans for a smaller, male only facility in order to include funding in the 2019 capital budget in the event that construction was able to begin in the fall of 2019. These plans have expanded to add more housing and programming space. We are currently in the process of hiring an architecture/engineering team to design the facility addition and develop construction documents.

Dane County's plans include an 18-23 bed program for males and a 5-6 bed program for girls. This would be a remodel of existing space and would be a Dane County project and facility and other counties would contract with Dane County for placements. This is the same practice that occurs currently with our Juvenile Detention program. The estimate is that Dane County would occupy approximately 12-14 male beds and 3-4 female beds at any given time, which would allow for bed space for residents from surrounding counties.

Dane County has a robust continuum of alternative-to-detention programs. Examples include pre-adjudication programs such as the Home Detention Program and Juvenile Shelter Home, both of which are in this department, community-based supervision programs, restorative justice programming, community-based wraparound care, intensive foster home placements and an alternative to Juvenile Detention sanctions Weekend Report Center. Dane County has a long-standing value system throughout its stakeholder groups that Juvenile Detention and corrections are to be used as a last resort and only when community protection cannot be achieved in another environment, which has resulted in low average daily populations, despite an increasing county population.

The preliminary opinion of probable costs for the proposed design range from \$3.5M to \$4.5M. These costs will be refined as the design process proceeds.

Dane County looks forward to working with the Juvenile Corrections Grant Committee as the process moves forward. Please contact me if there are any further questions about this letter of interest and about the next steps in the process.

Sincerely,



John Bauman

Dane County Juvenile Court Administrator