

# THE EDUCATION PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM

Center for Urban Research Teaching and Outreach (CURTO)

Marquette University



**EPP  
LEADERSHIP  
TEAM**

**EPP Steering Committee**

- Dr. Robert Smith (CURTO Director, Associate Professor of History)
- Dr. Theresa Tobin (Associate Professor of Philosophy)
- Ms. Marisola Xhelili Ciaccio (Ph.D. Candidate in Philosophy)
- Dr. Darren Wheelock (Associate Professor of Social and Cultural Sciences )
- Community Liaison

**EPP Staff**

- Director - Theresa Tobin
- Associate Director - Marisola Xhelili Ciaccio
- Community Liaison – search underway
- Faculty Liaison – Darren Wheelock
- Carceral Studies Fellow – Fall 2021

## CURRENT AND PAST SUPPORT

- **Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Grant - \$750,000 (2020, 2yr)**
  - *EPP Staff & Infrastructure*
  - *MATC Sub-Award*
  - *Support for Wisconsin Decarceration Platform (WDP)*
  
- **Teaching Enhancement Award - \$20,000 (2020, 1yr):** *Inside-Out Training and Course Development*
- **The Explorer Challenge Grant - \$24,000 (2019, 3yrs):** *Community Co-Facilitators (Spring 2021 launch)*
- **Innovation Grant - \$70,000 (2016, 2yrs):** *Pilot + Establish Blended Course Model, Inside-Out Training*
- **University Honors Program –** *Ongoing structural and financial support (since Spring 2015)*

# PROGRAM STRUCTURE

- **Blended Courses** – *humanities-focused*
  - *Inside (blend student population) and Outside (blend instruction and/or student population)*
- **Wrap-Around Academic and Related Support**
  - *On campus and with community partners*
- **MATC Partnership** – *2<sup>nd</sup> Chance Pell Grant Program*
  - *Credit exchange/transfer pathways and tutoring*



# SPRING 2022 BLENDED COURSE OFFERINGS

**Blended courses bring traditional Marquette students into the classroom with currently/formerly incarcerated students. These classes are held inside correctional facilities for blends that enroll currently incarcerated students and on Marquette campus for blends that enroll formerly incarcerated students.**

## ➤ **Inside Courses**

- Wendy Volz-Daniels, **“Invisible Sentence: Policy and Practice for Children Who are Impacted by Parental Incarceration”** (RCI, pending)
- Gabriel Velez, **“Psychology of Human Development of Children and Adolescents in Diverse Society”** (HOC– Franklin, pending)
- Angela Sorby, **“Creative Writing: Poetry Writing for Change”** (MWCC, pending)
- Robert Smith, **“African American History”** (RYOCF, pending)

## ➤ **Outside Courses**

- Theresa Tobin, Marisola Xhelili Ciaccio, and Mahmood Watkins, **“Engaging Mass Incarceration: Justice, Freedom, and the Arts”**
- Anya Degenshein, **“Surveillance, Law, and Society”**
- Bryan Rindfleisch, **“A History of Native America”**

# WRAP-AROUND SUPPORT

- *Mentoring and Tutoring*
- *Writing Center*
- *Library Resources*
- *Financial Aid Application Assistance*
- *Career Counseling*
- *Referrals and connections to housing, employment, healthcare, and other essential services*
- *Wisconsin Decarceration Platform (WDP) <https://wisdp.com/about>*

## PARTNERSHIP WITH MATC

- *Academic support for Second Chance Pell Grant Program students*
- *Support development of an Arts and Humanities program at MATC*
- *Collaborate on CFI student recruitment to education programs*

## FUTURE PLANS

### ➤ **Marquette EPP**

- *Continue expanding blended course offerings*
- *Develop certification programs*
- *Develop a strategic plan for program evaluation*
- *Achieve status as an approved Pell Grant Institution*

### ➤ **MATC**

- *Credit and degree (2-year to 4-year) transfer pathways with Marquette*

# FUTURE IDEAS

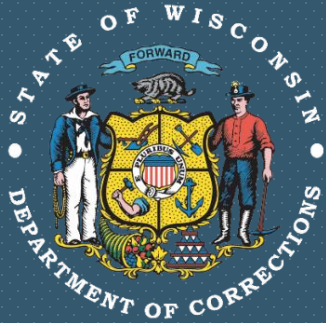
- **Milwaukee Prison Education Consortium (MPEC)/ McNeely Institute**
  - *Regional Strategy with multiple EPPs housed at local colleges/universities*
  - *Build a regional degree granting entity*
  - *Usher students in through multiple universities*
  - *Engage the wide-body of organizations – public, private, community-based orgs.*
  
- **House of Studies for Released Students**
  - *Scholarly community*
  - *Transitional housing*
  - *Restorative practices*
  - *Professional development*



# OARS2

Lars Brown, Reentry Disabilities Treatment Director  
Wisconsin Department of Corrections





# Developing Grant-Funded Projects

A Management Perspective



# Grant Writing Tips for Managers

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- First, work with a grant writer!
- Divide the labor
- Encourage writing budget and timeline first
- Get to know the review process
- Establish a deadline to review materials before the submission deadline
- Stay involved!





# Collaborative Mental Health and Anti-Recidivism Initiative FY 2020 Competitive Grant Solicitation

Opening Avenues to Reentry Success (OARS) Alternative to Revocation  
(ATR) and Probation Pilot

**(OARS2)**

# Concept Development

How did we decide?

# Overview of Grant Solicitation

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- Objectives
  - Ensure that individuals with serious mental illness receive comprehensive care:
    - Before
    - During
    - After incarceration
    - Focus on recidivism reduction
  - Assemble a team that has the authority to:
    - Implement the required elements of the program
    - With the decision-making authority to assess
    - Effectively intervene with the target population

OMB No. 1121-0329  
Approval Expires 11/30/2020

U.S. Department of Justice  
Office of Justice Programs  
Bureau of Justice Assistance



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## **Collaborative Mental Health and Anti-Recidivism Initiative FY 2020 Competitive Grant Solicitation**

**CFDA # 16.745**

**Grants.gov Solicitation Number:** BJA-2020-17972

**Solicitation Release Date:** March 23, 2020

**Application Deadline:** 11:59 p.m. eastern time on May 22, 2020

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# Solicitation Deliverables

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- Letters of Commitment
- Demonstration of Executive Support
- Comprehensive Work Plan
- Final Analysis

# Compare: Grant Solicitation and Proposal

## **Solicitation**

- 36-month grant period
- \$1 million ceiling
- Entities eligible: State agencies
- One Awardee
- Pilot: Must Cover Entire State

## **Proposal (and Award)**

- 28-Month Service Period
- \$896,859
- DOC/DHS Collaboration
- Wisconsin
- Utilizes DHS Conditional Release/OARS service delivery network for statewide service



# Opening Avenues to Reentry Success, Alternative to Revocation, and Probation Pilot Program

## Award Information

**Awardee:** [CORRECTIONS, WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF](#)

**Award #:** 2020-D4-BX-0001

**Location:** [MADISON, WI](#)

**Status:** Open

**Funding First Awarded:** 2020

**Total funding (to date):** \$896,859

**Original Solicitation:** [FY 2020 Collaborative Mental Health and Anti-Recidivism Initiative](#)

Available Funding
Past Funding
Awards
Performance Measures

## Description of original award (Fiscal Year 2020, \$896,859)

The Collaborative Mental Health and Anti-Recidivism Initiative establishes a statewide pilot program to partner the appropriate agencies within the state, such as the Department of Mental Health/Behavioral Health and Department of Corrections, to establish a collaborative prison anti-recidivism effort to provide comprehensive care before, during, and after incarceration for persons with serious mental illness, with a goal of reducing recidivism. The Initiative will provide comprehensive care before, during, and after incarceration, with the goal of recidivism reduction for individuals with serious mental illness. The Initiative supports the enhancement of services for individuals with serious mental illness in prisons by establishing a comprehensive service delivery plan focusing on the therapeutic, educational, vocational, cognitive-behavioral, and other mental health treatment needs of prison inmates from intake or arrest through their probationary or parole periods. The recipient will use funding to support the Opening Avenues to Reentry Success (OARS), Alternative to Revocation (ATR), and Probation Pilot Program, also known as OARS2. The OARS2 pilot will provide direct services to participants living with serious mental illness who are involved in the criminal justice system and present a high level of risk for re-incarceration. Participants will receive comprehensive case management, psychiatric treatment, housing assistance, and civil legal aid. This pilot, coupled with the existing mental health treatment framework during incarceration and an evidence-based, recidivism-reducing program after release, provides comprehensive services for individuals on supervision. This program will serve 60-70 participants during 28-month pilot project period. CA/NCF

# OARS2

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- Partner engagement and planning through stakeholder meetings
- Agents as a referral source
- Individuals on Community Supervision at risk of reincarceration
- WRC mental health and dual diagnosis track ATRs
- Another opportunity to strengthen DOC connections to community resources

# OARS2 Planning

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- Develop stakeholder advisor group
- 6-month planning phase
- 2 months to:
  - hire and train staff (3.5 FTE case managers)
  - Identify individuals on community supervision at risk of incarceration fitting criteria



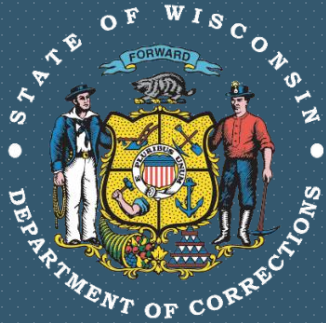
# OARS2 Implementation

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- 28-month implementation phase
- Serve 60-70 participants with case management
- Additional participants with Reentry Legal Services
- Links to psych. services, housing, medication monitoring, supplies, and transportation
- Final Report

Questions?





# Thank You



Lars Brown



(608) 516-8155 (State cell during the pandemic)



[LarsM.Brown@Wisconsin.gov](mailto:LarsM.Brown@Wisconsin.gov) (best way to reach me)



<https://doc.wi.gov/Pages/AboutDOC/ReentryUnit.aspx>



UMOS TechHire is funded by  
the US Department of Labor & Training Administration.  
TechHire is an equal opportunity service program.

**UMOS**<sup>®</sup>  
*Building Better Futures*

2701 S. Chase Ave. Suite D  
Milwaukee, WI  
(414)-389-6424



# TechHire

**UMOS**<sup>®</sup>  
*Building Better Futures*





# UMOS-TechHire

UMOS is a non-profit organization that provides programs designed to improve the employment, educational, health and housing of under-served populations.

The UMOS TechHire program is funded by the Department of Labor and designed to provide technology training and based on employers' needs. Benefits to employers include screening, recruitment and training, pipeline to potential employees, paid internships, coaching and support during the duration of the learning experience.

## The Organization

UMOS is a non-profit organization that provides programs designed to improve the employment, educational, health and housing of under-served populations.



## Target Certifications

UMOS TechHire provides training with a focus on industry recognized certifications (Microsoft) and are customized based on specific training and employer request. Below are some of the examples of our most common target certifications:

- Microsoft Certification 70-480 - Programming in HTML, CSS and JavaScript
- Microsoft Office Specialist Certification - Focus on Exam 77-727 Microsoft Excel Core.
- Certified Fiber Optic Specialist/OSP Certification (CFOS/S)
- Autodesk Certified Professional (ACP)



## Tangibles

UMOS TechHire is able to support employers by providing customized training, paid internships and materials related to the training.

- Instructors
- Books
- Laptop computer access
- Software
- Paid Internships
- Supportive Service
- Internet Access at the UMOS Technology Center
- Access to online learning platform



## Training Space

Our modern training space is a combination of classrooms, meeting space and a computer training lab. Job fairs and Meetups are offered free of cost to attendees.



## MOU

A memorandum of understanding (MOU or MoU) is a formal agreement between two or more parties. Often, MOUs are the first steps towards a collaboration.



## Fair Labor Standards Act

TechHire understands and assists companies in the development of internship programs that align with the Department of Labor guidelines.







**Focused  
On The  
Future**

# Process Map



## Initial Contact

UMOS TechHire approach to training is built around customization based on companies needs. In this stage we document, analyze and determine your technology focus in order to design the most appropriate training.



## Documentation

During this phase employers sign the required MOU. This is also the preparation phase for the delivery method of the training.



## Training

This is the core phase of the process. Participants are trained based on the chosen delivery method which in some cases may require employer's involvement.



## Internship - Placement

In this phase, employers provide meaningful learning experiences to participants. Employers also record and report to TechHire about participants activities during the internship placement. During this phase, two formal evaluations are performed. Employers have the flexibility to offer employment to our participants at any time during the internship.



# Training



## Fiber Optic

The Fiber Optic training consists of blueprint reading, AutoCAD, national electrical safety code (NESC) and fiber splicing and fusion. Training delivery is held at the TechHire training facility, in the field and tailored to employers' needs.



## Web Development

The Web Development training consists of HTML5, CSS3, JavaScript and JavaScript Libraries, Bootstrap, Web Design and more. Training delivery can be virtual, classroom based in the TechHire facility or a combination.



## Web Design

This accelerated web design training is projected to start in June 2018. Within this accelerated bootcamp, students learn about HTML, CSS, JavaScript and create a WordPress website.



# Training



## Helpdesk Analyst

The Helpdesk Analyst Training consists of remote IT client support, network technologies, CISCO Finesse, Citrix management system and McAfee Endpoint Encryption. Training delivery is held at the TechHire training facility, employer worksite and tailored to employers' needs.



## Microsoft Office (MOS)

The Microsoft Office Specialist Training (MOS) consists of Microsoft Suite: Word, Excel, Outlook, PowerPoint and understanding of OneDrive. Trainees complete the Microsoft Office Specialist (Exams 725, 727).



## CNC

This training is designed to provide CAD CAM skills leading to programming positions in computer numerically controlled machines (CNC).



# WI ARES Grant

Adult Reentry Employment Strategies (BJA 2018-RQ-BX-0004)

March 17, 2021 - Council on Offender Reentry



# Funding & Purpose:

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- The federal Second Chance Act (SCA) (Public Law 110–199) seeks a comprehensive response for incarcerated adults returning to their communities
- SCA programs are designed to help communities develop & implement comprehensive & collaborative strategies that address challenges of reentry (community & workforce) as well as reduce recidivism
- Adult Reentry Employment Strategies (ARES) is a reentry employment program that incorporates evidence-based framework developed through a collaborative effort by experts, researchers, & federal agencies
- A white paper was published by the Center for State Governments (CSG) in 2013 & included ARES framework research & guidelines: [https://csgjusticecenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Final.Reentry-and-Employment.pp\\_.pdf](https://csgjusticecenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Final.Reentry-and-Employment.pp_.pdf)
- ARES funding is distributed, managed, & monitored by the federal Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance



# ARES PROGRAM PRINCIPLES

“Integrated Reentry and Employment Strategies: Reducing Recidivism and Promoting Job-Readiness” – Center for State Governments, September 2013

[https://csgjusticecenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Final.Reentry-and-Employment.pp\\_.pdf](https://csgjusticecenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Final.Reentry-and-Employment.pp_.pdf)

# Target Population:

- Individuals returning to the community following incarceration are a sub-group of the “hard-to-employ” population. Having a criminal history creates additional employment barriers.
- Identifying responsivity barriers that could interfere with employment programming (severe mental illness, substance abuse) with a functional screen is a critical first step in determining services & sequencing of services. If present, refer for treatment.

**TABLE 1. EXAMPLES OF COMMON CHARACTERISTICS OF HARD-TO-EMPLOY ADULTS**

Family, Logistical, and Legal Challenges	Education and Skill Gaps	Needs Related to Responsiveness to Interventions
• Responsible for child care	• Low education level	• Mental illness
• High-conflict family situation	• Lack of occupational skills	• Substance use disorder
• Transportation problems	• Limited work experience	• Learning disability
• Lack of stable housing	• Lack of “soft” job skills	• Lack of motivation
• Legal barriers to employment	• Gaps in work experience	• Negative attitudes about work
• Lack of proper documentation		• Poor physical health

Sources: LaDonna Pavetti, “Helping the Hard-to-Employ,” in *Welfare Reform and Beyond: The Future of the Safety Net*, ed. Isabel V. Sawhill, et al., (Washington: Brookings Institution Press, 2002), 135-142; Harry Holzer, Steven Raphael, and Michael Stoll, “Employment Barriers Facing Ex-Offenders,” presented at *Reentry Roundtable on The Employment Dimensions of Prisoner Reentry: Understanding the Nexus between Prisoner Reentry and Work*, New York University, May 19-20, 2003; Krista Olson and LaDonna Pavetti, *Personal and Family Challenges to the Successful Transition from Welfare to Work* (Washington: Urban Institute, 1996).

# Goals & Program Components:

When possible, risk-reduction, cognitive-behavioral interventions should be offered concurrently with employment programming.

Employment programs for the reentry population should include two broad goals:

1. Promoting job-readiness
2. Finding & retaining employment

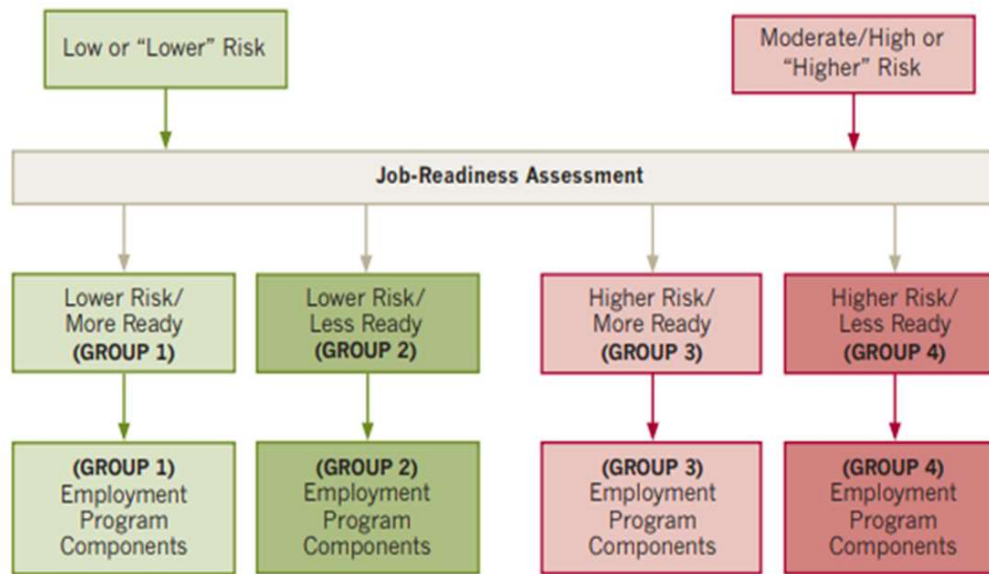
Each goal has a variety of components & the most successful programs draw on multiple components simultaneously.

**TABLE 2. SUMMARY OF EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM COMPONENTS**

<i>Goal 1: Promote Job Readiness</i>	<i>Goal 2: Find and Retain Employment</i>
1. Education and Training	5. Non-transitional Subsidized Employment
2. Soft/Cognitive-Skill Development	6. Job Development and Coaching
3. Transitional-Job Placements	7. Retention and Advancement Services
4. Non-skill-Related Interventions	8. Financial Work Incentives

# Grouping:

**FIGURE 3. GROUPING LOWER- AND HIGHER-RISK INDIVIDUALS BY JOB READINESS**



Risk level & vocational/educational need are identified for reentry clients through a DOC risk assessment (COMPAS). However, the provider should complete a thorough job-readiness assessment.

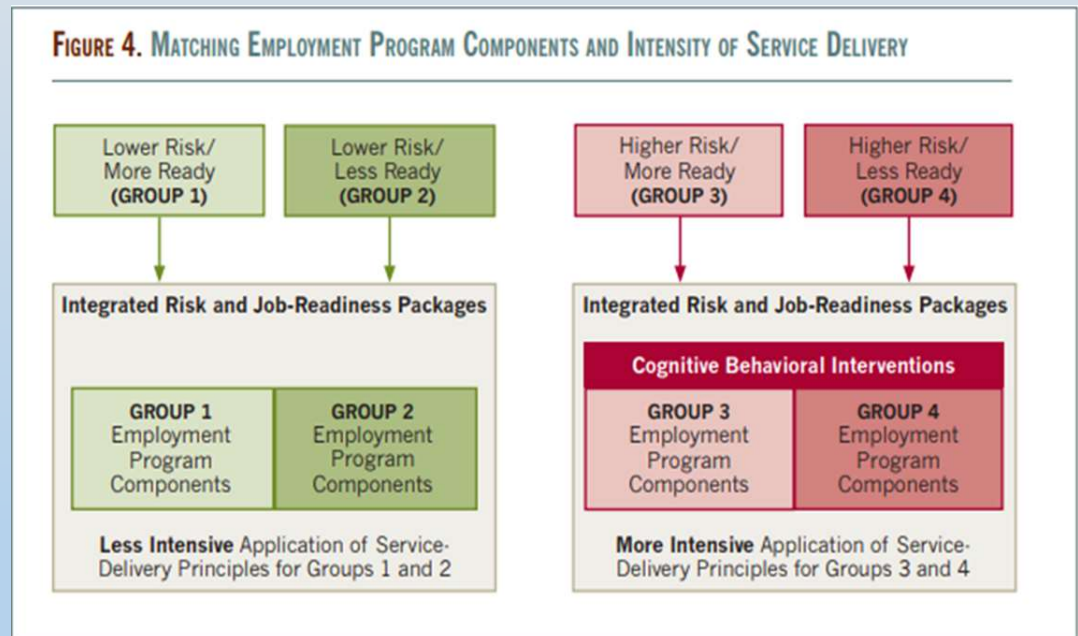
Grouping individuals first by risk level, then by job-readiness level improves effective use of resources & overall outcomes.



# Matching Components & Intensity:

High risk clients need more intensive services. Intensity can refer to the number of services, frequency of services, or the type of interaction with providers.

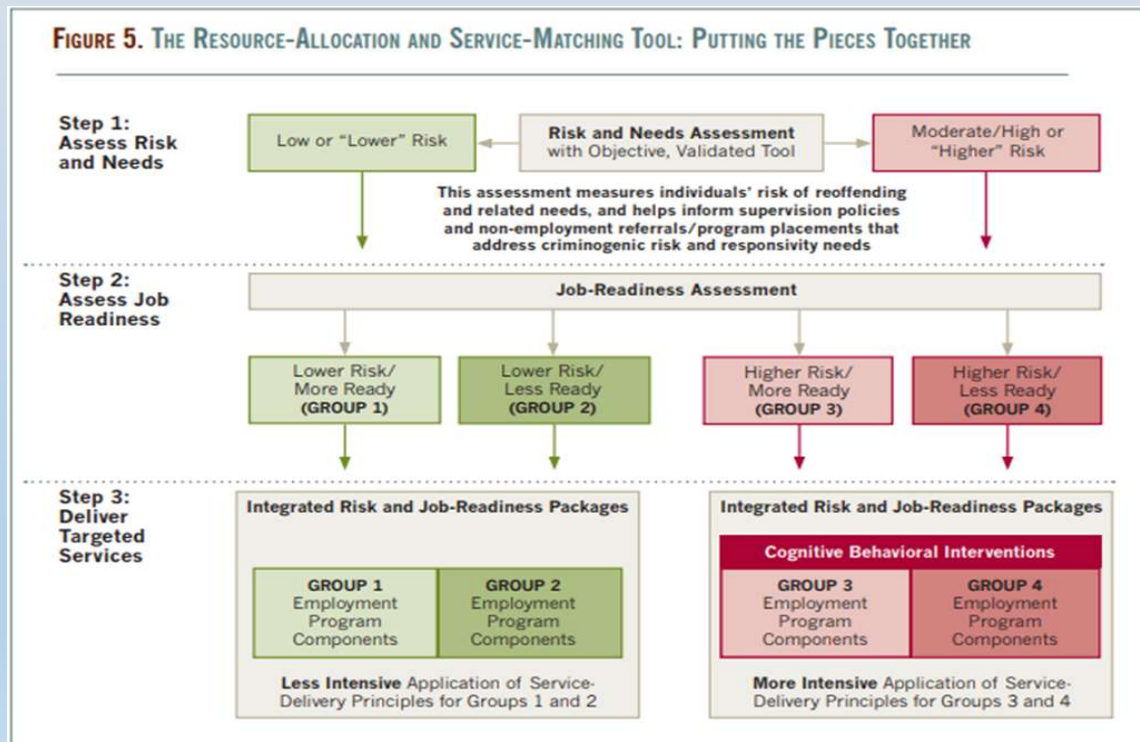
Low risk clients don't require cognitive behavioral interventions, but they are a critical component of employment programs for high risk clients.



# Resource Allocation & Service Matching Tool:

There is a clear sequence to assessing risk & needs, then aligning services & intensity.

This tool puts all the pieces together. It can be used by providers to assess reentry clients & manage resources.



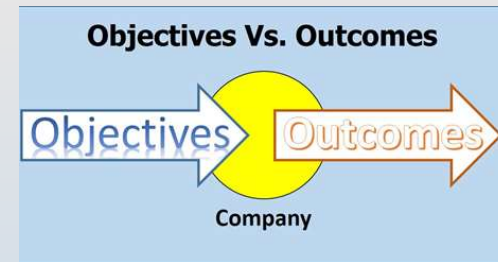
7 County Grant Region



# Planning Phase:

October 1, 2018 – September 30, 2020

# Planning Phase:



In 2018, DOC received an award under the ARES grant to determine how to apply framework principles to the WI reentry population. A seven county target area was identified for the project. Six of the counties make up the coverage region of the Workforce Development Board of South Central Wisconsin (WDBSCW), with whom DOC had an established relationship. DOC partnered with WDBSCW on the project.

## Objectives:

Five objectives were identified in the grant announcement with the ultimate goal of developing a strategic plan for implementation:

- Establish an executive level steering committee
- Establish a cross-disciplinary work group
- Create an industry advisory group of employers
- Complete a comprehensive process analysis & systems map
- Develop a plan for integrating recommended best practices

# Outcomes:

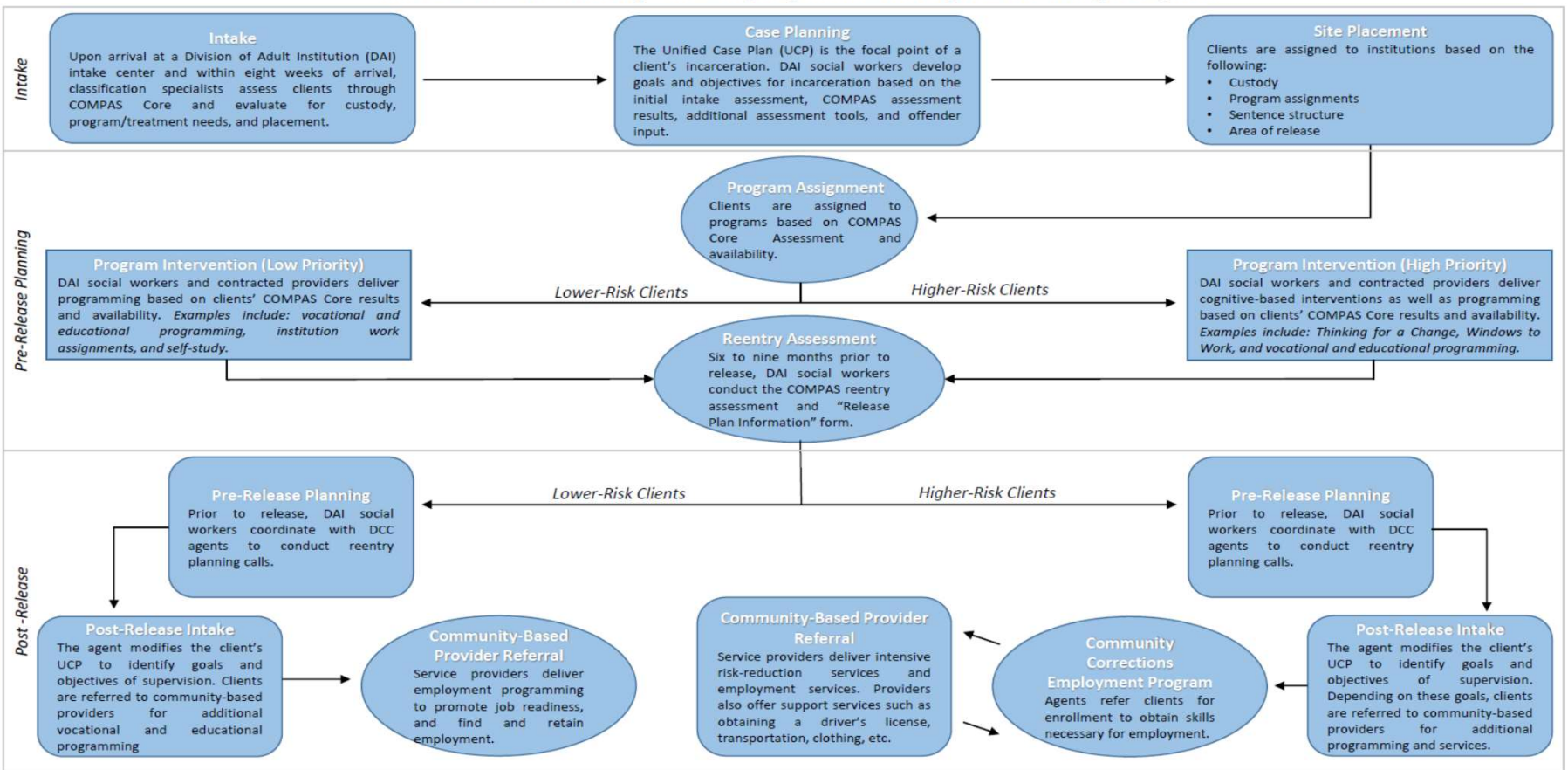
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- Development of a collaborative relationship with WDBSCW
- Creation of 3 identified committees: Executive Steering (3 meetings), Core Planning Team (5), Industry Advisory (6)
- Completed comprehensive system analysis & systems map
- Identification of community-based providers (CBP) agencies in target areas which provide employment services to justice-involved individuals
- Inventory of CBP agencies – identify service population, services offered, understanding of agency’s intake process, familiarity with risk & need assessments, and existing partnerships in place to serve justice-involved individuals
  - Initial survey: 66 agencies; Telephone follow-up: 26; In-person discussions: 10
- Development of a strategic plan
- Employer survey (53) – gain understanding of barriers & opportunities associated with reentry clients in the workforce
  - Statewide employer survey (497)
- Offender survey (755) – identify needs, services received, & gaps in services



# Systems Map:

## WI DOC Adult Reentry and Employment Strategies Planning Program

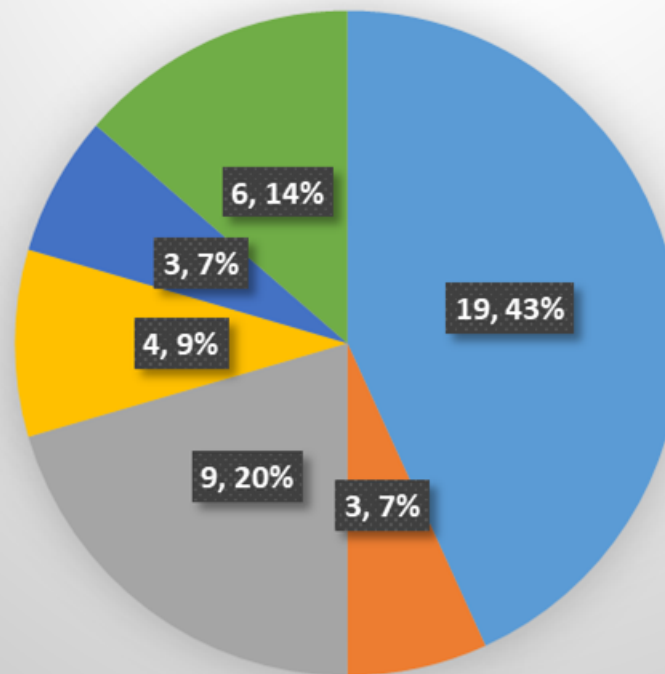


## Community-Based Provider Survey:

In 2019, 151 agencies in the seven county target region were asked to complete a 25 question survey – 66 agencies participated.

Survey question topics included: counties serviced, number of employees, services offered, justice-involved client population, intake process, tools used for identifying risk and services, and partnerships with DOC/other agencies.

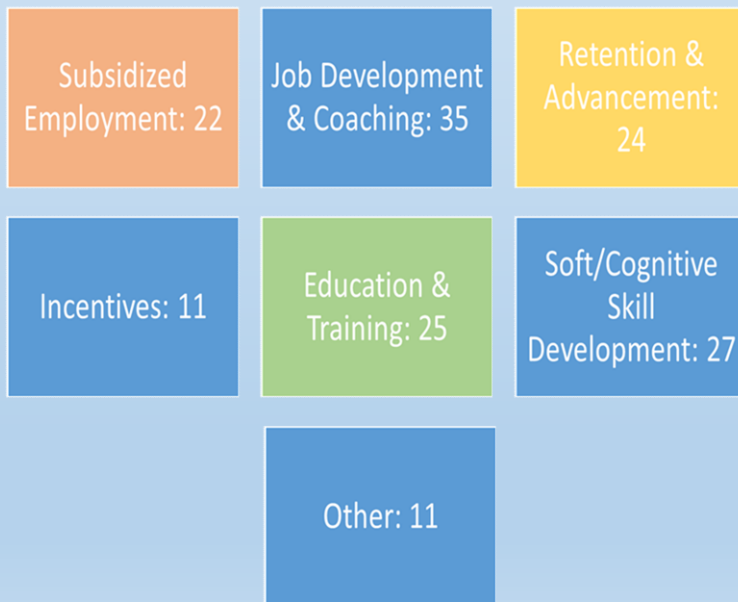
### Justice-Involved Client Population



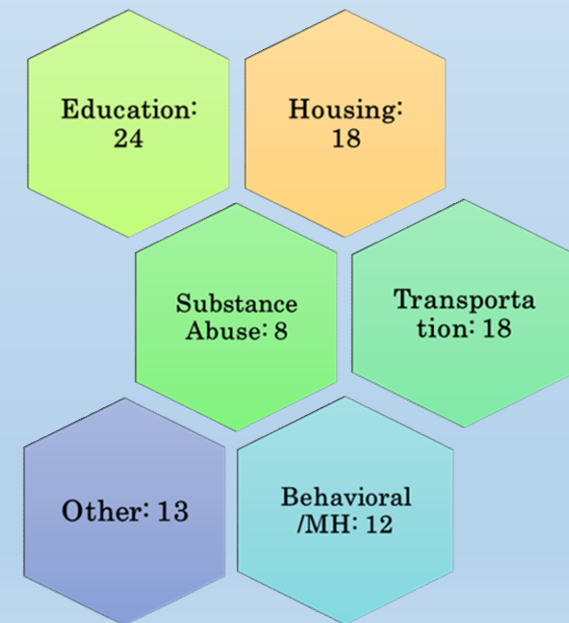


# Provider Services:

## Workforce Development



## Non-Workforce Development



# Implementation Phase

October 1, 2020 – September 30, 2021

# Implementation Phase:

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In April 2020, DOC was invited to apply for a 12- month implementation grant. Funding supports implementation of the strategic plan developed during the planning phase. In November, DOC was notified of the award. The target area remains the seven counties selected during the planning phase. WDBSCW and University of Cincinnati Corrections Institute (UCCI) are sub-awardees.



## Objectives:

Implement new policies, procedures, & practices in collaboration with community partners to improve employment pathways for incarcerated individuals returning to the community.

- Implement strategic plan developed during planning phase
- Continue process & tool analysis
- Provide training to community-based providers on evidence-based, correctional best practices
- Create a robust information sharing system for community-based providers
- Continue facilitation of Executive Steering & Core Planning Team committees

# Project Status:

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- Stable, collaborative relationship with WDBSCW: WDBSCW staff will assist with ongoing CBP engagement as well as training coordination. They will also co-chair committee meetings.
- DOC had a pre-existing relationship with UCCI. UCCI will work with DOC to develop evidence-based correctional practice training deliverables for CBP's. Training will be offered virtually over several weeks.
  - Provider engagement letter & survey sent March 1, 2021
  - UCCI sessions of "What Works" are scheduled for April 1, 2, 5, 16
  - Additional trainings & technical assistance will be offered based on provider feedback as well as client population & available services
- DOC is developing a permission-based application for CBP's which can be utilized for sharing information with participants and DCC Agents. It will also include general content accessible to the public.

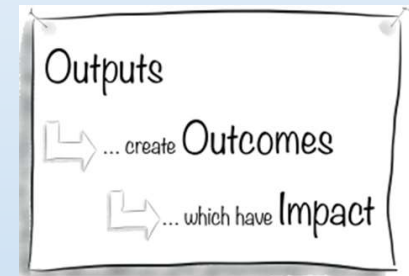
# Project Status (cont'd):

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- The Core Planning Team Committee is tentatively scheduled to meet in May
- Grant Period – DOC plans to request a no-cost, 12-month extension due to challenges related to COVID-19 &



# Desired Outcomes:



DOC will conduct an internal evaluation at the end of grant to determine objective satisfaction & project effectiveness.

- Increased CBP, DCC Agent, & reentry client engagement with web application
- Tiered training delivered to identified CBP's
  - Increased CBP knowledge of correctional best practices (improved service delivery)
  - Increased CBP resource management & service capacity
- Sustainability plan for web application
- Plan for statewide implementation of web application
- Discuss expansion of web application (release subsequent version w/ increased functionality)
- Continue engagement with policymakers, workforce development administrators, & CBP's through committees to improve outcomes for WI reentry population



# Thank You!

 Rebecca Heth & Regina Baldwin

 rebecca.heth@wisconsin.gov

regina.baldwin@wisconsin.gov

 <https://doc.wi.gov/Pages/AboutDOC/ReentryUnit.aspx>