

Second Chance Re-Entry Act for Co-Occurring Disorders Grant Proposal Abstract

The La Crosse County Department of Human Services (DHS) is requesting \$649,696 for the 36-month grant period under Category 2, Competition ID BJA-2017-12361. Funding will support Fresh Start, a proposed pilot project, addressing the treatment and case management needs of adult men and women with co-occurring substance abuse and mental health disorders (COD) who incarcerated in the La Crosse County Jail located in La Crosse, WI. La Crosse County is located in west central Wisconsin and has a population of nearly 120,000 residents.

Based on self-reported screening data, 149 people in a 6-month period met the following three criteria: moderate to high risk to recidivate, mental health, and substance abuse determination. A statistically valid sample was pulled of the people who met the COD and risk criteria; within a one year span, 69% of the people meeting the criteria returned to the jail. Based on this data and the capacity of the partnering agencies, minimally 150 people will be served through the grant period.

Screened participants will undergo a comprehensive bio-psycho-social evaluation. The evidence-based assessment tools utilized include the Brief Jail Mental Health Screen and the TCU Drug Screen V to determine needs and appropriate treatment intervention.

Fresh Start will provide evidence-based COD treatment and case management in the La Crosse jail and upon release through the La Crosse County (DHS) Integrated Support and Recovery Services (ISRS) and the Comprehensive Community Services (CCS) program. A dually licensed therapist will provide one-on-one therapy in the jail and group therapy both in the jail and in the community. The social worker will coordinate services amongst the various service providers and develop a unified case plan for each individual. The social worker will provide cognitive behavior skills groups. Community service providers will do in-reach to build connections to meet individuals' needs upon reentry. Dr. Nicholas Bakken and Dr. Lisa Kruse are the project's evaluation partners.

Priority considerations in this grant proposal include a letter of support from the La Crosse Criminal Justice Management Council and La Crosse County DHS-ISRS. Partner agencies including CouleeCap and the YWCA signed letters of support and there will be a focused effort to provide permanent support housing through this grant. La Crosse County has access to participant data through the DOC and area healthcare systems and is investigating options to allow limited access to additional service providers.