



TARGETING COMMUNITY ALTERNATIVES TO PRISON BY HELPING OHIO COMMUNITIES MANAGE LOW-LEVEL, NON-VIOLENT OFFENDERS

The Ohio Department of Rehabilitation & Correction (ODRC) is currently administering four (4) pilot grants that involve 8 county common pleas courts in Clinton, Ross and Medina counties, as well as a multi-county pilot including Lucas, Defiance, Henry, Williams and Fulton counties.

In 2016, approximately 8,300 of the nearly 20,000 individuals committed to prison were sent to ODRC to serve one year or less. Approximately 4,100 of those commitments were for Felony 5 offenses, the lowest felony level. The pilot targets non-violent Felony 5 offenders who are estimated to be approximately 3,400 of the Felony 5 commitments statewide. By assisting local communities to manage these low-level offenders as a less costly, more effective alternative to state prison, this funding opportunity from ODRC will ensure that these individuals receive the essential treatment they need at the community level, and will also help reduce Ohio's growing prison population. A preliminary analysis of the pilot indicates that all grantee counties showed reductions in commitments of the targeted population, with one exception. Further analysis is forthcoming, and we are hopeful that we will continue to realize further reductions.

Target population: T-CAP targets offenders who are sentenced to 12 months or less for non-violent, non-sex, non-mandatory Felony 5 offenses, and whose criminal history does not include any prior felony violent or sex offense. This targeted population would not be eligible to be committed to prison. DRC estimates this population to be approximately 3,400 offenders per year.

- Based on 2016 commitment data, 27 counties had 10 or fewer Felony 5 commitments that would be targeted;
- Based on 2016 commitment data, 50 counties had 20 or fewer Felony 5 commitments that would be targeted.

Providing Local Resources: The pilot counties that are receiving T-CAP grant funding agreed to supervise, treat and sanction all of the targeted population locally, without the use of a prison sanction. The pilot grant funds target non-violent, non-mandatory, non-sex Felony 5 offenses. Two of the grant sites, Medina and the multi county site, also chose to target the same Felony 4 offenses.

Supervision tools and programs covered by the T-CAP grant include:

- Supervision services
- Local incarceration, including CBCF placements
- Electronic monitoring
- Substance use monitoring and treatment
- Additional programming and resources

Relying on Research: T-CAP grants are aligned to support the best practice of providing local, community treatment for low-level offenders that is more effective and less costly for taxpayers.

- The introduced budget language mirrors the pilot program in that offenders sentenced to twelve (12) months or less for the targeted Felony 5 offenses who do not have prior records of felony sex offenses or felony offenses of violence will not be prison eligible.
- Additional community funds will be available to increase participation in the pilot through June 30, 2018. After July 1, 2018, persons sentenced to twelve (12) months or less for the targeted Felony 5 offenses who do not have prior records of felony sex offenses or felony offenses of violence will no longer be eligible to be committed to prison.
- This new program seeks to ensure that more people receive the supervision and essential treatment they need in a more effective and less costly setting than prison.
- T-CAP grants further Ohio's Justice Reinvestment Initiative by supporting the continued diversion of low level offenders from prison.
- By assisting communities to manage low-level offenders, DRC will also help reduce Ohio's prison population and density.

Funding Specifics: T-CAP grants will account for an additional 19M in FY18 and an additional 39M in FY19 community corrections' funds. These funds are supplemental to the current community corrections funds DRC is already providing, such as the Community Corrections Act (CCA) and Probation Improvement and Incentive Grants (PIIG). Specific funding amounts per county will be determined by a weighted formula that will consider factors such as county population, case filings, and the number of non-violent, non-sex, non-mandatory Felony 5 commitments serving one year or less averaged over a three-year period.

- Each county will complete a simple online application to receive its predetermined funding amount based on the formula.
- Funding will be distributed in quarterly payments.
- Funding will be provided through a grant to the respective county commissioners that mirrors the current funding process for DRC diversion grants.
- Funding may be spent on any community correction purpose, but may not be used for any capital project. Examples of uses are:
 - Personnel costs, including Probation services
 - Program Expenses, to pay for costs of programs not already covered by Medicaid or supported by other agencies such as OHMHAS
 - Equipment
 - Electronic Monitoring Services
 - Contracts for residential or outpatient treatment services
 - Residential services, including costs of local jail incarceration



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