



Legislative Fiscal Bureau

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February 10, 2016

TO: Members
Joint Committee on Finance

FROM: Bob Lang, Director

SUBJECT: 2015 Assembly Bill 599: Becky Young Community Corrections Sub-Grants to Local Workforce Development Boards

On December 10, 2015, Assembly Bill 599 was introduced and referred to the Assembly Committee on Corrections. A public hearing was held on January 14, 2016, with executive action taken on February 2, 2016. The Committee recommended the bill for passage by an 8-0 vote. The bill was subsequently referred to the Assembly Committee on Rules.

SUMMARY OF BILL

The bill would create a sub-grant program under the Becky Young Community Corrections appropriation which would allow the Department of Corrections to award grants to local workforce development boards. Corrections would be required to establish a competitive process to award the grants and establish criteria and selection processes. The bill would also increase funding in the appropriation by \$500,000 GPR annually for the grants in the 2015-17 biennium. The sub-grant program would sunset on June 30, 2018. A nonstatutory provision in the bill requires the Department to maintain the spending percentages allocated per program as are in effect on the date of enactment.

Under current law, the Becky Young Community Corrections program funds community services to persons on probation, parole or extended supervision with the goal of reducing recidivism. Services include: (a) alcohol and other drug treatment, including residential treatment, outpatient treatment, and aftercare; (b) cognitive group intervention; (c) day reporting centers; and (d) treatment and services that evidence has shown to be successful and to reduce recidivism. Statutes specify that services may include employment training and placement, educational assistance, transportation, and housing. Current budgeted funding for the program is \$10,202,500 GPR annually.

FISCAL EFFECT

The bill would increase funding for the Becky Young Community Corrections appropriation by \$500,000 GPR annually for grants to local workforce development boards in the 2015-17 biennium. Since the grant program provision would sunset on June 30, 2018, the additional funding would be utilized for the workforce development board grants for three years.

In its most recent report, Corrections breaks out program expenditures for 2014-15 as follows:

Becky Young Community Corrections 2014-15 Expenditures

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>% of Total</u>
OARS/DOES/ACA*	\$3,015,300	30.1%
Community Support Services	1,897,100	19.0
Employment Strategies	1,624,400	16.2
Cognitive Behavioral Programs	1,306,200	13.1
Evidence-Based Practices/Staff Development	1,092,800	10.9
Staff Positions	634,700	6.3
University of Cincinnati Corrections Institute**	347,000	3.5
Evaluation and Data Collection	<u>94,900</u>	<u>0.9</u>
	\$10,012,400	100.0%

* Opening Avenues to Reentry Success (OARS) program, Disabled Offender Economic Security (DOES), Affordable Care Act (ACA, helping inmates apply for healthcare services prior to release)

** Corrections contract for evidence-based correctional program design, implementation and monitoring.

Related to employment training, Corrections currently contracts with the state's 11 workforce development boards to provide Windows to Work pre-release and post-release programs for offenders. According to the report, 471 different offenders obtained 661 episodes of employment in 2014-15, including temporary placements, on-the-job training, work experience, seasonal employment, and full- and part-time employment.

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