



Legislative Fiscal Bureau

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2017

Joint Committee on Finance

Paper #237

Windows to Work and Vocational Training (Corrections -- Adult Corrections)

[LFB 2017-19 Budget Summary: Page 142, #13]

GOVERNOR

Provide \$1,000,000 GPR annually to expand the Department of Corrections' Windows to Work program and vocational training programs. Current funding for the Windows to Work is \$1.2 million GPR annually and \$5.1 million GPR for vocational training programs.

DISCUSSION POINTS

1. The bill would provide \$250,000 GPR annually for Windows to Work and \$750,000 annually for vocational training to expand the Department's programs. Funding would be allocated as supplies and services under the Becky Young community corrections appropriation.

2. Windows to Work (WTW) is a job services pre- and post-release program in partnership with the Department of Workforce Development's Workforce Development Boards. The program is designed to address criminogenic needs of medium- to high-risk offenders that can lead to recidivism, such as employment, education, anti-social cognition, anti-social personality, and anti-social companions. Corrections currently holds a contract with each of the state's 11 Workforce Development Boards to provide a WTW program at correctional institutions or county jail facilities in each workforce development area. Corrections describes the WTW program as follows:

"Individual and group participation begins 3 to 9 months prior to release from incarceration. The WTW Coach provides participants with classroom training in core curriculum content areas, such as Cognitive Intervention, General Work Skills and Expectations, Financial Literacy, Community Resources, Job Seeking, Applications and Resumes. In coordination with the institution social worker and/or community corrections agent, individual release/case

planning takes place. Coaches use a variety of assessment tools to assist in determining skill level and career path choices.

During the pre-release phase, county jail programs may function in a different manner due to the transient nature of the population. Many jail programs offer support to participants on an individual basis. This process still requires the utilization of curriculum as defined above, but in a more individualized manner.

In coordination with the Division of Community Corrections (DCC) Probation and Parole Agents, coaches assist participants with job search and job retention activities for approximately 12 months after release from incarceration. Participants receive assistance in accessing available community resources to address needs for food, shelter, clothing, transportation, and other services. WTW programs sometimes have limited funds to assist participants in addressing barriers to employment, such as transportation, education, personal identification (such as a driver's license) and work supplies."

3. Funding in 2016-17 for the WTW program is \$1,227,200 GPR. Funding is utilized for WTW staffing, offender services, administrative costs, and materials and supplies. Facilities where WTW programs operate include the following:

| <u>Facility/Jail</u> | <u>Workforce Development Board Region</u> |
|---|---|
| Chippewa Valley Correctional Treatment Facility | Northwest, West Central |
| Fox Lake Correctional Institution | Fox Valley |
| Jackson Correctional Institution | Western |
| Milwaukee Secure Detention Facility | Milwaukee |
| New Lisbon Correctional Institution | Western |
| Oakhill Correctional Institution | South Central |
| Oshkosh Correctional Institution | Bay Area, Fox Valley |
| Prairie du Chien Correctional Institution | Southwest |
| Racine Correctional Institution | Milwaukee, Southeast |
| Sturtevant Transitional Facility | Milwaukee, Southeast |
| Stanley Correctional Institution | Northwest, West Central |
| Taycheedah Correctional Institution | Bay Area |
| Douglas County Jail | Northwest |
| Rock County Jail | Southwest |
| Waukesha County Huber Facility | Waukesha-Ozaukee-Washington |
| Wood County Jail | North Central |

4. According to the Department, 405 offenders participating in WTW obtained 546 episodes of employment during the 2015-16 fiscal year. An episode of employment includes temporary placements, on-site job training, work experience, seasonal employment, and full- and part-time employment. Of the 546 episodes of employment, 71.2% were full-time employment. The average wage earned was \$10.54 per hour.

5. As indicated above, WTW programs sometimes have limited funding to assist participants, such as with transportation, education, driver's license, and work supplies. Funding in the bill would allow the Department to more adequately support those costs as well as to expand its

WTW programs. According to the Department, funding in the bill would be utilized to start WTW programs at Kettle Moraine Correctional Institution, Racine Youthful Offender Correctional Facility, and Redgranite Correctional Institution. While the number of participants vary each year, Corrections estimates that approximately 160 additional offenders could be served under the program annually.

6. The Department also provides vocational training programs at its correctional centers through partnerships with the Wisconsin Technical College System to prepare offenders for employment in the community. Training includes programs such as auto detailing, barbering/cosmetology, braille transcription, cabinet making, commercial baking, computer assisted drafting, masonry, dental lab technician, horticulture, machine tool operations, masonry, and welding. In calendar year 2016, 587 inmates completed a vocational training program.

7. Corrections reviewed DWD labor standards, institutional populations and capacities, and identified the following vocational training program needs:

a. *Racine Correctional Institution, Computer Numerically Controlled (CNC) Mobile Lab Training.* Funding would support the Department's CNC Mobile Lab (previously funded by DWD, which ended in 2015-16), which provides CNC training through Gateway Technical College for future employment opportunities as machine tool operators and programmers. The program is estimated to serve approximately 30 inmates per year at a cost of \$83,000 GPR annually.

b. *Thompson Correctional Center.* Funding would support Industrial Maintenance Essentials training through Madison College for maintenance and repair workers. The program is estimated to serve approximately 30 inmates per year at a cost of \$150,000 GPR annually.

c. *McNaughton Correctional Center.* Funding would support Industrial Mechanical training through Nicolet Area Technical College for approximately 30 inmates per year at a cost of \$150,000 GPR annually.

d. *Kenosha Correctional Center.* Funding would support Manufacturing Maintenance training through Gateway Technical College for approximately 30 inmates per year at a cost of \$150,000 GPR annually.

e. *Sanger B. Powers Correctional Center.* Funding would support Machine Tool Operation training through Northeast Wisconsin Technical College for approximately 30 inmates per year at a cost of \$150,000 GPR annually.

f. *John C. Burke Correctional Center.* Funding would support training in agriculture and/or dairy science through Northcentral Technical College working at the Waupun Farm. Estimated costs would be \$67,000 GPR for approximately 15 per year.

8. In its agency budget request, the Department requested \$1,250,000 GPR annually to expand these programs (\$500,000 GPR annually for WTW and \$750,000 GPR annually for vocational training). The bill would provide reduced funding to \$1,000,000 GPR annually (\$250,000 GPR annually for WTW and \$750,000 GPR annually for vocational training). Given that

the Department believes that it can expand the capacity of prerelease training with more funding, the Committee may wish to support additional monies to support employment initiatives for inmates reentering the community at a level above that recommended by the Governor. [Alternative 2] Other the other hand, since the Governor's recommendation would provide an additional \$1 million annually for prerelease training programs that have had some identifiable success, the Committee may wish to approve the funding level currently provided in the bill. [Alternative 1]

9. The Department currently has \$6.3 million GPR in base resources budgeted for WTW and vocational training. If the Governor's recommendation were removed, base resources would be available to continue the existing program. [Alternative 3]

ALTERNATIVES

1. Approve the Governor's recommendation to provide \$1,000,000 GPR annually to expand the Department's Windows to Work program and vocational training programs.

| ALT 1 | Change to | |
|-------|-------------|------|
| | Base | Bill |
| GPR | \$2,000,000 | \$0 |

2. Approve the Governor's recommendation and provide an additional \$250,000 GPR annually for the Department's Windows to Work program.

| ALT 2 | Change to | |
|-------|-------------|-----------|
| | Base | Bill |
| GPR | \$2,500,000 | \$500,000 |

3. Delete provision.

| ALT 3 | Change to | |
|-------|-----------|---------------|
| | Base | Bill |
| GPR | \$0 | - \$2,000,000 |

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