



SFY 14-15 Budget

Promoting Wellness and Recovery

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Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health Linkages

Budget Impact:

FY 2014	FY 2015	Biennial Total
\$1.5 million (Community Innovations Line)	\$1.5 million (Community Innovations Line)	\$3.0 million (Community Innovations Line)

Problem: Ohio has engaged in vigorous criminal justice reforms with the goal of breaking the cycle of crime by helping people restore their lives. The 2011 passage of sentencing reform in House Bill 86 (129th General Assembly) created an overarching framework for integrating efforts at both the state and county levels. The intent of linking behavioral health and criminal justice is to reduce state and local corrections costs and reduce recidivism by engaging community-based programs in treating substance use disorders and mental illnesses when correlated with repeated criminal justice involvement.

Many of Ohio's current investments are yielding promising results that can be expanded and leveraged, but most programs are created and administered independently of one another, which results in duplicated efforts and limits cost-savings and public safety benefits. To maximize the impact of these changes, Ohio must make an equivalent investment in ramping up community-based behavioral health services, including mental health and substance use treatment.

Solution: Ohio MHAS and its community partners in behavioral health care and criminal justice have been in discussions for development of pilot projects across the state that would provide best practices in linking offenders across systems with community-based behavioral health care.

A total of \$3 million over the biennium from the Community Innovations line item in the SFY 14-15 Executive Budget could be earmarked for projects designed to divert offenders from jail or prison and/or assist with re-entry to the community from incarceration. This funding is the result of administrative savings achieved from the consolidation of the Departments of Mental Health and Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services. Some examples of projects, which are put forward with the goal of producing savings in other parts of government, include:

- Using technology like tele-health to improve service access in jails
- Expediting linkage and case management for inmates with mental illness and/or addiction getting ready to re-enter the community
- Expediting adjudication of non-violent mentally ill offenders
- Review and management of medication between jails and community settings

Background: By diverting offenders from lock-up to treatment, Ohio could drastically decrease overall spending. In Ohio, the average cost of addiction treatment in the community is \$1,600 (without medication-assisted treatment), and the average cost of mental health treatment including two medications is \$7,500 per year; whereas, it costs \$25,269 a year to incarcerate an adult in prison. On a daily basis, the cost of incarcerating an offender in prison is \$69.23; a day in jail is about \$75, while the cost of parole for one day is only \$11.54. Thus, treatment in the community is a much more cost-effective option for criminal offenders.

Executive Budget Proposal and Impact: Funding for these projects would be \$3 million from a Community Innovations fund in the SFY 14-15 Executive Budget. Proposals would be requested from the community, and an evaluation component will be built into each project and across all projects. One key goal will be to gather results to determine cost offset or cost savings due to improved linkages for overall health care for offenders.