

Subject Alternatives to incarceration pilot program

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Overview

In 2017, the legislature passed several provisions relating to how probation agents were required to handle individuals sentenced for nonviolent controlled substance offenses when those individuals violated the terms of probation in some way other than committing a new offense. Legislation amended or created sections 243.05, subdivision 1; 244.05, subdivision 3; 244.198, subdivision 1a; and 609.14, subdivision 2a. The statutory amendments required probation, parole, and supervised release agents to identify community options, including chemical dependency treatment, to address an offenders violation, and encouraged agents and courts to utilize those community options instead of sending an offender to prison for the technical violation.

The legislation also appropriated \$160,000 in both fiscal years 2018 and 2019 to the Department of Corrections (DOC) to fund the alternatives to incarceration pilot program. The appropriation is now part of the base budget for the DOC. The pilot program directed that grants be given to improve offenders access to community programs, and required the DOC to provide a report to the legislature.

The DOC awarded the grant to Anoka County. Anoka County primarily used the grant to provide supplemental case management services to offenders in order to facilitate chemical health assessments and coordinate treatment. The report can be found at: https://mn.gov/doc/assets/Alternatives%20to%20Incarceration%20-%202018_tcm1089-366100.pdf

This bill amends certain provisions related to the alternatives to incarceration pilot program and appropriates an additional \$160,000 in each year of the biennium to expand the program to Wright County.

Summary

Section	Description
1	<p>Alternatives to incarceration pilot program.</p> <p>Directs the Department of Corrections to issue annual grants of \$160,000 to program recipients. Requires an annual report from the DOC. Amends the components of the report to include: (1) the number of individuals who completed or were discharged from probation after participating in the program; (2) the number of those individuals who committed a new offense after discharge; (3) an identification of barriers the targeted population faces in accessing community services and a description of how the program helps participants navigate those barriers; and (4) an identification of gaps in existing community services for the target population.</p>
2	<p>Alternatives to incarceration pilot program; grant.</p> <p>Appropriates an additional \$160,000 in fiscal years 2022 and 2023 to the DOC to expand the grant program to Wright County. This appropriation supplements the amount in the base budget and will bring the total annual appropriation for this program to \$320,000.</p>



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