Wisconsin Literacy Support of Adult Education in Wisconsin Corrections Facilities

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| **Background:** Wisconsin Literacy, Inc. (WLI) has been serving the Wisconsin Institutions Literacy Council (WILC), a literacy coalition of 14 correctional institutions that provide education services to inmates via paid instruction and peer-to-peer tutoring among trained volunteer inmates. Since 2016, with funding granted via the Wisconsin Legislature through DCF’s budget, Wisconsin Literacy has contracted to support GED attainment and Literacy Services to TANF-eligible populations receiving services from its 75-member literacy coalition. This includes only 2 of the 14 DOC institutions that are members of the institutions’ literacy coalition. WILC receives very limited support from DOC for its tutoring program. As a non-profit, WILC must seek outside support from Wisconsin Literacy for teaching materials and professional development resources. Under current DCF funding, Robert E. Ellsworth Correctional Center and Taycheedah Correctional Institute are receiving support.**Results:**Over the 2017-18 and 2 quarters of the current 2018-19 fiscal years, the DCF funding and support from Wisconsin Literacy have yielded the following results from these two institutions’ literacy programs:# of TANF-eligible learners who received GED or HSED (5.09) instruction: **478 learners** # of hours spent on GED or HSED (5.09) instruction for TANF-eligible learners: **18, 448 hours**# of TANF-eligible learners taking GED subject test but not completing GED credential: **195 learners**# of TANF-eligible learners who completed their GED or HSED (5.09) credential: **148 Completers****Request:** Wisconsin Literacy has received request from the other 12 correctional institutions literacy programs for the following:Updated GED Study BooksGED Workbooks (that can be written in by learners instead of shared by many)GED CalculatorsEnglish as a Second Language (ESL) materials; Spanish GED study materials Instructor Professional Development for GED attainment best practicesLearning Manipulatives; math blocks, measurement tools; **Costs:** The cost to include up to 12 more institutions’ literacy programs with a limited number of the resources listed above averages out to $4,000 per institution. This would provide approximately enough resources for each of the additional 12 institutions. Wisconsin Literacy staff time, consultation and training costs at $8,000 and $4,000 to get the current 2 institutions at the same level of support for the additional 12 programs.**Total Request: $60,000 per fiscal year****Other considerations:** In order to participate in other-sponsored job training programs (apprenticeship programs, industry-specific training) through the WTCS and Workforce Development Boards, inmates must have high school completion or the GED/HSED credential. Increased ESL population within most institutions; increased numbers of over-all incarcerated; new educational participation requirements for all inmates without a high school credential; increasing number of job training programs that need participants with the basic skills to succeed. Limited funds from WTCS or WDBs are going into these job training programs. Inmates who have gone through a job training program or gained a workforce credential are more likely to succeed in the community upon reentry. People who are released with minimum skill level will have limited opportunities and a greater likelihood of engaging in criminal activity.* Inmates who are educated are 43% less likely to return to prison
* Adults with limited literacy skills are 8x as likely to be incarcerated

Source: Coalition on Adult Basic Education, June 2017**For additional questions:**Michele EriksonExecutive DirectorWisconsin Literacy,michele@wisconsinliteracy.org608-257-1655 ext. 1  |