



STATE OF WISCONSIN (DIVISION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICES)

Mark Rather, Administrator

Date: May 5, 2026

To: County Human Service Department Directors
Tribal Human Service Department Directors
Project Directors – County and Tribal Treatment Court Programs
Project Directors – County and Tribal Diversion Programs

From: Lara Kenny, Director, Bureau of Justice Programs, Wisconsin Department of Justice

<p>Pre-Application Guidelines Memo for 2027 TAD Grant Awards</p>

Document Summary

The Department of Justice (DOJ), Division of Law Enforcement Services (DLES), has received \$10,688,900 in Treatment Alternatives and Diversion (TAD) grant funds to competitively award for CY 2027. The 2027 TAD grant application process provides applicants with the option of applying under one or more of four categories. This memo provides details on the four categories of funding.

Furthermore, this memo describes the Pre-Application stage for interested grant applicants to complete. Accompanying this memo is the TAD Pre-Application Form, which interested applicants **must** complete to identify which categories they plan to apply for when submitting their final TAD Grant Application this fall. Note that the information being requested in the Pre-Application Form does not constitute the final, full application. Instead, this information will help guide staff in determining the number of TAD grant applications and the amount of grant funds under each category that counties and tribes will be eligible to apply for under each category when completing the final, full application.

Eligibility for Funding and Pre-Application Process

All counties and tribes across Wisconsin, including those who did not receive a 2026 TAD grant award, are eligible to apply for TAD grant awards covering the period January 1, 2027, through December 31, 2027. (See *Appendix A*, for a list of 2026 TAD grant award recipient counties and tribes and grant amounts for each county). For programs that are 2026 TAD funded sites and who are requesting an award in 2027, the amount listed is the maximum amount you should request under Category #1. Agencies may request a lower amount if their Pre-Application program review shows reduced funding needs. TAD grant funds are available to support treatment court and diversion programs that meet the requirements listed under § 165.95, Wis. Stats., including (but not limited to) the following:



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- TAD award funds will be used to supplement, not supplant, planned or allocated funds.
- All TAD-funded programs must comply with evolving state and national standards pertaining to the operation of treatment courts or diversion programs as those standards are finalized and released statewide or nationally.
- TAD grantees must comply with all reporting, data collection, evaluation requirements, and necessary CORE and data training, as determined by the Bureau of Justice Programs (BJP) and the Bureau of Justice Information and Analysis (BJIA).
- All counties and tribes receiving a TAD grant shall create a criminal justice oversight committee or coordinating council (CJCC) to advise their agency in administering and evaluating its treatment court or diversion programs.
- TAD-funded programs cannot prohibit a participant from beginning or continuing using medication assisted treatment that is approved by the federal food and drug administration for the treatment of their substance use disorder.

Funding Categories

Only Wisconsin counties and tribes are eligible to apply through this pre-application process. Counties and tribes are eligible for funding under one or more of the following four categories.

Category #1: Implemented Programs (Existing CY2026 TAD-funded Programs)

Implementation grants are available to jurisdictions that have an established CJCC in place and are seeking funding to maintain operations of an existing TAD-funded program or programs. All funded programs must be evidence-based diversion programs or treatment court programs that are designed to meet the statutory requirements of the TAD program. DOJ tentatively projects allocating up to \$9,688,900 in TAD funds to cover existing TAD funded programs. This projection is based upon the level of spending of existing sites over the last three years, caps on the amount of funds used to attend in-person training, and program performance considerations.

Category #2: New Program (Diversion or Treatment Court)

New Program grants are available for counties/tribes in the initial planning stages of implementing a new evidence-based program, designed to meet the statutory requirements of the TAD program. This category is designed for jurisdictions that: (1) may already have a formal CJCC in place and receive TAD funding for one or more programs and are looking to implement a new treatment court or diversion program, or (2) may not yet operate a TAD funded program. In the latter instance, the jurisdiction may not yet have a formalized CJCC in place or is in the early stages of forming a CJCC. If jurisdictions currently only have an informal group of criminal justice professionals but are working to formalize a CJCC and implement



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programming, they may still apply under this category. However, these counties/tribes will be required to form a CJCC by the start of the second year of operations. DOJ tentatively projects allocating up to \$500,000 in TAD funds sufficient to support multiple new programs.

The purpose of this category is to provide an initial planning stage of six months in the first year of TAD funding to allow sufficient time for jurisdictions to prepare and implement a new program. Jurisdictions applying under this category will be expected to implement the program by June 30, 2027, and will be fully operational by the end of the first year of the TAD Grant cycle on December 31, 2027.

Please Note: Prior to program implementation, counties/tribes in this category must submit the following documentation and receive approval from DOJ to begin admitting participants.

- a. Project Design Table
- b. Policy and Procedure Manual
- c. Participant Agreement or Contract
- d. Participant Handbook

Category #3: Expansion or Enhancement Funds (Diversion or Treatment Court)

Expansion or enhancement funds are available to jurisdictions that have an established CJCC in place with a fully operational program that received TAD funds in 2026 and are seeking funding to support program expansion or enhancement efforts. Proposed program expansions or enhancements must be additional costs and services for 2027 that are not funded by any other sources, including county/tribal budgets and insurance providers. Grant funds cannot be used for any positions, supplies, services, or costs that are already part of the county/tribal budget or that could be billed to either BadgerCare or private insurance. Grant funding is intended to expand the program or to improve or enhance the current program and cover expenses for which there is currently no funding. Jurisdictions applying under this category must incorporate evidence-based principles and should outline in the justification one or more of the following reasons for requested funding:

- Expanding or enhancing program and/or staff services
- Expanding or enhancing participant services

DOJ tentatively projects allocating up to \$300,000 under this category, sufficient to support multiple enhancement/expansion projects.

Category #4: Implemented Program–Non-TAD Funded in CY2026 (Diversion or Treatment Court)

Implementation grants are available to jurisdictions that have an established CJCC in place and are seeking funding to continue existing program(s) previously funded with other sources such as expiring federal grants. All funded programs must be evidence-based diversion programs or treatment court programs that are designed to meet the statutory requirements of the TAD Grant program. (Review the TAD Pre-Application Guidance Memo and the TAD Statute [§ 165.95. Wis. Statute](#)). DOJ tentatively projects allocating up to \$200,000 under this category, sufficient to support multiple programs. The



maximum amount to be awarded under this category is \$100,000 per applicant.

Pre-Application Sections

Pre-Application Process: To apply for funding, an authorized county or tribal representative must communicate its agency's intentions as to which Categories the agency will apply under to receive 2027 TAD grant funds, as requested in the TAD Pre-Application Form. All completed Pre-Application Forms must be submitted to the Wisconsin Department of Justice by **no later than the end of business day on Thursday, July 2, 2026.** All counties and tribes wishing to receive 2027 TAD grant awards are not eligible to receive an award without submitting the Pre-Application Form within the deadline.

Agency Profile

Enter the name of the county or tribe that will administer the grant. In this section, list the points of contact (project director and financial officer) responsible for providing the information contained in the Pre-application Form. Also, list all current diversion programs and/or treatment courts operated by the agency, county, and tribe along with the primary funding source for each program (e.g., TAD, county tax levy, BJA grant, SAMHSA grant, or others).

Category Selections

All applicants must select **at least one** of the four funding categories as defined above. Agencies may select **multiple categories** if applicable to their request.

Complete all requested information under each category that your agency is requesting funding. For agencies requesting funding under multiple categories, be sure to answer questions under each respective category.

Category #1 – Implemented Programs (Existing CY2026 TAD-funded Programs): Applicants must answer all sections to support the agency's funding request. Applicants should address the following areas to demonstrate program readiness, accountability, and sustainability:

- **TAD Grant Spenddown History** — Summary of how previous year grant funds were used, including whether funds were fully expended, underspent, or required reallocation.
- **TAD Grant Reporting Requirements** — Explanation of the program's capacity to meet reporting expectations, including data collection processes and responsible staff.
- **Oversight Committee** — Description of the governing or advisory body responsible for program oversight, including membership and decision-making structure.



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- **Program or Team Membership** — Identification of key staff, partners, and disciplines involved in delivering the program, along with their roles.
- **Program Performance** — Evidence of program effectiveness, such as participant outcomes or fidelity to best practices
- **Program Sustainability** — Description of how the program will maintain operations beyond the grant period, including other funding sources, partnerships, or long-term planning.

Category #2 - New Program (Diversion or Treatment Court): Applicants must answer all sections to support the agency's request for funding to start a new diversion program or treatment court. Applicants should address the following areas to demonstrate need:

- **Program Type and Funding Sources** – Identify the program type planned to develop and implement along with the planned funding sources.
- **Oversight Committee or Advisory Committee** - Describe the existing agency, county, or tribal membership who will participate in the planning process for the program.
- **Justification for Request** – Provide an explanation and reason for establishing a new program. Include data to support this request. Data sources can include arrest, charge, and conviction related data, or data related to substance use and abuse.

Category #3 - Expansion or Enhancement Funds (Diversion or Treatment Court): Applicants must answer all sections to support the agency's request for funds to expand or enhance their existing TAD funded program(s). Applicants should address the following areas to demonstrate need:

- **Justification for Request** – Provide an explanation and/or reason for seeking to expand or the type of enhancement (e.g., additional service; increase in staff) your current program is requesting. Please include data to support this request. Data sources can include arrest, charge, and conviction related data, data related to substance use and abuse, or number of people who are in need or who would qualify for the program.

Category #4 – Implemented Programs – Non-TAD Funded in CY 2026: Applicants must answer all sections to support the agency's funding request. Applicants should address the following areas to demonstrate program readiness, accountability, and sustainability:

- **Grant Spenddown History** — Summary of how previous year grant funds were used, including whether funds were fully expended, underspent, or required reallocation.
- **Grant Reporting Requirements** — Explanation of the program's capacity to meet reporting expectations, including data collection processes and responsible staff.
- **Oversight Committee** — Description of the governing or advisory body responsible for program oversight, including membership and decision-making structure.



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- **Program or Team Membership** — Identification of key staff, partners, and disciplines involved in delivering the program, along with their roles.
- **Program Performance** — Evidence of program effectiveness, including participant outcomes or fidelity to best practices
- **Program Sustainability** — Description of how the program will maintain operations beyond the grant period, including other funding sources, partnerships, or long-term planning.

Regardless of category, **all applicants must complete the “Requested Funding Summary” and the “Proposed Budget” sections** of the application. These sections are required for every submission and will be used to determine allocation amounts.

Requested Funding Summary

Applicants must enter the total dollar amount requested under each of the four funding categories. After listing category-specific amounts, calculate the **required 25% match** based on the combined total of all requested funds. Finally, provide the **overall total**, including both state funds requested and the required match contribution. Applicants are reminded to responsibly project their program’s funding needs, taking the 25% match requirement into account.

Proposed Budget

Applicants must provide a detailed breakdown of how grant funds will be used. Applicants should itemize projected expenses in the following categories:

- **Personnel** — Salaries or wages for staff whose work is supported by the grant.
- **Benefits** — Fringe benefits associated with personnel costs.
- **Travel/Training** — Costs for staff travel, conferences, professional development, or required training.

NOTE: Because TAD funding is not increasing for 2027, training funds are limited in order to prioritize new programs and core operations. In 2027, TAD funds can be used to support five team members per treatment court and two team members per diversion program to attend a state conference. Programs are encouraged to support attendance at a range of conferences and to ensure that conference attendees disseminate relevant information and insights to the broader team during regular meetings. Examples of conferences include:

- WATCP State Conference
- WATCP Coordinator Conference
- Opioids, Stimulants, and Trauma Summit
- Mental Health & Substance Use Recovery Conference
- National Rural Institute on Alcohol, Drugs, and Addictions



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- **Supplies/Operating Expenses** — Materials, equipment, software, and day-to-day operational costs necessary to carry out the project.
- **Consultants/Contractual** — Payments to external providers, trainers, evaluators, or contracted services.
- **Indirect Costs** — Indirect costs of an organization are costs not readily assignable to a particular project but are necessary to the operation of the organization and the performance of the project. The cost of operating and maintaining facilities, depreciation, and administrative salaries are examples of the types of costs that are usually treated as indirect. If requesting indirect costs, recipients may charge a de minimis rate of up to 15% of modified total direct costs.

The proposed budget should be clear, reasonable and allowable, and directly tied to the program's goals.

Pre-Application Review and Award Criteria

All pre-applications must be submitted by end of the business day on the deadline date of July 2, 2026, and will be screened for completeness and compliance with the instructions provided in this Memo and on the Pre-Application Form. Pre-applications will be reviewed separately for each funding category. Pre-applications will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Completion of all required Pre-Application components
- Compliance with all Pre-Application instructions and submission requirements
- Degree of accuracy, completeness, and compliance with past program spending and reporting (if applicable)
- Strength and clarity of the justification for requested funding, including alignment with program goals
- Demonstrated need for funding based on existing program capacity and service availability within the agency, county, or tribe.

The review criteria listed above will be evaluated by Bureau of Justice Program (BJP) and Bureau of Justice Information and Analysis (BJIA) staff, in conjunction with representatives from the State Department of Corrections, Department of Health Services, and Wisconsin Director of State Courts. All recommended grant amount allocation decisions will be reviewed and approved by the Attorney General, in partnership with the secretaries for the State Department of Corrections and State Department of Health Services, pursuant to s. 165.95(2), Wis. Stats.

Once recommended funding allocations are determined, your agency, county, or tribal agency will be notified via email of the amount awarded so you will be able to complete and apply for the Final TAD Grant Application for 2027.



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Virtual Webinar: DOJ will conduct a virtual webinar on Thursday, May 14, 2026, from 9:00am-10:30am to highlight this Pre-Application Memo, the four categories, and to describe the steps for completing and submitting the requested Pre-Application Form. Additionally, staff will describe and highlight expenses and items which are allowable TAD costs and items that are allowable as match. [Click here to register for the webinar.](#) For further information, review the separate [Budget Policy Memo](#). This webinar will be recorded and available to those unable to attend the live webinar.