

**HAMILTON COUNTY, TENNESSEE**  
**OFFICE OF THE COUNTY MAYOR**  
**WESTON WAMP**

For Immediate Release

October 16, 2024

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**Hamilton County Alternative Sentencing Awarded Nearly \$1 Million in  
Federal Funding for Recidivism Reduction Initiative**

*Partnership with UTC to optimize new data-driven project geared toward recidivism reduction*

Hamilton County Alternative Sentencing today announced the department has been awarded \$844,294 from the U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) to implement the Recidivism Reduction Initiative (RRI), a new three-year project aimed at reducing recidivism rates and promoting positive outcomes for individuals in their misdemeanor supervision programs. The Hamilton County Commission unanimously approved the grant funding at their meeting today.

"Our office has made recidivism reduction a priority by expanding the jail's reentry program with new vocational opportunities and launching a Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) program to improve mental health outcomes for inmates," said **Hamilton County Mayor Weston Wamp**. "This new investment will further streamline the county's efforts in making sure our low-level offenders have a second chance to reintegrate successfully into society and reduce the likelihood of returning to jail."

This Second Chance Act Smart Supervision Program grant will fund two new positions in Alternative Sentencing's misdemeanor supervision programs, providing a more client-centered, holistic approach to alternative sentencing. Funding will also be used to create a Participant Needs Fund to assist individuals with additional treatment and transportation needs, further positioning them for success as they reintegrate into society.

"This funding will allow us to provide necessary resources to propel more program participants onto a path of success through the Recidivism Reduction Initiative," said **Chris Jackson, Director of Alternative Sentencing Programs**. "Our goal is to provide a stronger level of supervision and strategic response so we can meet clients where they are and better prepare them to make meaningful contributions to the community."

Researchers and professors at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga (UTC) will collect and analyze data produced by the RRI to measure the program's effectiveness.

"Getting a federal grant like this is an incredible opportunity," said **Dr. Andrew Denney, UTC Assistant Professor of Social, Cultural and Justice Studies**. "We're going to help Hamilton County construct a new database from the ground up, and we'll be assessing the program along the way to ensure it is working as intended, using baseline data to measure the program's growth and impact on recidivism."

The Recidivism Reduction Initiative will officially launch in January 2025.

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