



Alternatives to Incarceration  
Report for the Legislature

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This information will be provided in alternative format upon request.

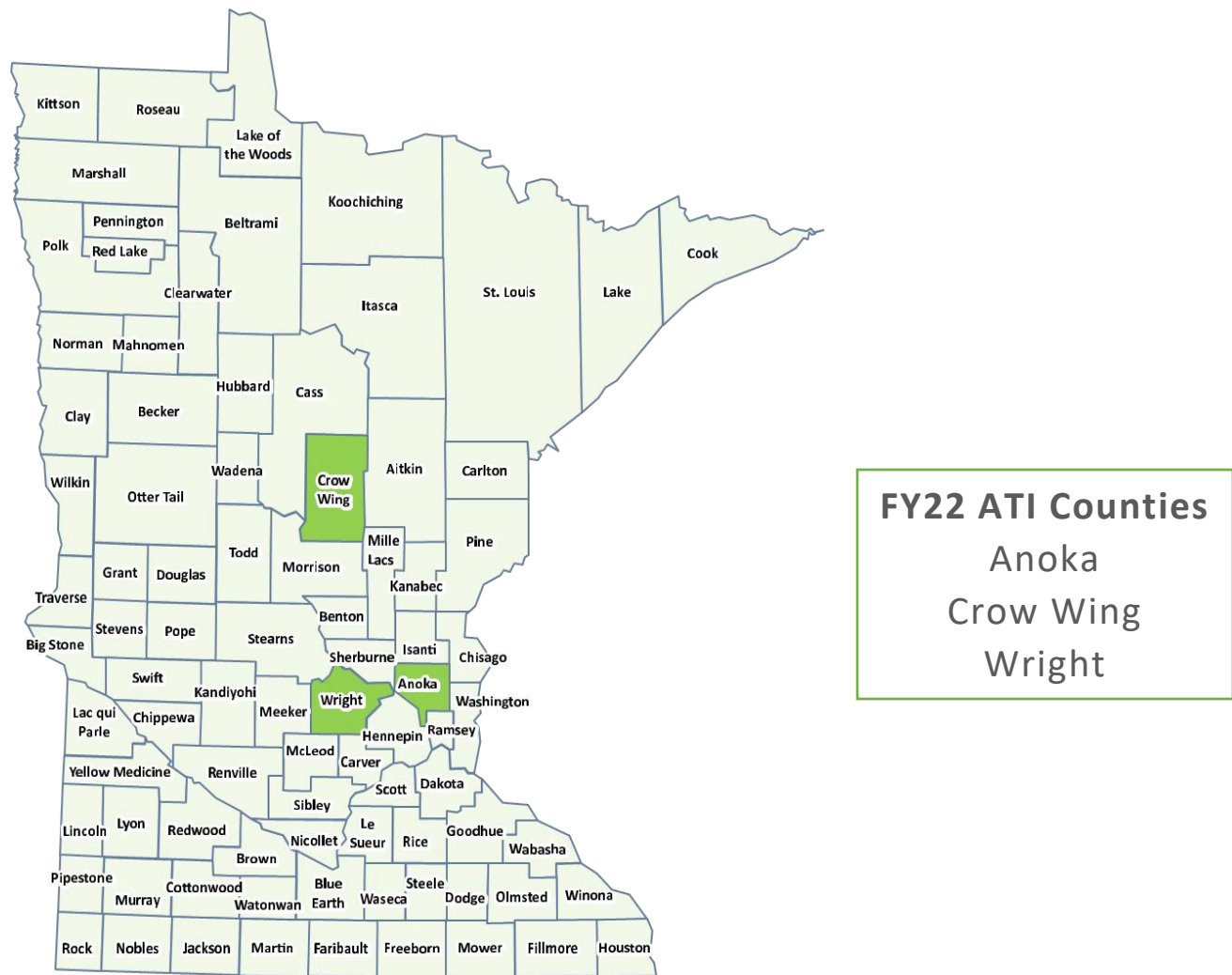
The total cost of salaries and supplies incurred in development and preparation of this report was \$800 (reported as required by M.S. 3.197).

# Introduction

The Alternatives to Incarceration (ATI) grant began in 2017 with a legislative appropriation of \$160,000. In the 2021 legislative session, the Minnesota Legislature opted to continue the pilot program under [HF63, Article 1, Section 30, Sub.225.21](#). ATI is designed to assist county recipients within the State of Minnesota who have supervised release and probation agents working with “nonviolent controlled substance justice-involved clients”. Prior to a justice-involved client’s probation or supervised release being revoked for non-compliance with conditions of supervision, these funds are used to identify community options to address and correct the violation.

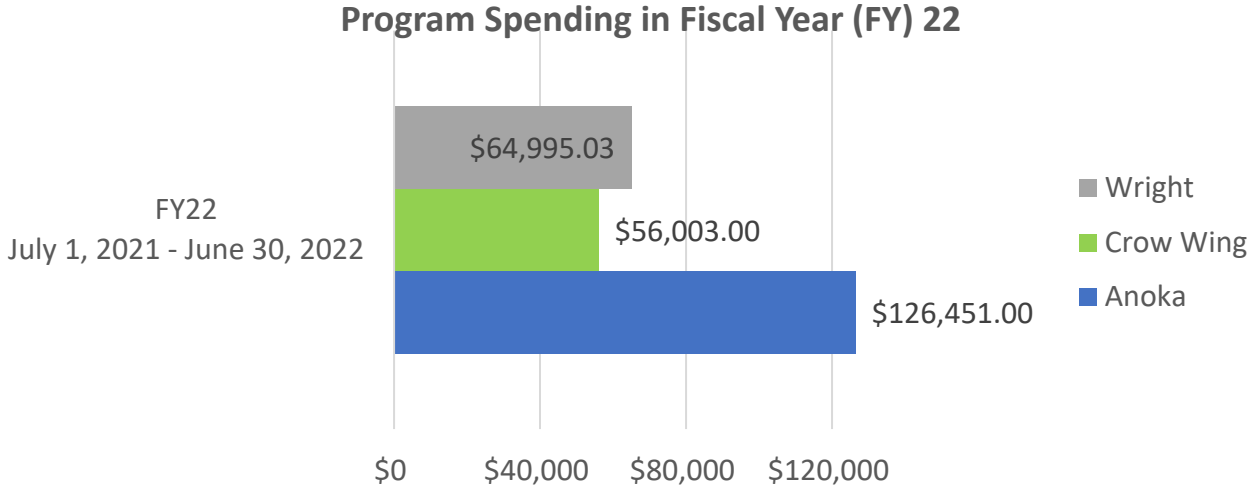
# Background

Through a competitive RFP process Anoka County was first awarded this funding in 2017 and continued to receive funding during fiscal year (FY) 22. Wright and Crow Wing counties were new grantees during fiscal year (FY) 22 but did not have executed grant agreements until November 2021 and January 2022 respectively. As new grantees they had less time to coordinate their program, begin implementation and serve clients. It is important to note the data contained in this report reflects the shorter program window for these two counties.



# Program Spending

In Fiscal Year (FY) 22, a total of \$480,000 was available to three counties through a legislatively mandated appropriation. Anoka, Crow Wing and Wright counties each received \$160,000 through a grant agreement. A total of \$247,449.03 was spent out of \$480,000 available.



# Legislative Reporting Requirements

The fiscal year began July 1, 2021, and ended June 30, 2022, however the outcome reporting varies from county to county based on when grant agreements were finalized. Due to Anoka County being a recurring grantee they were able to collect a full year of data through the period of November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 – October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022. As stated above Crow Wing and Wright County are new grantees limiting the availability of their outcome data.

Per the amended Minnesota [HF63, Article 1, Section 30, Sub.225.21](#) grantees are required to report on eight (8) requirements herein this report. While each county approached their program differently qualitative and quantitative data was provide by each grantee to fulfill reporting requirements. Requirements are listed in numeric order below.

## 1) Community Services Accessed as a Result of the Grant

The counties identified community services/resources accessed as a result of the grant include but are not limited to the following: Enhanced supervision, utilizing a housing specialist, medication management, Moral Recognition Therapy (MRT), peer facilitated group, program specific sober housing, urine analysis (UA) testing, COG programming (decision points), GED services and auto repairs. Additional services included: Co-pays, Treatment Costs, Identification Costs, Vehicle Repairs, Gas Cards, Education Programming Costs, Rent Assistance, Assistance with Fees Related to Driver Reinstatement, Hotel Stays, PO Box Initial Fees, Dedicated Case Manager, Mental Health, Group Support, Monitoring Services, Telecommunication Devices

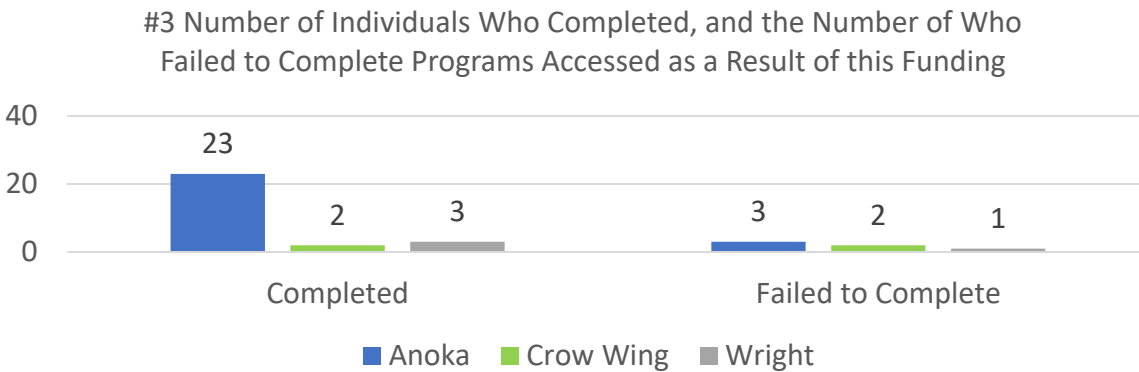
- 2) A summary of the type of supervision offenders were under when grant funding was used to help access a community option.

All three counties report a wide variety of client supervision levels however all target high-risk high-need individuals as determined by validated assessments. Examples of supervision levels include traditional felony, supervised release, traditional misdemeanor / gross misdemeanor

**#2 Type of Supervision Offenders were Under When Grant Funding was Used to Access a Community Option**

	Probation	Supervised Release
Anoka	8	18
Crow Wing	7	1
Wright	31	2

- 3) The number of individuals who completed, and the number who failed to complete programs accessed as a result of this funding.

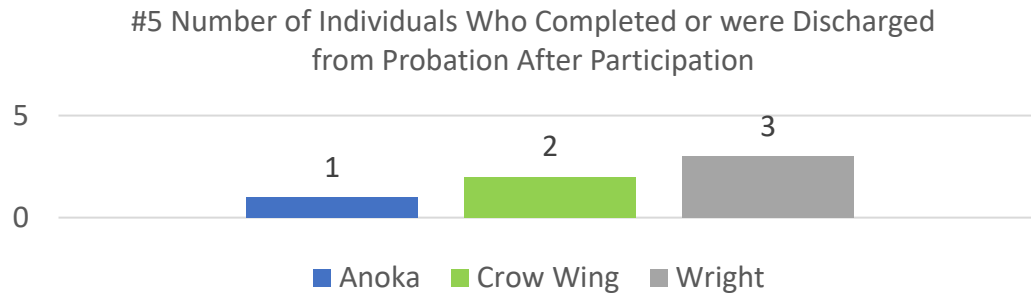


- 4) The number of individuals who violated the terms of release following participation in a program accessed as a result of this funding, separating technical violations and new criminal offenses.

**#4 The number of individuals who violated the terms of release following participation in a program accessed as a result of this funding, separating technical violations and new criminal offenses.**

	Technical Violations	New Criminal Offenses
Anoka	3	2
Crow Wing	2	1
Wright	0	0

- 5) The number of individuals who completed or were discharged from probation after participating the program.



- 6) The number of individuals identified in clause (5) who committed a new offense after discharge from the program.

Wright County reported one client who committed a new offense after discharge from the program. Anoka and Crow Wing reported none.

- 7) Identification of barriers nonviolent controlled substance offenders face in accessing community services and a description of how the program navigates those barriers.

Shared Barriers	Anoka	Crow Wing	Wright
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stable Housing (Sober, Transition and Tradition)</li> <li>Financial Burdens</li> <li>Mental Health Access and Cost</li> <li>Reliable Transportation</li> <li>Access to reliable / affordable telecommunication devices with access to email and internet</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lack of Education</li> <li>Reading, Writing, Ability to complete forms</li> <li>Limited Employment Opportunities due to criminal record</li> <li>Lack of work history and job skills</li> <li>Substance Use</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Length of time for Assessments</li> <li>Getting clients connected to treatment and/or mental health services</li> <li>Lack of Mental Health Support while transitioning back to the community</li> <li>Peer Supports</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Financial Assistance</li> <li>Programming Costs</li> <li>Ability to afford housing / reliable transportation</li> <li>Cost of gas to get to treatment or support</li> </ul>

It should be noted, all three counties reported that the statutorily defined target population of a “non-violent offender” is a major barrier within itself. Examples from each of their reports on how they navigated these barriers are included below:

**Anoka County**

Clients participating in the Alternative to Incarceration program face multiple barriers to accessing community resources. Some of these barriers are specific to the individual client and other barriers are systemic barriers. Individuals may have disabilities or skill deficiencies which prevent them from effectively accessing available resources. Clients may also face a lack of community-based resources which makes accessing resources difficult. This program utilizes a case manager to target client barriers and uses short-term and long-term stabilization assignment along with other assessment tools to identify client needs. The case manager collaborates with the client and utilizes the

assessment tools to develop an individualized case plan for each client. The case plan identifies targets, priorities, and action steps to overcome each client's barriers. Case managers have more time to work with DVS, enroll clients in medical benefits, utilize Carey Guides, develop budgets, and open savings/checking accounts.

### **Crow Wing County**

Developed a program to address the gaps in services within their community. Some of the gaps in services the team identified were the length of time for assessment and getting clients connected to treatment and/or mental health services, the lack of mental health support while transitioning from a residential setting to the community, lack of stable sober and transitional housing, lack of access to reliable and affordable telecommunication devices, lack of quality public transportation, and peer supports.

The County developed a phase-based program with a multidisciplinary team to target the identified barriers. The Team has a mental health case manager, a housing specialist and two licensed alcohol and drug counselors on this team to expediate comprehensive diagnostic assessments. This program uses swift, intermediate, and graduated sanctions model to address technical violations. In addition, this program developed peer-led GOALS group and a shared case plan.

### **Wright County**

Barriers were related to individualized financial assistance with specific type(s) of programming. This program provides crisis intervention financial support such as emergency housing assistance or assistance with gas and vehicle repairs.

#### **8) Identification of gaps in existing community services for nonviolent controlled substance offenders.**

- Programs that involve families and/or mentors, assistance to families who have a client living with them
- Housing for persons with a felony – availability of rental units for independent living – female sober housing
- Diagnostic mental health – specialized mental health professionals – creates many delays
- Transitional follow-up with clients placed on medication to ensure they are taking the medication
- Transportation – availability outside traditional work hours – limited public transportation continues to be a large obstacle for many of these clients
- Programming not available in their community or the county requires individuals to commute long distances to complete programming
- Nutritional education and assistance
- Expanded access to non-religious based residential treatment programs
- The expense of treatment programs is a burden for clients, in many instances if they get behind in treatment fees, they face unsuccessful discharge from the program

## **Conclusions**

Each program is highly person centered with notable shared barriers and gaps. The services identified in each county's report intend to assist justice-involved clients in remaining in the community and being successful while under supervision. Each county identified specific needs of the justice-involved clients they serve and established tailored services to fit these needs based on best practices. With reliable funding and additional data collection many insights could be gained, shared, and replicated.