

University of Wisconsin-Extension Criminal Justice Specialists

The citizens of Northwest Wisconsin request:

- **That the University of Wisconsin-Extension hires criminal justice specialists to work with county Extension educators and local governments.**

Background

Local government officials from northwest Wisconsin are struggling with how to get control over rising criminal justice costs. In recent years many have either built new larger jails or are planning to build them to address jail overcrowding. County expenditures on criminal justice-related expenses constitute the largest county budget expenditure. Recidivism is one of the largest contributors to jail overcrowding. Released inmates re-offend and end up back in jail. New jails that are being built today will be full in the not too distant future. Building new, larger jails means fewer resources for other critical needs.

How can local government officials obtain the knowledge and tools that will enable them to manage their criminal justice **system** most effectively? Who can help answer these and other questions?

- What criminal justice management practices have proven to be most effective as it relates directly to preventing overcrowding?
- What alternatives to incarceration programs have proven to work and how do you go about instituting them?
- What programs for county jail inmates have been effective in addressing substance abuse, life skills and employability needs?
- What strategies and intervention programs have proven effective in reducing the number of repeat offenders?

The University of Wisconsin has the ability to put in place a system that will bring the latest research-based information and education on local criminal justice management practices to local government officials and criminal justice managers.

For more information contact:

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