



January 2019

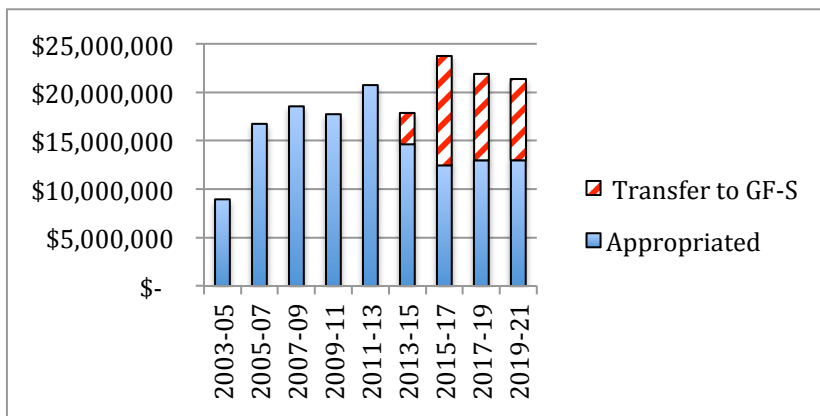
Addressing Opioid Addiction: End the Fund Sweep from the Criminal Justice Treatment Account

Drug Courts could relieve more pressure on the criminal justice system and help more people overcome opioid addiction if the legislature would end the fund sweep from the Criminal Justice Treatment Account (CJTA).

The primary state funding mechanism for Drug Courts is the Criminal Justice Treatment Account (CJTA). **The source of these funds is money saved by not incarcerating people with substance use disorders that caused their criminal behavior and instead using the money to treat their underlying issues.**

But during the “Great Recession” and concurrent with expansion of the federal Medicaid program, the legislature began diverting dedicated funding for the Criminal Justice Treatment Account back to the General Fund. This has resulted in multiple millions of dollars denied for the original legislative purpose – diverting people with an underlying substance use disorder from the criminal justice system.

Biennium	CJTA Appropriation	CJTA transfer to GF-S
2003-05	\$8,950,000	
2005-07	\$16,745,000	
2007-09	\$18,555,000	
2009-11	\$17,743,000	
2011-13	\$20,748,000	
2013-15	\$14,658,000	\$3,183,000
2015-17	\$12,478,000	\$11,303,000
2017-19	\$12,978,000	\$8,900,000
2019-21	\$12,986,000	\$8,400,000 ¹



HB 1524 (2018), now allows use of the CJTA for Recovery Support Services – services that more than double the drug court cost-benefit from 3:1 to 7:1 – **the legislature should end the fund shift & dedicate the entire Criminal Justice Treatment Account to drug courts** to fund more participants, more treatment and more recovery support services.

And with the success of drug courts, other “problem solving” courts (veteran’s, mental health, homeless, family) have sprung up. These courts use a similar approach to solving underlying problems, but they may not produce similar cost:benefit ratios. As such, **the legislature should also explore other funding mechanisms to support other problem solving courts.**

for more information, contact: Bob Cooper ◦ Bob@EvergreenPublic.com ◦ 206-852-3616

¹ Governor’s proposed budget

The Washington State Association of Drug Court Professionals is committed and dedicated to furthering the Drug Courts and Therapeutic Specialty Court model in the State of Washington. The WSADCP is committed to doing this through education and advocacy throughout the state of Washington. Drug Courts link the courts, criminal justice and treatment to improve accountability by treating non-violent substance abusing offenders making the community a safer place to live.