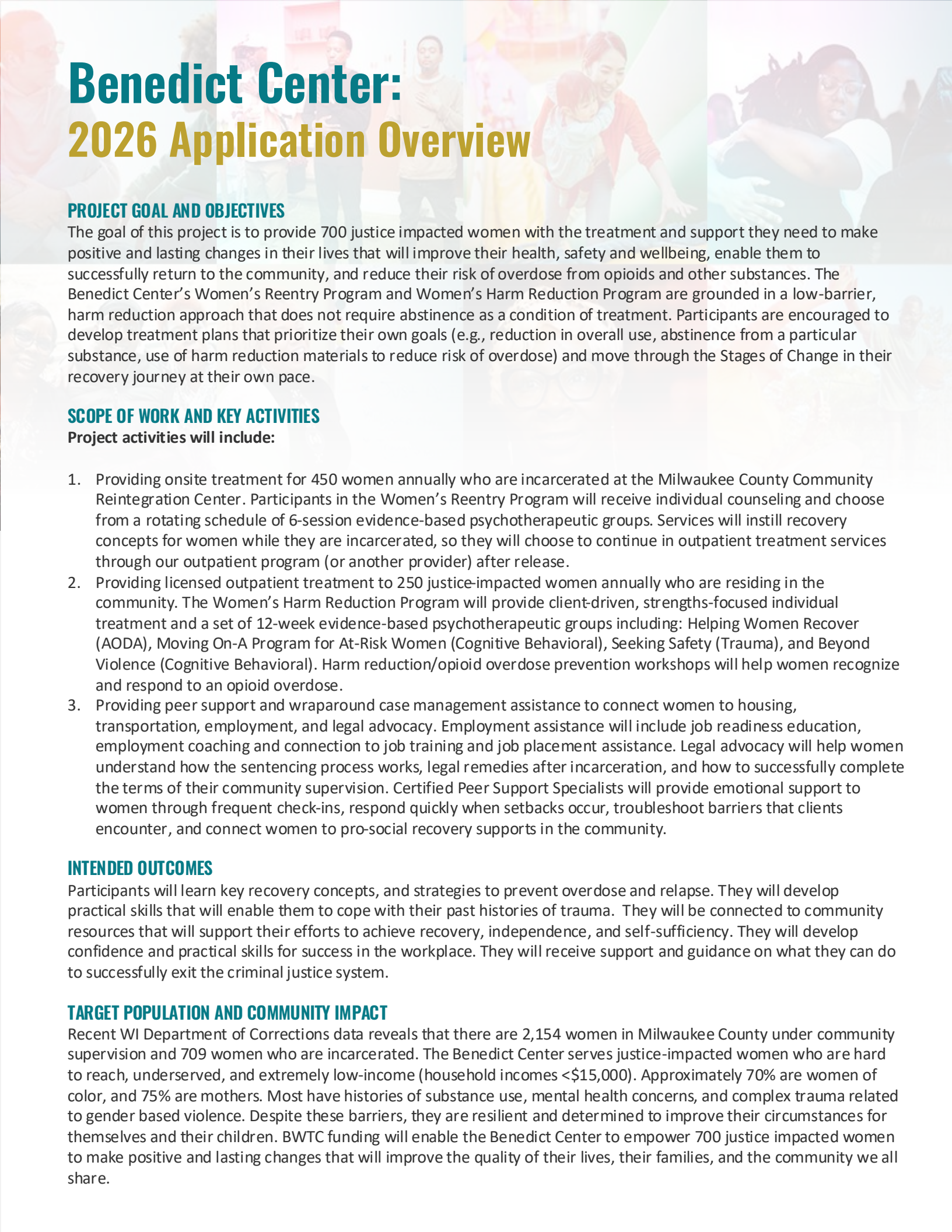




Benedict Center: 2026 Application Overview

PROJECT GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

The goal of this project is to provide 700 justice impacted women with the treatment and support they need to make positive and lasting changes in their lives that will improve their health, safety and wellbeing, enable them to successfully return to the community, and reduce their risk of overdose from opioids and other substances. The Benedict Center's Women's Reentry Program and Women's Harm Reduction Program are grounded in a low-barrier, harm reduction approach that does not require abstinence as a condition of treatment. Participants are encouraged to develop treatment plans that prioritize their own goals (e.g., reduction in overall use, abstinence from a particular substance, use of harm reduction materials to reduce risk of overdose) and move through the Stages of Change in their recovery journey at their own pace.

SCOPE OF WORK AND KEY ACTIVITIES

Project activities will include:

1. Providing onsite treatment for 450 women annually who are incarcerated at the Milwaukee County Community Reintegration Center. Participants in the Women's Reentry Program will receive individual counseling and choose from a rotating schedule of 6-session evidence-based psychotherapeutic groups. Services will instill recovery concepts for women while they are incarcerated, so they will choose to continue in outpatient treatment services through our outpatient program (or another provider) after release.
2. Providing licensed outpatient treatment to 250 justice-impacted women annually who are residing in the community. The Women's Harm Reduction Program will provide client-driven, strengths-focused individual treatment and a set of 12-week evidence-based psychotherapeutic groups including: Helping Women Recover (AODA), Moving On-A Program for At-Risk Women (Cognitive Behavioral), Seeking Safety (Trauma), and Beyond Violence (Cognitive Behavioral). Harm reduction/opioid overdose prevention workshops will help women recognize and respond to an opioid overdose.
3. Providing peer support and wraparound case management assistance to connect women to housing, transportation, employment, and legal advocacy. Employment assistance will include job readiness education, employment coaching and connection to job training and job placement assistance. Legal advocacy will help women understand how the sentencing process works, legal remedies after incarceration, and how to successfully complete the terms of their community supervision. Certified Peer Support Specialists will provide emotional support to women through frequent check-ins, respond quickly when setbacks occur, troubleshoot barriers that clients encounter, and connect women to pro-social recovery supports in the community.

INTENDED OUTCOMES

Participants will learn key recovery concepts, and strategies to prevent overdose and relapse. They will develop practical skills that will enable them to cope with their past histories of trauma. They will be connected to community resources that will support their efforts to achieve recovery, independence, and self-sufficiency. They will develop confidence and practical skills for success in the workplace. They will receive support and guidance on what they can do to successfully exit the criminal justice system.

TARGET POPULATION AND COMMUNITY IMPACT

Recent WI Department of Corrections data reveals that there are 2,154 women in Milwaukee County under community supervision and 709 women who are incarcerated. The Benedict Center serves justice-impacted women who are hard to reach, underserved, and extremely low-income (household incomes <\$15,000). Approximately 70% are women of color, and 75% are mothers. Most have histories of substance use, mental health concerns, and complex trauma related to gender based violence. Despite these barriers, they are resilient and determined to improve their circumstances for themselves and their children. BWTC funding will enable the Benedict Center to empower 700 justice impacted women to make positive and lasting changes that will improve the quality of their lives, their families, and the community we all share.