

Building stronger and safer communities requires a collaborative approach that utilizes a variety of different treatment methods for individuals struggling with substance use.

Thanks to the support of the U.S. Department of Justice’s Bureau of Justice Assistance, Milwaukee County is able to provide a medication-assisted treatment option for incarcerated individuals struggling with an opioid addiction. By addressing the unique medical needs of their substance use, we can help improve the prospects for a drug-free and crime-free life for the participant and a safer and healthier community for everyone.

“We pride ourselves on offering compassionate, judgment-free treatment. For many patients, this is one of the few places where they feel safe to come and know people in the building are here to support and encourage them along the way.

– Amanda Rodriguez,  
CMS Community Impact Manager”

**MAT: Behind The Walls** is a program of the Milwaukee County Behavioral Health Department with support from the following partner agencies:

- Milwaukee County House of Correction (HOC)
- Milwaukee County Department of Corrections (DOC)
- Wellpath
- Community Medical Services (CMS)
- University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UWM)
- Wisconsin Community Services (WCS)

Providing Connections That Support Recovery

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MAT:  
**BEHIND THE WALLS**



For individuals struggling with an opioid addiction, time in incarceration alone is unlikely to address the underlying issues that may have led to their current situation. Further, individuals struggling with opioid use are more likely to die from an overdose after re-entering the community following jail time.

Thanks to support from the U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance, Milwaukee County is pleased to offer the **MAT: Behind The Walls** program to improve outcomes for incarcerated individuals struggling with opioid use.

“Through this program we are now able to start a person's journey of recovery while inside the walls and continue it with the same people on the outside. This helps establish trust which opens doors to wellness. Many participants entered the HOC alone, but they leave with an entire community behind them.

– Liz Schwartz, Wellpath Case Manager”

## MAT: BEHIND THE WALLS features two critical elements:

- Administering Naltrexone (Vivitrol) or Suboxone as a medication-assisted treatment (MAT) for sentenced and sanctioned offenders in custody at the Milwaukee County House of Correction (HOC).\*
- Supporting the transition to community-based services once these individuals are released from custody.

*\*The program aims to eventually add Methadone as an approved MAT as well. As additional MAT options receive FDA approval, they will also be implemented into the program.*

## PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

Participation in **MAT: Behind The Walls** is completely voluntary. In order to participate, an individual must also meet the following criteria:

- Undergo a medical and substance abuse assessment that indicates an addiction to an opiate
- Receive medical clearance to take Naltrexone (Vivitrol) or Suboxone
- Participate in additional treatment programs to address cognitive and behavioral changes

## PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

Once admitted in the **MAT: Behind The Walls** program, participants will be provided the following support services:

- Up to three Naltrexone (Vivitrol) or Suboxone treatments during their time in custody, with continued MAT upon release
- Additional AODA and Mental Health Treatment services
- Cognitive Behavioral Programming activities in alignment with evidence-based practices to continue addressing underlying concerns
- A peer support specialist to assist participants while in custody and facilitate their transition into the community upon release
- A case manager with Wellpath and a clinician with Community Medical Services
- Access to additional community-based Milwaukee County resources to assist in recovery

