



BENEDICT CENTER AT-A-GLANCE



Our Story

The Benedict Center is Milwaukee's leading advocate and service provider for women affected by the criminal justice system, including women at risk of being criminalized due to substance use, mental health, trauma and/or experience in the sex trade.

Mass incarceration is harmful to individuals, families, and communities. Women are increasingly caught in the maze of the criminal justice system due to the failing war on drugs and other misdirected crime-related policies. Justice-impacted men and women are disproportionately Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) from segregated, impoverished neighborhoods. Impacted women, however, experience higher rates of violent crimes like domestic violence, sexual assault, and sex trafficking. They experience higher rates of trauma, mental health, and substance use disorders. The majority are mothers, which means their children are also impacted. Women's health issues are overlooked in jails and prisons designed to incarcerate men.

What we do

We provide gender-specific advocacy and services to address women's underlying needs while helping them navigate out of the maze of the criminal justice system.

- Harm Reduction and Healing Services
- Criminal Justice System Navigation & Advocacy
- Social Justice and Systems Change

Our Programs:

Serving Over 1,000 Women/Year

Women's Harm Reduction Program

(1849 N. Dr Martin Luther King Dr., Milwaukee, WI)
Outpatient clinic for substance use and mental health counseling, individual advocacy, and support services. Supports justice-impacted women to meet legal conditions for pretrial agreements, parole, and probation.

Women's Reentry Program (inside Milwaukee County Community Reintegration Center, Franklin, WI) Reentry planning, counseling, case management, and pre-employment services during incarceration and continued support after release.

Sisters Program (1609 W. North Avenue & 209 W. Orchard Street, Milwaukee) Street Outreach and Drop In Centers provide low-barrier access for women in the street-based sex trade (including sex trafficking) who use opioids and other drugs. Basic needs and harm-reduction resources (e.g. Narcan), sexual assault advocacy, HIV prevention, counseling, case management, and housing navigation. Deflects women to services instead of criminalizing them.

Bridge Services Our newest initiative for women's short- and long-term success Peer-support, employment services, housing navigation, and legal advocacy to support recovery and sustainability for women in all Benedict Center programs.

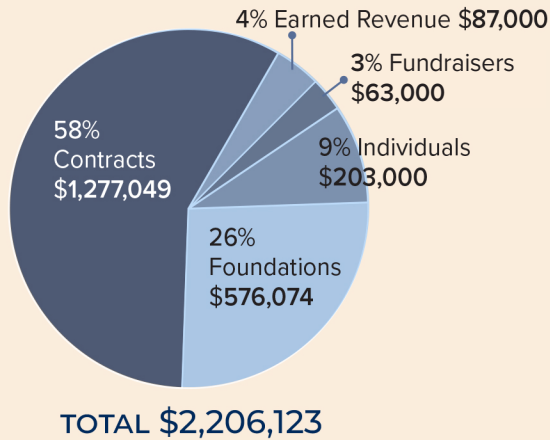
Community Justice Program Social justice advocacy for changes to the criminal justice system through cross-sector collaboration, community engagement, and leadership development. Advances public health policies to help women and their children instead of traditional criminal justice approaches.

Current Operations:

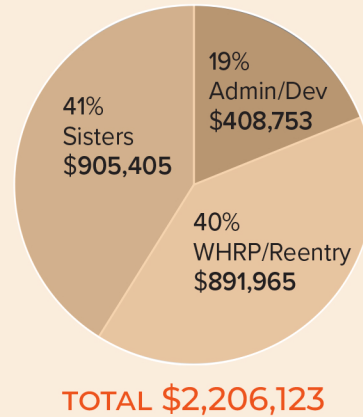
- 4 locations across Milwaukee County
- 28 staff, 10 student interns
- \$2 million budget

Our Budget

2024 REVENUE by Source



2024 EXPENSES by Department



Past, Present, Future

Established in 1974, the Benedict Center began at St. Benedict the Moor Parish providing adult education and advocacy services for women in the Milwaukee County Jail. Over the decades, the Benedict Center continuously responds to the changing needs of women impacted by the criminal justice system, always guided by the founding values of human dignity, compassion, and justice.

The Benedict Center is highly regarded within the County and State Criminal Justice System for its partnership, advocacy, and innovative solutions that are proven to make a positive difference in the lives of women. As such, women access our services via multiple points in the criminal justice system and in the community, including:

- Milwaukee County Court System
- Milwaukee County Community Reintegration Center
- Wisconsin Department of Corrections
- Milwaukee County Behavioral Health Services
- Milwaukee County Housing Services
- Community Outreach



Join us in building a brighter future!

Together we can empower women to transform their lives and create change in the criminal justice system, forging a more equitable community for everyone.

Your support can help a woman:

- **take the first steps** to reduce the risk of an opioid overdose with resources from our street outreach
- **complete substance use treatment** as part of a pretrial diversion agreement
- **move into her own apartment**, providing a safe and secure foundation for next steps
- **complete a resume and job search** as part of her reentry plan

Mission Statement

The Benedict Center is an interfaith nonprofit dedicated to helping women affected by the criminal justice system find hope and lead safer and healthier lives, while advocating for a system of justice that is fair and treats everyone with dignity and respect.



To make a donation and learn more, call 414-347-1774, visit our website [benedictcenter.org](https://www.benedictcenter.org) or scan the QR code

