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## **County agency to launch pilot project**

Montgomery County Alcohol, Drug Addiction & Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) has received a \$146,294 grant from the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services for a pilot project to assist individuals post-incarceration. The project called Montgomery County Linkages is designed to help ex-offenders from recommitting criminal acts by helping them overcome significant obstacles such as mental health services, housing and substance abuse relapse.

Approximately 62% of inmates have been abusing alcohol and/or drugs; 50% are homeless; 47% have a severe mental health illness; 19% have some level of developmental or learning disability, and 18% have attempted suicide.

The pilot project will fill gaps in services and provide a holistic plan for providing services pre and post-release. "Research shows that most successful reentry programs are achieved when treatment services begin in jail and continue in the community following release," said ADAMHS Executive Director Helen Jones-Kelley.

The project will be a collaborative effort between ADAMHS, Samaritan Behavioral Health, Miami Valley Housing Opportunities and the Montgomery County Sheriff's Department.