

DRIVER'S LICENSE & EMPLOYABILITY PROJECT

GOALS

- Increase the number of students licensed by age 18 through universal driver education.
- Limit driver's license sanctions to unsafe drivers.
- Utilize other means than driver license suspension when fines are unpaid.
- Increase the ease with which individuals resolve existing license problems.
- Provide support and services to individuals who desire to restore their license privileges.

PROBLEM

- Low-income students under age 18 have no way to get a licensed.
 - No organized driver's education.
 - No way to pay for mandatory behind-the-wheel training.
- License sanctions are used for many purposes other than as a penalty for unsafe driving.
 - Unpaid non-traffic juvenile tickets result in suspensions.
 - Unpaid traffic tickets result in license suspensions.
 - Drug offenses result in a minimum 6 month suspension.
 - Revocations imposed for Operating While Suspended or Operating After Revocation.
 - Revocations not related to safe driving require Safety Responsibility Insurance.
- License restoration is complicated and confusing for many low-income individuals.
 - Milwaukee and Waukesha counties have 2 Circuit Courts and ** Municipal Courts.
 - Low-income individuals are unable to pay their fines.
 - License restoration often requires multiple steps in multiple courts.
 - Individuals have difficulty completing the multiple steps needed to obtain a license.

IMPACT

- Individuals are unable to find family supporting work without a driver's license.
 - Individuals are unable to get to good construction or suburban jobs.
 - They are denied access to apprenticeship training.
 - They are not hired for insurance reasons or they are viewed as irresponsible.
 - Employment in many transportation and construction jobs requires a driver's license.
 - Students start without a license and go down hill from there.
 - The lack of a driver's license leads to the start of a criminal record.
- The current enforcement scheme is inefficient and expensive to maintain.
 - The Department of Transportation costs increase for license restoration activities.
 - Court costs are increased in Municipal and Misdemeanor courts.
 - Police and jail costs increase.
 - Prosecutor and Public Defender costs increase.
- The current system has unintended social costs.
 - There is a disparate impact on minorities.
 - The system criminalizes behavior that is often due to poverty.

BARRIERS TO CHANGE

- No agreement on a unified agenda for legislative changes.
- Coordinating multiple strategies to implement comprehensive change is difficult.
- Municipalities and the state are dependent upon the revenue.
- Judiciary independence often results in inconsistent results.
- Identifying cost savings to balance against the cost of change.

IMPLEMENTING A COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTION

- A comprehensive solution requires that we increase the number of people who are not in trouble, and we help restore licenses to those who are currently revoked or suspended.
 - Driver's education
 - Help passing the written test
 - Payment of the cost of driver's education for low-income students
 - Legislative changes so driver's license sanctions are focused on unsafe drivers.
 - Eliminate drug suspensions
 - Make the recent Habitual Traffic Offender change retroactive
 - Eliminate the need for SR22 insurance for OWS and OAR revocations
 - End SR22 insurance for Occupational Licenses when not related to unsafe driving
 - Make Occupational Licenses available to never licensed individuals
 - Judicial cooperation results in certainty and consistency in driver's license cases.
 - Increase coordination and consistency among Circuit and Municipal courts
 - Streamline decision-making in post judgment matters
 - Increase the use of alternatives to suspension or jail for nonpayment of fines
 - Easy access to payment plans for those who can pay.
 - Allow Community service for those who cannot pay.
 - Tax intercept when individuals do not take steps to satisfy their obligation.
- Creation of a restoration project that will help those currently trapped in the system.
 - A triage intake unit decides if the case is easy, hopeless or needs support
 - Participant Support and Community Service Supervision keeps people on track.
 - Legal Assistance for those who cannot succeed without legal help
 - Indigence fund helps indigent individuals take the last step.

COST

- The cost of the pilot restoration project is approximately \$420 per licensed person.
- The cost will decrease as legislative changes, judicial coordination and driver education occurs.
- Savings will occur through decreased use of police, judicial and jail resources.