American Correctional Association

SUPPORTING FULL FUNDING FOR THE RESIDENTIAL SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT PROGRAM (RSAT) AND THE FLEXIBLE USE OF THOSE FUNDS

2005-1

WHEREAS, Bureau of Justice Statistics studies show the vast majority of offenders were under the influence of drugs or alcohol at the time they committed the offense that led to their incarceration; and

WHEREAS, without treatment, offenders continue to use drugs and engage in criminal activities; and

WHEREAS, the Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) program was created by Congress in 1994 to address the high incidence of incarcerated persons with substance use disorders; and

WHEREAS, research has shown that continuity of treatment after release has proved to be one of the most effective ways to reduce recidivism and break the cycle of drug dependency; and

WHEREAS, the flexibility to spend the RSAT money to provide continuity of treatment is encouraged; and now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the American Correctional Association supports increased RSAT funding for correctional substance use disorder treatment at all levels – federal, state and local; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this funding should include the flexibility to be spent both during incarceration and during an offender’s transition back into the community.

This resolution was adopted by the American Correctional Association Delegate Assembly on Aug. 10, 2005, at the Congress of Correction in Baltimore. It was last reviewed and reaffirmed at the 2017 Winter Conference in San Antonio, TX, January 24, 2017.