

# Improve Public Safety by Positively Changing Lives

## iCOACH and Wrap-Around Reentry Services

### 2021-2023 Biennial Budget Request



The mission of the Department of Corrections (DOC) is to improve public safety by positively changing lives. The DOC is committed to operating a safe and humane corrections system. Approximately 52 percent of the overall prison admissions are individuals who were previously incarcerated at DOC. Recidivism has significant negative impacts on families, especially children, the victims of crimes, stakeholders within the justice system, the formerly incarcerated individual, and taxpayers of Washington State.

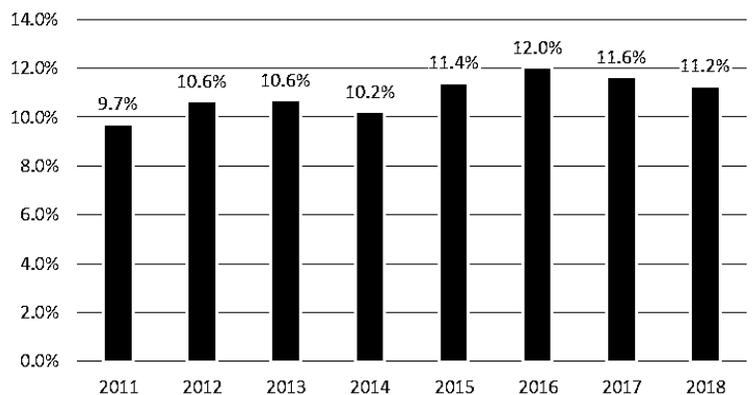
Individuals experiencing incarceration and serving community supervision sentences come from overwhelmingly poor communities (disproportionately communities of color), lacking educational and employment opportunities. They have higher levels of homelessness, substance use disorders, and struggle with physical and mental health disorders that are often undiagnosed or untreated. More than 96 percent of these individuals will eventually be released back into those same communities, where barriers will be further exacerbated by their criminal histories. This proposal funds basic services, treatment, and programs meant to not only address those inequities but to ensure success upon reentry to the community, and as a result increase public safety.

## Individualized Community Oriented Accountability Collaborative Help (iCOACH)

**(\$100K in FY 2022 and \$7.4M/68.0 FTEs in FY 2023)**

DOC requests funding to implement the iCOACH model, which would refocus our Community Corrections Division (CCD) Supervision model on greater risk, need and responsibility principles, that uses a motivational “coaching” model that, based on research, is proven more effective in reducing recidivism than traditional supervision focused solely on monitoring and punishing failure. This model front loads reentry services, including cognitive behavioral interventions, educational programming, and an expansion of transition resources. These efforts would be supported through community partnership programs, housing subsidy and supports and an increased focus on health care coordination both in the community and prior to transition from full incarceration. This funding proposal would allow for the implementation of a Supervision Model that research shows to be far more effective in reducing recidivism rates.

One-Year Recidivism Rate



- 2011 was 9.7%
- 2012 was 10.6%
- 2013 was 10.6%
- 2014 was 10.2%
- 2015 was 11.4%
- 2016 was 12.0%
- 2017 was 11.6%
- 2018 was 11.2%

The table shows the state of Washington has not successfully reduced recidivism rates, in fact rates have increased since 2011.

Based on the SGC report of 2019 Review of Sentencing and Supervision in Washington State, in order to positively impact recidivism rates, the state of Washington needs to refocus its approach to Community Supervision. The DOC’s current level of funding does not allow for the implementation of a successful wrap-around “coaching” style supervision model. This model requires smaller caseloads, greater investment in reentry and community based contracts and purchased services. A decrease in caseload size is necessary within this model to allow Community Corrections Officers to spend more face-to-face time with supervised individuals. This investment would be inclusive of the following: individualized reentry plans, investigations, transports, coaching, community involvement, individual contacts, needs assessments, individual group treatments, and associated administrative costs. This proposal includes \$100K for

planning for implementation of the coaching model in FY 2022 and the funding for full implementation of this coaching model begins in FY 2023.

## **Reentry Investments**

**(\$9.2M/49.1 FTEs in FY 2022 and \$15.3M/77.0 FTEs in FY 2023)**

A critical component of the iCOACH model is to front load increased levels of wrap-around reentry services, including cognitive behavioral interventions, educational programming, and an expansion of transition resources. These efforts would be supported through community partnership programs, education navigation for college, housing support to reduce homelessness, and an increased focus on health care discharge coordination both in the community and prior to transition from full incarceration. A reentry scorecard data solution module is also proposed to track outcomes.

The wrap-around reentry services proposed as a component of the iCOACH model is structured similar to the highly successful Second Chance Act (SCA) program piloted at the Monroe Correctional Complex (MCC) and Washington Corrections Center for Women (WCCW) for releases to King County. The fundamental components of the SCA pilot program were to provide enhanced individualized reentry planning, integrate community organizations at the pre- and post-release phases, and emphasize partnerships and data sharing across the agency and among community partners. Participants in the SCA-Continuum of Care programming approach had lower felony reconviction rates (6.7 percent compared to 12 percent for the comparison group). This is a 44 percent reduction in first year felony convictions. These patterns establish that the SCA pilot program increased public safety by preventing the reoccurrence of the most serious form of crime (i.e., felonies).

## **Education Modernization**

**(\$1.8M/2.6 FTEs in FY 2022, \$1.5M/3.4 FTEs in FY 2023)**

DOC requests funding to fully implement the secure internet plan put forth in the Second Substitute Senate Bill 5433 feasibility report by expanding secure internet at ten more DOC prison facilities. This would require expanded internet services, additional laptops to expand the educational opportunities available, and adding specialized staffing to address the needs of incarcerated individuals with learning disabilities.

As the world has become more digital, the world inside our prisons has lagged behind. Each year colleges find it increasingly difficult to prepare students for jobs, careers and further education without the use of secure internet in classrooms and computer labs. Academic and workforce training publishers continue to phase out resources, software, tools and testing services that can be utilized in settings that do not have access to the internet for student use. In order to prepare people for release, Washington prisons need safe access to the same digital information and tools that students on college campuses use. Efforts are focused on helping students, especially low-income, first-generation students and students of color, earn credentials to prepare them for entry into higher-paying, high-demand fields with value in the labor market.