

Work Release Program

A structured transition back into the community



DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

Mission Statement

The mission of DOC is to improve public safety by positively changing lives.

Vision Statement

Working together for safer communities.

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For more information about the Department, visit us at:

www.doc.wa.gov

FACTS

The legislature provided funding of \$8.07 million annually in the 2021 – 2023 Biennial Budget to operate an increased bed capacity at work/training release by 200 beds.

During Fiscal Year 2020:

- Work Release residents earned \$9,750,331.26 collectively while employed during their time at work release.

Earnings by Region:

- Northwest Region - \$3,866,061.89
- Southwest Region - \$3,012,540.98
- East Region - \$2,871,728.39

Residents paid \$901,084.10 towards their court ordered legal financial obligations.

Work release facilities serve as a bridge between living in prison and living in the community. Residents in work release are focused on transition, to include finding and retaining employment, re-connecting with family members and becoming productive members of the community. They also learn and refine social and living skills such as riding the bus, going to the grocery store, and managing their personal finances – all while completing their sentence in partial confinement. Work release is an opportunity for self-improvement, while assisting incarcerated individuals to create a safe and productive lifestyle that can be sustained upon release.

Who is eligible for Work Release?

- Both male and female individuals.
- Individuals who are within six months of release.
- Individuals who are awarded minimum security status based on a behavior-driven classification process.

What are the benefits of Work Release?

- Residents resume responsibility for their decisions and actions, and they establish employment prior to release. As a result, they are able to contribute to the support of their families and make payments towards their court-ordered legal financial obligations; including paying restitution to their victims.
- Residents contribute to the cost of their room and board.
- While they are in the program, work release staff assist the residents to establish community ties through education, treatment, family, and support groups.

Are there specialized programs?

- The Graduated Reentry Program, HB2638 is available to certain participants which may now allow an individual to become a work release resident during the final 12 months of their incarceration.
*Final six months to include electronic home monitoring at an approved residence.
- Helen B. Ratcliff Work/Training Release offers an opportunity for mothers within the Residential Parenting Program at Washington Corrections Center for Women (WCCW) to transition to the facility where the mother can live with and care for her child, while participating in Work Release. Helen B. Ratcliff also provides overnight visits for children with their mothers.
- Eligible residents participate in Chemical Dependency treatment, Offender Change Programs and other treatment programs.

FACTS

Legal Financial Obligation by Region:

- Northwest Region - \$347,456.60
- Southwest Region - \$277,785.45
- East Region - \$275,842.05

Fiscal Year 2020 Work Release Costs:

- Average cost per resident is \$41,880 per year or \$114.74 per day
- Residents pay \$13.50 per day towards their room & board
- Average cost to house an individual in Prison is \$46,758 per year or \$128.10 per day
- Housing residents in work release facilities saves an average \$4,878 per year

CURRENT WORK RELEASE FACILITIES AND FUNDED CAPACITIES

(AS OF JUNE 30, 2020)

Work Release Facility	County	M	F	Total
Olympia	Thurston	18	8	26
Bellingham	Whatcom	43	7	50
Reynolds	King	92	0	92
Tri-Cities	Benton	35	5	40
Ahtanum View	Yakima	81	20	101
Bishop Lewis	King	47	0	47
Brownstone	Spokane	84	0	84
Eleanor Chase House	Spokane	0	55	55
Helen B. Ratcliff	King	0	45	45
Longview	Cowlitz	78	11	89
Peninsula	Kitsap	55	8	63
Progress House	Pierce	76	14	90
Total		608	174	782

(Data shown in above table: Current Work Release Facilities and Funded Capacity) Olympia Work Release, Thurston County, 18 males, 8 females for a total of 26. Bellingham Work Release, Whatcom County, 43 males, 7 females for a total of 50. Reynolds Work Release, King County, 92 males, 0 females for a total of 92. Tri-cities Work Release, Benton County, 35 males, 5 females, for a total of 40. Ahtanum View Work Release, Yakima County, 81 males, 20 females, for a total of 101. Bishop Lewis Work Release, King County, 47 males, 0 females, for a total of 47. Brownstone Work Release, Spokane County, 84 males, 0 females, for a total of 84. Eleanor Chase Work Release, Spokane County, 0 males, 55 females, for a total of 55. Helen B. Ratcliff Work Release, King County, 0 males, 45 females, for a total of 45. Longview Work Release, Cowlitz County, 78 males, 11 females, for a total of 89. Peninsula Work Release, Kitsap County, 55 males, 8 females for a total of 63. Progress House Work Release, Pierce County, 76 males, 14 females, for a total of 90. In total there are 608 males and 174 females, for a total of 782 people in work release facilities.

What are the expectations of residents in Work Release?

- All residents must abide by the rules and regulations of the program. Deviations can result in disciplinary action, to include termination from the program.
- Residents work on job development including searching for, placement in, and retention of employment. On-site job visits and verification are completed by work release staff to assure the resident is employed at the designated site. Staff verify work schedules and travel times for destinations to ensure accountability when in the community.
- Residents are only allowed out of the facility if they work, are conducting personal essential business, or are on a supervised social outing to visit family members. These outings are always in the presence of an approved sponsor who has undergone a criminal background check.
- Residents must continue therapy, parenting classes, anger management training, and substance abuse treatment in the community while in Work Release. This may also include participation in Alcoholics Anonymous, as identified in their case management plan.
- Residents must submit to frequent test for substance abuse.

BENEFIT-COST SUMMARY STATISTICS PER PARTICIPANT

(FROM THE [WSIPP BENEFIT-COST RESULTS REPORT—DECEMBER 2019](#))

Benefits to:

Tax Payers	\$1,1122	Benefits minus costs	\$5,013
Participants	\$0	Benefits to ratio	n/a
Others	\$2,536	Chance the program will produce	
Indirect	\$826	benefits greater than costs	99%
Total benefits	\$4,483		
Net program cost	\$530		

Benefits minus costs \$5,013

**The estimates shown are present value, life cycle benefits and costs. All dollars are expressed in the base year chosen for this analysis (2018). The chance the benefits exceed the costs are derived from a Monte Carlo risk analysis. The details on this, as well as the economic discount rates and other relevant parameters are described in our [Technical Documentation](#).*