Supporting Incarcerated Individuals to successfully transition back into our community.

The Washington State Legislature passed ESSB 5121 which is an expansion to the Graduated Reentry Legislation (House Bill 2638) passed in 2018. This expansion is due to several factors such as prison capacity, the of success of 1-year recidivism rate of under 1%, and societal change regarding the impacts and effects of incarceration within our communities.

This expansion allows Washington State Department of Corrections (DOC) to transfer individuals onto electronic home monitoring (EHM) at an approved address through two different tracks.

**Track 1:**
Individuals who serve a minimum of 6 months in total confinement in a state correctional facility may transfer to a reentry center (RC) facility up to 12 months prior to release, and up to the final 5 months of their sentence served on EHM at an approved address.

OR

Individuals who serve a minimum of 6 months in total confinement in a state correctional facility may transfer with up to 5 months remaining on their sentence to EHM at an approved address.

**Individuals on this track must meet the following minimum legislative criteria:**
- Not subject to deportation order,
- Not subject to civil commitment order, or
- Not part of the interstate compact for out of state releases.

**Track 2:**
Individuals who serve a minimum of 4 months total confinement in a state correctional facility may transfer with up to 18 months remaining on their sentence to EHM at an approved address.

**Individuals on this track must meet the following minimum legislative and policy criteria:**
- Not serving a sentence for a sex, violent, or crime against a person,
- Not required to register (sex offenses and kidnapping), or
- Not under the jurisdiction of the Indeterminate Sentence Review Board

Certain individuals may not qualify for transfer to partial confinement programs due to mandatory minimum sentences that must be served in total confinement as prescribed by statute.

**Statutory Obligations of 5121:**
While individuals are participating in GRE, DOC must:
- Place individuals on electronic monitoring
- Require individuals to participate in programming and treatment based on assessed needs
• Assign a staff (Corrections Specialist 3) who will monitor for compliance with the conditions of partial confinement as well as programming requirements.

While individuals are participating in GRE, DOC may:
• Issue rental vouchers for up to 6 months if an approved address cannot be obtained without the assistance of that voucher.
• Return a participant to total confinement for any reason including but not limited to the person’s non-compliance with any sentence requirement.

Program Structure:
Individuals must:
• Report and be available to their assigned Corrections Specialist (CS) as directed.
• Abide by the electronic monitoring schedule as agreed upon by their CS.
• Ensure the device is charged and worn as required.
• Participate in programming and treatment as determined by the Department and continue with any mental health, substance abuse, or other treatments and programs previously assigned.
• Provide verification of all activities while in the community.

Reentry Team Meetings (RTMs):
Reentry Team Meetings (RTMs) occur as the individual is transitioning to the community in accordance with Executive Order 16-05 to ensure the development of an Individual Reentry Plan (IRP). Each GRE participant will be assigned a Reentry Navigator that will facilitate RTMs and assist the participant with reentry planning and resource navigation. A successful transition is built on sharing information, building relationships, and program completion. RTMs include participant involvement, self-advocacy, and goal setting. When participants become involved in this process, they are then able to understand each component of their individualized plan. IRPs include the participant’s interests, personal needs and establishes a process to monitor themselves and ensure their needs and goals are met. When individuals begin understanding these components and recognize their individual strengths, they are better positioned for a successful reentry.
• Facility Phase begins at reception with preparation using continuous case planning, orientation, evidence-based programs and treatment, education, and employment readiness.
• Transition Phase includes health and wellness transition, short-term housing assistance, community navigators, continuity of care transition planning, identification, and connections to resources.
• Community Phase includes mentorship, long-term housing, health and wellness, financial stability, long-term employment, and educational pathways.

What our participants have to say:
“This was actually life changing for me! This program along with the help and guidance from the corrections specialist were the reason for my success. Thank you so much for offering this to me and allowing me to put my life back together. I don’t know that I would be where I am now without it.” - Past GRE Participant.

“For me graduated reentry helped me out a lot by rebuilding relationships with my family and being able to show them that I can change. I feel good about myself, about having a job and being able to support my family. I feel like a normal person and it feels good to get back to the society and being able to do the right thing and go down the right path. So yeah, graduated re-entry helped me out a lot and it’s nice to see that there are good Doc officers that want us to do good and choose the right path.” - Current GRE Participant.

“I had a very positive experience with GRE. I feel like I was given a great opportunity to hit the ground running. I was able to start the process of getting my driver's license back, completing all but one of the classes I needed in order to complete my BA, (which I did finish) and being able to get rooted in a recovery fellowship while still having the very real support of my CS3.” – GRE Participant from the first group of transfers in the fall of 2018.

— For More Information Email — docreentryexpansion@DOC1.WA.GOV