

Work Release

A Structured Transition Back Into the Community



Mission Statement

The mission of the Department of Corrections is to improve public safety.

What We Do

The Department of Corrections is responsible for administering adult corrections programs operated by the State of Washington. This includes state correctional institutions and programs for offenders supervised in the community.

Work release is an important part of the Department of Correction's reentry program, which is designed to provide the education, job training and treatment offenders need in order to return to society as hardworking, family-oriented citizens.



Bellingham Work Release

Who is eligible for Work Release?

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

What are the benefits of Work Release?

- Offenders 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 pay restitution to their victims.
- Offenders are able to pay a portion of their room and board.
- While they are in the program, work release staff assist the offenders to establish community ties through education, treatment, family and support groups.

Are there specialized programs?

- Eleanor Chase House and Helen B. Ratcliff Work Releases offer the Mother/Baby program with a nursery where mothers can live with and care for their children.
- Rap/Lincoln Work Release assists developmentally disabled and mentally ill offenders to gradually phase back into the community and establish non-criminal

connections back to the community, while working and participating in treatment programs.

- Eligible offenders participate in Chemical Dependency treatment and Offender Change Programs.
- Madison Inn and Eleanor Chase House have Therapeutic Communities, which are residential chemical dependency treatment programs.

What are the expectations of Work Release?

- Offenders must continue therapy, parenting classes, anger management training, and substance abuse participation such as Alcoholics Anonymous or Narcotics Anonymous.
- All offenders must abide by the rules and regulations the program. Deviations can result in disciplinary action, to include termination from the program.
- Offenders are only allowed out of the facility if they work or are on a supervised outing to visit family members. These outings are always in the presence of a sponsor who has undergone a criminal background check and adjudged responsible for the offender's actions.
- Offenders must submit to frequent tests for substance abuse.
- Offenders work on job development, search, placement, and retention of employment. On-site job visits and verifications are completed to assure the offender is employed at the designated site. Offenders are also monitored on their trips back and forth to work to ensure their movements allow enough time to get to work without any pre-arranged stops.

Does Work Release lead to improved employment outcomes?

- Within a year of release, offenders that participated in work release had a 25% higher employment rate than non work release offenders.

- Offenders transitioning through a work release program have higher wages than those offenders who do not.
- Offenders in work release had higher numbers of employment in targeted industries such as distribution and manufacturing.

What the research says:

The Program achieved its primary goal of preparing inmates for final release and facilitating their adjustment to the community... We can conclude from the results ... that vocational training and/ or work release programs are effective in reducing recidivism as well as improving job readiness skills for ex-offenders. --**Kadela Seiter, Prisoner ReEntry: Crime and Delinquency, July 2003.**

Work Release Capacity** - Fiscal Year 2006:

Region	County	Bed Capacity		
		Male	Female	Total
EAST				
Ahtanum View	Yakima	47	7	54
Tri-Cities	Benton	22	5	27
Brownstone	Spokane	72	-	72
Eleanor Chase House	Spokane		36	36
NORTHWEST				
Bellingham	Whatcom	19	4	23
Bishop Lewis	King	55	-	55
Helen B Ratcliff	King	-	23	23
Madison Recovery House	King	23	-	23
Reynolds	King	90	-	90
SOUTHWEST				
Olympia	Thurston	19	4	23
Longview	Cowlitz	49	5	54
Clark County	Clark	23	4	27
Rap/Lincoln Park	Pierce	37	8	45
Progress House	Pierce	62	6	68
Peninsula	Kitsap	49	5	54
Total		567	107	674

Other Facts About Work Release

The Legislature provided funding of \$2.1 million in the 2007-2009 Biennial Budget to increase the capacity of work release by 60 beds in Fiscal Year 2009

During FY 2007:

- Offenders earned \$6.1 million dollars while employed during their time at work release.
- They paid \$571,000 out in legal financial obligations and accumulated 8,800 hours in community service.
- 21% of the offenders were able to transition back into the community through a work release program.

On average, during FY 2004, 80% of offenders were employed after completion of a Work Release.

FY 2007 Work Release Costs:

- Average cost per offender is \$22,838 annually or \$62.57 per day, (includes offender recovery).
- The average recovery for room and board per offender was \$10.08 per day.

Cost Benefit of Work Release*:

- \$3.82 benefit for each dollar of cost.

*Source: Washington State Institute for Public Policy November 2007 Report "Does Participation in Washington's Work Release Facilities Reduce Recidivism?"

**Capacity numbers reflect current budget assumptions for Department offenders only.



Department of Corrections Work Release Facilities

Yakima County

Ahtanum View Work Release

2009 S 64th Ave
Yakima, WA 98903
(509) 573-6318

Whatcom County

Bellingham Work Release

1127 N Garden
Bellingham, WA 98225
(360) 676-2150

King County

Bishop Lewis Work Release

703 8th Ave
Seattle, WA 98104
(206) 464-7000

Spokane County

Brownstone Work Release

223 S Browne
Spokane, WA 99201
(509) 363-8109

Clark County

Clark County Work Release

PO Box 61447
5197 NW Lower River Road
Vancouver, WA 98660
(360) 397-2166

Spokane County

Eleanor Chase House Work Release

427 W 7th Ave
Spokane, WA 99204
(509) 456-7092

King County

Helen B. Ratcliff Work Release

1531 13th Ave S
Seattle, WA 98144
(206) 320-6600

Pierce County

Rap House/Lincoln Park Work Release

3704-06 S Yakima
Tacoma, WA 98418
(253) 471-4542

Cowlitz County

Longview Work Release

1821 1st Ave
Longview, WA 98632
(360) 577-2211

King County

Madison Inn Work Release

102 21st Ave E
Seattle, WA 98112
(206) 720-3013

Thurston County

Olympia Work Release

PO Box 41140
1800 11th SW
Olympia, WA 98504-1140
(360) 586-2731

Kitsap County

Peninsula Work Release

1340 Lloyd Parkway
Port Orchard, WA 98367
(360) 895-6158

Pierce County

Progress House Work Release

5601 6th Ave
Tacoma, WA 98406
(253) 593-2844

King County

Reynolds Work Release

410 4th Ave
Seattle, WA 98104
(206) 464-6320

Benton County

Tri-Cities Work Release

524 E Bruneau
Kennewick, WA 99336
(509) 585-1560

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