



Community Corrections Pennsylvania Department of Corrections

Community Corrections

Act 173 of 1968 authorized the establishment of pre-release centers throughout the Commonwealth. Also known as Community Corrections Centers (CCC), they provide a structured, supervised living arrangement and supervision to inmates and parolees as they either approach their parole release date or are released from a state correctional institution. Prior to placing an inmate in a CCC, the Department of Corrections (DOC) provides written notice to any registered victim, the prosecuting attorney, and the sentencing judge.

Highlights

The DOC operates 14 Corrections Centers and private vendors operate 46 facilities throughout the Commonwealth.

Of the 46 private facilities, 17 are Pennsylvania Department of Health licensed in-patient drug treatment facilities.

As of December 31, 2003, there were 2,762 individuals in all phases of the Community Corrections program (including parolees). Of that number, 119 or 7.2% were women.

Six of the Department's Community Corrections Centers provide services solely to women. Twelve centers are providing services to both men and women in segregated areas of their facilities.

Residents of the Community Corrections program earned \$13,398,929 during fiscal year 2002/03. They paid \$2,920,639 in taxes and \$540,674 in court costs, fines, and restitutions.

The Substance Abuse Violators Effort (SAVE) program under contract to Eagleville Hospital provides services to parolees. Community Corrections provides services to parolees encountering substance abuse difficulties in the community in the Philadelphia area. The program consists of a three-month inpatient treatment program plus nine months of outpatient treatment services. Outpatient services begin with one group and two individual counseling sessions per week and gradually move to one group session per week and one individual session per month.

The Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Program (RSAT) provides drug & alcohol services to technical parole violators through an institution-based therapeutic community (TC). This is followed by community corrections residency with outpatient treatment comprised of two group sessions per week and one individual counseling session per week and finally by intensive parole supervision. Over 2,600 individuals have entered the TCs through these programs since February 1998.

The RSAT program, currently operational at four state correctional institutions - SCI Graterford, SCI Albion, SCI Somerset, and SCI Cambridge Springs.

In addition to its transitional and drug and alcohol programming, Community Corrections provides the following:

- Special residential programming for inmates who are severely mentally ill is being provided through the Gaudenzia FIRST program in Philadelphia. This program provides residential services along with key community linkages to assure a smooth transition for these special needs individuals.
- Halfway-back residential beds for parolees who are encountering difficulties on the street.
- Special vocational training and on-the-job training for parolees through the Crispus Attucks program in York, PA. This program is providing residential services, basic education, and vocational training to young offenders who gain on-the-job experience rehabilitating buildings.

"Our mission is to protect the public by confining persons committed to our custody in safe, secure facilities, and to provide opportunities for inmates to acquire the skills and values necessary to become productive law-abiding citizens; while respecting the rights of crime victims."

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- Residential dually diagnosed treatment for inmates and parolees with mental illness and substance abuse is being provided in Philadelphia, Allentown, and Pittsburgh via private vendor contracts.
- Outpatient sex offender treatment is available to all CCCs.

We currently have residential services, including GED and vocational training, for young adult offenders who are being released from SCI Pine Grove.

Community Corrections residents contributed to the costs of their program by reimbursing the Department of Corrections **\$1.56M** in rent as a requirement of participation in the program.

During fiscal year 2002/03, **68,269** urinalysis tests were conducted in Community Corrections facilities. The positive test rate was 0.8 percent. Mandatory urinalysis tests of pre-release individuals are conducted on a weekly basis. A positive urinalysis for unprescribed medications or illegal drugs can result in a return to a state correctional institution. Relapse can also result in more intensive residential programming.

The budget for Community Corrections for fiscal year 2003/04 is as follows:

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| Total: | \$77,819,000 |
| Contract Facilities | \$63,600,000 |
| Commonwealth Facilities and Administration: | \$14,219,000 |

Supervision in Community Corrections facilities is intensive. Individuals must provide their whereabouts to facility staff at all times. Regular, unannounced verifications are conducted by center staff, oftentimes when least expected.

Prescriptive plans are developed for each individual entering the program. Counselors meet with residents at least twice each week. Progress towards meeting prescriptive program plans is reviewed monthly with the inmate and center staff.

All inmates who can physically do so are expected to work and have responsibilities within the facility. It is the individual's responsibility to seek and obtain employment with the guidance and direction of center staff.

Drug education is offered to all residents and community service is mandatory.

The program is viewed as a privilege. Failures to participate, abide by rules and regulations, and unaccountability for one's time can result in a return to a state correctional institution.