

**REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE**  
**Pursuant to P.A. 268 of 2016**  
**Article V, Section 409(3)**  
**Workforce Development Program Results**

**By March 1, the department shall provide a report to the senate and house appropriations subcommittees on corrections, the legislative corrections ombudsman, and the senate and house fiscal agencies detailing the results of the workforce development program.**

The Department has collaborated with the Talent Investment Agency (TIA) on a number of initiatives designed to increase demand driven employment opportunities for prisoners as they return to their home community. Job trends and employment opportunities are regularly discussed with the Workforce Development Agencies (WDA), and local Reentry Steering Teams. These regularly scheduled Steering Team meetings are comprised of local community leaders, representatives from Correctional Facilities Administration, Field Operations Administration, service providers, the local WDA and community stakeholders. The Department continues to actively engage with state agencies and local entities in the ongoing development of relevant programming for prisoners.

The recently established positions of Employment Counselor and Employment Readiness Instructor are charged with training and liaising between the prisoners and the community. The Employment Counselor is responsible for two simultaneous strands of activity: the development of a Workforce Development Referral Packet; and the concomitant outreach into the community, post-secondary institutions, and engagement with employers. They also facilitate the issuance of Employability Certificates. The Employment Readiness Instructor provides training in employability soft skills, computer literacy, financial literacy, and in the various aspects of workforce development, including resume writing, job search and job interviews. They also provide individual instruction on community reentry concerns.

The Workforce Development Referral Packet is initiated at the Reception Center. The prisoner is also provided the first orientation to vocational training and post-secondary education opportunities. Throughout the period of incarceration, targeted prisoners follow a prescribed programming path which is designed to promote employment upon release. To ensure programming is responsive to community needs, real-time software, which identifies job openings at the local level, labor market information and local community agencies and contacts are used to inform the development of new vocational opportunities or for the modification of existing vocational programs.

Recently the Talent Investment Agency received a U.S. Department of Labor grant to increase employment opportunities for Detroit residents. The target population includes prisoners that are paroling to Detroit. Titled the Detroit Demonstration Project the Detroit WDA has established

an office inside the Detroit Reentry Center and provides job placement assistance to Detroit parolees that are housed there. In addition, the Detroit WDA visits the Macomb Correctional Facility on a weekly basis to work with prisoners that are slated to parole to Detroit. The Demonstration Project provides vocational training in Asbestos Removal and Lead Abatement, which we believe will lead to career path employment opportunities.