

**REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE**  
**Pursuant to P.A. 268 of 2016**  
**Article V, Section 511**  
**Reentry Strategic Action Plan**

By February 1, the department shall provide a report to the senate and house appropriations subcommittees on corrections, the senate and house fiscal agencies, the legislative corrections ombudsman, and the state budget director, which details the strategic plan of the department. The report shall contain strategies to decrease the overall recidivism rate, measurable plans to increase the rehabilitative function of correctional facilities, metrics to track and ensure prisoner readiness to re-enter society and constructive actions for providing prisoners with life skills development.

The Department of Corrections plays a critical role in Michigan's criminal justice system. It is with good reason that the Department's Strategic Plan places top priority on protection of the public, recognizing that there cannot be a strong and vibrant Michigan without ensuring the safety of its citizens. This plan contains a number of goals to be achieved and objectives related to the achievement of these goals. The entire plan is available on the MDOC website located at <http://michigan.gov/corrections>. A critical component of this plan is emphasized by the establishment of the number one goal, which is to enhance offender skills and promote their success.

The first objective in achieving the goal related to offender success was to execute the educational/vocational plan by June 15, 2016. The initiation of the Vocational Village has recently become a part of this plan. The Vocational Village is a first of its kind skill trades training program that aims to provide a positive learning community for prisoners who are serious about completing career and technical education. Prisoners participating in Vocation Village programming are housed together in one unit that acts as a therapeutic learning environment designed to support their success. Participants have a full day of training and classroom instruction intended to mimic a typical workday outside prison walls and will receive state and nationally recognized certifications in their trade. The first Village became operational in January of 2016 and is located at the Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility. This Village has the capacity for 165 students. The second Village is currently under construction at the Parnall Correctional Facility and is expected to have the capacity for more than 200 students.

In addition to the Vocational Villages there are increased partnerships with colleges to provide post-secondary education to eligible prisoners. Under a pilot program with the U.S. Department of Education more than 60 U.S. colleges and universities were granted the ability to offer Pell Grants to inmates in state and federal prisons. Delta, Mott Community and Jackson College are all partnering with the MDOC to deliver this post-secondary education at no cost to the State. Approximately 1470 Pell Grants will be awarded.

The Crain's publication that discusses the Pell Grant and Vocational Village initiatives can be accessed by clicking on this link below:

<http://www.crainsdetroit.com/article/20160806/NEWS/160809877/michigan-colleges-leaders-in-offering-pell-grants-to-prisoners?X-IgnoreUserAgent=1>

The second objective in the Department's goal to enhance offender skills is the establishment of a Transition Accountability Plan (TAP) for each offender. All offenders coming into the prison system are screened using the Correctional Offender Management Profiling for Alternative Sanctions (COMPAS) tool. This objective tool calculates an individual's risk for reoffending and helps guide MDOC staff in developing a plan to mitigate that risk. The COMPAS is currently administered to all incoming prisoners and a plan to mitigate the offender's risk is forwarded to the Parole Board for their review and approval. The Parole Board's expectation is, should the offender successfully complete each program listed on this plan, they will be released to parole after they have served the minimum term of incarceration ordered by the sentencing court, otherwise known as their Earliest Release Date (ERD). Work continues on automating this process to provide for the electronic transfer of the TAP as the offender progresses through his period of incarceration and is released to parole.

The third objective of this goal is to establish evidence-based core programming and reentry services at facility and community locations. Evidence-based programs are available across the State. Examples of programs for male offenders include Violence Prevention Programming (VPP), Thinking for a Change (T4C), the Michigan Sex Offender Program (MSOP), Domestic Violence Programming (Bridges) and Advanced Substance Abuse Treatment (ASAT). Evidenced based programming for the female population includes Beyond Violence, Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) and a cognitive restructuring program titled Moving On. Community-based programming is also available at the Detroit Reentry Center (DRC) and the Lake County Rural Reentry Program (LCRRP). Additional evidenced-based programming is available through contractual relationships with a number of community based providers.

The fourth objective is to ensure that all offenders complete their required programming in advance of their Parole Board interview. Prior to April 2014, the administration of reentry services existed in various places within the Department. In April, a decision was made to unite the administration of all reentry services under one Reentry office. Centralizing these functions has allowed the Department to coordinate services between sites more effectively. For example, in June, 2014 there were approximately 1,800 offenders that needed either VPP or T4C and were either past or within six months of their ERD. More effective coordination of program delivery has allowed the Department to significantly reduce this waiting list. As of fourth quarter of FY 2015 the waiting list for VPP/T4C offenders that are past or within six months of their ERD has been reduced to less than 250 offenders. Similar progress has been made regarding those offenders waiting for sex offender programming and additional work has been performed regarding the waiting list for substance abuse treatment services.