

Prison Based Reentry Update -- June 2009:

Provide implementation and support for all Prison Based Reentry Programs.

- **TRAC Program --** Approximately 18,839 completed since 1/1/08

The TRAC (Trained, Reformed And Capable) program replaces the Pre-Start Program. It immediately follows orientation to prison and involves three hours of training for five days a week. It is currently mandatory for all offenders that have not previously completed a program. The program includes program modules on problem identification, rational thinking, personal transitions, education and employability, wellness and goal-setting.

- **Lifestyle Redirection --** Approximately 1,776 completed since 1/1/08

The mission of the Lifestyle Redirection program is to challenge clients with programs that will enable them, while they are incarcerated, to take advantage of programs which will enhance their opportunity to return to society as a productive citizen. The emphasis of the program is to establish victim empathy and ensure the client understands the impact his crime has had on society as a whole. The Lifestyle Redirection program is designed to begin at the time of intake and continue throughout incarceration. With a continuum of services being provided during the incarceration period, the client is goal-directed and therefore using his incarceration in a productive manner to diminish the probability of recidivism. In addition, the Aftercare Program has included numerous Hot Topic Workshops on Reentry related issues for offenders who have graduated this program, along with offenders that do not have enough time on their current sentence to complete the Lifestyle Redirection Program. Facilities continue to develop and implement beneficial workshops to encourage positive reentry for offenders.

- **Reentry Summits --** 53 conducted
Approximately 8,046 participated since 1/1/08

Reentry Summits are forums where community resources, service providers and state and federal agency resources can be brought together with offenders inside the walls of the prison. In an effort to address the high rate of recidivism, reentry summits provide an opportunity for offenders to acquire information that will be useful prior to and upon their release on issues such as housing, substance abuse, mental health, parole, identification, family reunification, education, critical thinking, and employment. Each summit includes testimony from “successfully reentered offenders” who talk to other offenders about the obstacles they have faced and how they have overcome them. Vendors and employers set up booths and distribute pre-approved reentry information, answer offenders’ questions, and interview offenders for employment close to MSR. Summits are hosted by facilities biannually for offenders within 18 months of release.

- **Parole School --** Approximately 21,095 completed since 1/1/08

The Parole School program is mandatory for all offenders. A parole agent or supervisor and the field services representative of the facility ensure that all inmates are aware of what to expect on parole and get tips on how to successfully complete their period of supervision. Offenders attend this program at six months from release and again at 30 days from release. Parole School involves a comprehensive review of release papers, parole agent discussion, identification review, host site rules and review, and distribution of parole passport and resource guide.

- **Project CHILD --** At 22 facilities
500 cases representing \$8.8 million in arrears

Project CHILD (Collaboration Helps Inmates Lessen Debt) is a collaborative effort between the Department of Corrections, the Attorney General, Healthcare and Family Services Division of Child Support Enforcement. The purpose of Project CHILD is to provide the incarcerated non-custodial parent (NCP) with information on how their current Illinois child support order affects them and how to avert the accumulation of additional arrears while incarcerated. The program also assists the incarcerated NCP in requesting a modification of their existing child support order. The Illinois Department of Corrections and Division of Child Support Staff conduct information sessions for incarcerated NCP's to inform them of their obligations and options under the Illinois Child Support System. The Division of Child Support and the Attorney General's Office have staff ready to process the NCP's modification request.

- **Incarcerated Veterans Transition Program --** 1,706 attended workshops since 10/1/07
146 graduated

The Incarcerated Veterans Transition Program (IVTP) is a partnership with the State Appellate Defender's Office, Small Business Association, Veteran's Outreach Program, and Department of Veterans Affairs. It also involves an interagency agreement among the IDOC, IDES, IDVA and the Federal Department of Labor. The program is currently available at nine sites. Twelve workshops have been provided by IDES Veteran Representatives.

- **Replacement Social Security Cards --** Approximately 200 cards issued since 3/1/09

A memorandum of understanding (MOU) agreement has been entered into between IDOC and the SSA. Training has been conducted for staff to once again process applications for offenders while incarcerated. Implementation of this process began 3/1/09, but progress has been limited due to staffing issues and tracking.

Positive Impact from Prison Based Reentry Programs:

- Reduction in "Inmate Disciplinary Reports" (IDRs) for offenders who have completed programs and evidence of a more positive adjustment while incarcerated.
- Increased volunteer program participation.
- Increase in family reunification efforts by offenders enrolled in programs.