

REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE  
Pursuant to PA 207 of 2018  
Article V, Section 409  
Workforce Development Program Results

Sec. 409. (1) The department shall engage with the talent investment agency within the department of talent and economic development and local entities to design services and shall use appropriations provided in part 1 for offender success and vocational education programs. The department shall ensure that the collaboration provides relevant professional development opportunities to prisoners to ensure that the programs are high quality, demand driven, locally receptive, and responsive to the needs of communities where the prisoners are expected to reside after their release from correctional facilities. The programs shall begin upon the intake of the prisoner into a department facility.

(2) The department shall continue to offer workforce development programming through the entire duration of the prisoner's incarceration to encourage employment upon release.

(3) By March 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 office detailing the results of the workforce development program.

**Sec. 409. (2)**

Beginning at intake, all prisoners not serving a life sentence receive recommendations to complete Employment Readiness, Vocational Counseling and the WorkKeys assessment. The results of the Vocational Counseling session determine if a prisoner receives a recommendation for Career and Technical Education.

The Department utilizes Labor Market Information from the Department of Technology, Management and Budget to ensure vocational programs provide training that is responsive to employer needs. Vocational program curriculum is consistent with what is offered in public sector Technical Education Centers and all programs lead to State and/or nationally recognized credentials upon completion. The Department has implemented two Vocational Village programs where student's complete intensive Career and Technical Education programs. The Department is working with the Talent Investment Agency (TIA) to promote the Villages to employers and assist offenders with securing employment. Thus far, relationships have been built with over 350 employers statewide.

Representatives of the Department have presented to the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) regional management teams to educate them on the Vocational Village Programs and the returning citizen talent pool. They are in turn sharing the information with their local employers so that they are becoming familiar with the returning citizen talent pool and their skill set. The Department has been involved with the Workforce Development Agency (WDA) in regards to the Community Ventures Program. The MDOC has referred several candidates to the Community Ventures Program to be enrolled and referred for employment opportunities.

Parole employment has increased year over year and employment rates for participants in the Vocational Villages are roughly twice those of normal parolees.