

REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE
Pursuant to P.A. 84 of 2015
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 is to execute the educational/vocational plan by June 15, 2016. The Department is well on the way to achieving this objective. There is 265 dedicated school staff with approximately 7,500 prisoners in school on any given day. There are increased partnerships with colleges to provide post-secondary education and the Department is instituting new Demand Driven skill trade opportunities. In January, 2014 the Department implemented a statewide Employment Readiness and Workforce Development program. As part of the Employment Readiness program prisoners will participate in the Microsoft Digital Literacy course, be taught basic keyboarding skills, and participate in mock job interviews.

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 reviewed by the Parole Board. One member of the Parole Board then reviews this plan making adjustments, if any, and signs off. The Parole Board's expectation is, the offender will complete each program listed on this plan and 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 programing for the female population includes Beyond Violence, Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) and a cognitive restructuring program titled Moving On. Community-based programming is currently 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. This objective is to be completed by March 1, 2016. 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 December 31, 2015 the waiting list for VPP/T4C offenders that are past or within six months of their ERD has been reduced to approximately 100 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. Based on the progress already made, the Department fully expects to achieve this objective by the established date.