



## **REENTRY SERVICES**

Reentry programming should begin the day the offender arrives at South Carolina Department of Corrections.

Each month the SCDC releases approximately 900 offenders. Our goal is to be able to touch each of those returning citizens with programming and educational skills building to enable them to succeed once released. With twenty-two (22) institutions across the state, and each releasing offenders the first of the month, it is imperative that programming staff is available to ready those returning citizens for release.

In 2012 SCDC transitioned Manning Correctional Institution into a 600 bed pre-release facility and began developing and implementing programming for offenders that were 90 days from release. It was realized quickly that 90 days was not enough time to prepare the offenders for release; therefore, the Agency decided to dedicate 180 days to the pre-release process.

Manning Correctional Institution was renamed Manning Reentry/Work Release Center on December 12, 2016 to better reflect the new mission of the facility. We began working with state and community organizations, with the vision to have multiple service providers available to provide direct services to the returning citizens. The following organizations are currently on site delivering programs and providing direct services to the offender population prior to release:

- \*DEW
- \*Vocational Rehabilitation
- \*Catholic Charities
- \*Jump Start
- \*Men's Reentry Group
- \*Alston Wilkes Society
- \*Probation Parole and Pardon Services
- \*Department of Health and Human Services
- \*SC THRIVE
- \*Goodwill Industries
- \*Individual Volunteers providing Workshops

In addition, SCDC has educational classes which prepare and test for WorkKeys, GED's, and/or high school diplomas. Vocational trades are taught in carpentry and brick masonry, and we are in the process of building infrastructure to offer small engine repair.

Currently, the focus is on developing and implementing similar programming for the female offenders located at Camille Griffin Graham. Beds have been dedicated for pre-release offenders six months prior to release. DEW offers 90 days of services ranging from resume writing, mock interviews, basic computer skills training, soft skills, and job search tactics.

Goodwill Industries will be onboard in October 2017 to provide reentry skills preparedness. Alston Wilkes Society along with Vocational Rehabilitation are already in place providing direct services.

Kershaw Correctional Institution has been identified to be the pre-release hub for offenders who are scheduled to be released from the level 2 institutions. We are in the process of hiring staff to provide programming with funds awarded in the budget for this fiscal year. We hope to replicate the programming providers statewide. In the future, we will identify a level 3 institution to establish pre-release services.

Programming staff is critical to meet the needs of the offender population being released. Educational and Vocational training is paramount to success. We are in need of the necessary staff to provide programming for each institution. Regardless of the needs; educational, vocational, anger management, life skills, or character development skills training, there is a need for qualified staff to deliver the service. We are also in need of an updated tracking system so that we can identify, track, and report accurate results to ensure we are providing efficient services to the incarcerated men and women in South Carolina.

**Because Reentry Matters, A Second Chance Matters**



# South Carolina Department of Corrections

## OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS

### DIVISION OF YOUNG OFFENDER PAROLE & RE-ENTRY SERVICES (YOPRS)

#### **OVERVIEW:**

The Division of Young Offender Parole and Reentry Services (YOPRS) encompasses both institution and community-based services for male and female offenders sentenced under the Youthful Offender Act (YOA). Those who are eligible must be less than 25 years of age at the time of conviction and have no previous YOA convictions. The types of eligible convictions are limited to non-violent, Class D felonies or lesser offenses, punishable by 15 years of imprisonment or less, with two exceptions: second-degree burglary, violent, and lewd act upon a child under very limited circumstances. A Youthful Offender may apply to have their record expunged if they have no other convictions during the five-year period following completion of their sentence.

Juvenile offenders sentenced by the Family Court that have been incarcerated at SCDC are also served by YOPRS.

#### **MISSION:**

The mission of the Division of YOPRS is to reduce recidivism among young offenders by utilizing evidence-based principles/practices that teach accountability, enhance skill development, and promote public safety.

#### **INSTITUTION-BASED SERVICES:**

##### **Young Offender Institutional Services (YOIS)**

Young Offender Institutional Services (YOIS) works in collaboration with SCDC's Division of Behavioral Health/Substance Abuse/Mental Health to provide evidence-based programming for young offenders. Services are individualized and include risk assessments that identify individual criminogenic needs, as well as assets, and evidence-based programming that promotes the rehabilitative process. Services focus on cognitive restructuring that provides the foundation needed for successful reentry in the community. Programming includes, but is not limited to: Criminal Thinking, Impact of Crime, Family Focus, Individual/Group Counseling, Community Meetings, GED Preparation/Testing, Substance Abuse Education/Addictions Treatment, Parenting, Job and Career Skills, Intrapersonal Skills, and Life Skills.

##### **Shock Incarceration Program**

The Shock Incarceration Program is a 90-day institution-based service designed as an alternative to traditional incarceration. The program diverts young offenders between the ages of 17 to 29 from prison and further criminal activity. The program focus is on personal accountability and character development. It is located at Turbeville Correctional Institution.

In order for an individual to be placed in the Shock Incarceration Program, the sentencing judge must court order a 15-day evaluation to determine medical, emotional and psychological suitability. Eligibility criteria include:

- Must be 17 to 29 years of age upon admission to the SCDC
- Must be eligible for parole in two years or less (eight year maximum incarcerated or suspended sentence)
- Must not be convicted of a violent offense or a "no parole offense"
- Must be serving a first time commitment in a state correctional facility (no prior commitments over 90 days)
- Must be physically and mentally suitable

Programming for the Shock Incarceration Program includes, but is not limited to: Daily Physical Training, Community Service Work, GED Preparation/Testing, Impact of Crime, Anger Management, Substance Abuse Education, Parenting, Life Skills, and Group/Individual Counseling. Upon completion of the mandatory 90-day sentence to the Shock Incarceration Program, participants are paroled

and supervised in the community by the SC Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services.

#### **COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES:**

##### **Intensive Supervision Services (ISS)**

Historically, the recidivism rate for Youthful Offenders released from SCDC has exceeded 50%. The Youthful Offender population was considered to be the most challenging and least successful under parole supervision in the community. In response to this unacceptably high recidivism rate, SCDC implemented a new community supervision service called Intensive Supervision during FY 2011-12.

ISS is based on the nationally recognized Intensive Aftercare Program (IAP) Model that utilizes evidenced-based practices proven to assist in the reduction of recidivism, improved family and individual functioning, and ensure community safety. It is designed to promote community safety, reduce victimization, and ensure the successful reentry of young offenders back into the community.

Through ISS, an Intensive Supervision Officer (ISO) works in the community and is assigned to each Youthful Offender upon admission at SCDC. Unlike the traditional parole officer, an ISO acts in a proactive manner in the life of each offender under his/her supervision and manages a caseload of no more than 20-25 individuals.

The role of the ISO is multi-faceted but can be captured in the following basic job duties:

- Utilize SCDC's risk assessment instrument (GRAD) to assess each offender's risks/assets and develop and plan for reentry services
- Target and utilize community resources and services to reduce the likelihood of re-offending
- Maintain frequent (at least weekly) contact with each offender in the community to ensure a structured and productive schedule of activities
- Use progressive supervision practices to hold offenders accountable and keep them in the community
- Provide an effective blend of surveillance and rehabilitative services
- Work to ensure that offenders make reparation to their victims and communities, to include paying restitution and performing community service work
- Work to ensure that offenders lead crime free lives and resist gang affiliation

#### **INTENSIVE SUPERVISION ADMINISTRATIVE RELEASE AUTHORITY (ISARA):**

YOPRS has the legal authority to conditionally release any Youthful Offender from SCDC. This authority is managed through the ISARA. The ISARA is comprised of a manager and a three-member panel of corrections professionals, to include a victim representative, which considers and approves/disapproves the release of offenders to Intensive Supervision in the community. Recommendations from the affected correctional institution, community and victim(s) are requested and considered in the release process.

The ISARA also considers and approves/disapproves any parole violations that may require an action to revoke an offender's parole.

#### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

If you wish additional information concerning the Division of YOPRS, please contact Ginny Barr, Director, Division of YOPRS at 803-896-1777 or [barr.ginny@doc.sc.gov](mailto:barr.ginny@doc.sc.gov)

## FY 2017 Releases From SCDC by Type of Institution

<u>Level 1 (Minimum)</u>	<u>Level 2 (Medium)</u>	<u>Level 3 (Maximum)</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Non- Institutions</u>	<u>Total</u>
1,745 (18.8%)	3,826 (41.1%)	1,625 (17.5%)	1,016 (10.9%)	1,093 (11.7%)	9,305 (100.0%)

## Second Chance

Each year, approximately 10,000 people are released from South Carolina prisons. Far too often, ex-offenders are released into the same environment from which they came, lacking the education or skills needed to succeed outside of prison.



In 2014, DEW and the S.C. Department of Corrections (SCDC) developed a pilot program at the Manning Pre-release Center where a case manager from DEW was placed on site with laptops and materials to assist eligible returning citizens in work-skills training. The program has now been expanded into the Camille

Griffin Graham women's facility.

Ninety days prior to release, ex-offenders are taught employment skills in a one-hour class each day, including:

- workshops
- mock interviews
- resume assistance
- letters of explanation
- basic computer skills
- introduction to the SC Works system
- job search tactics
- soft skills

The last 30-days prior to release are especially important as the case manager prepares individuals for life outside the facility. This includes one-on-one sessions to talk through any fears or concerns they may have about being released, making suggestions and providing guidance and information about other agencies or resources they may need post release.

This is also the time when returning citizens get registered in the SC Works system and begin to apply for jobs online.

As part of the Second Chance initiative, DEW and SCDC provide behind-the-fence job fairs. Inviting ex-offender friendly businesses to come on-site to discuss employment opportunities, these job fairs have resulted in several employment opportunities for participants.

At the time of release each participant receives a folder that includes a Federal Bonding letter, several copies of their résumé, a letter of explanation that explains their personal situation, information on the SC Works centers across the state and any other information that staff feel they need relating to other available resources.

Each month after release day, the names of these returning citizens are sent out to the SC Works staff in the field so they may reach out to the individuals in their area to offer continued support.

In addition to the Second Chance program, SC Works also provides monthly assistance by conducting informational sessions in each correctional facility for those who are set to be released that month. These sessions are a way for SC Works to make connections and offer support to these individuals that may not know how to start over. Service information, center locations and contacts are the main focus of these meetings

**Outcomes**

- **963 individuals have completed the program**
- **516 returning citizens have been released from prison**
- **389, or 75%, are earning wages**