



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
**DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS**  
P. O. Box 41100 • Olympia, Washington 98504-1118

May 10, 2021

**SUBJECT: Department of Corrections State Work Release Bed Expansion**

The Department of Corrections (DOC) is expanding its Work Release program. King County is an area that DOC has identified as underserved or unserved for work release beds available for incarcerated persons to transition to the community and is being considered for work release bed expansion.

Washington's work release institutions serve as a bridge between life in prison and life in the community for Washington inmates nearing the end of their sentence. In short, work release facilities are separate and apart from Washington state prisons. They exist to provide participating inmates the opportunity to engage in paid employment or vocational training programs in the community while remaining under DOC supervision at an appropriate facility when not at their job or other pre-approved activity. Incarcerated individuals who complete the work release program are more likely to be successful in maintaining employment, stable housing, and in paying legal financial obligations. Recent research conducted by the Washington State Institute for Public Policy indicates that work release programs have a positive cost/benefit impact; for every dollar spent, \$3.82 is returned to the state.

In 2019, DOC formally initiated a public Work Release (WR) facility site selection process in King, Pierce, Snohomish, and North Central Counties. As required under WAC 137-57, the site selection process began with the formation of a search committee, establishment of a Local Advisory Committee (LAC) within each of the counties, and ongoing efforts to identify suitable sites. A public web site containing general information and records of the LAC public presentations and minutes are available online at <https://www.doc.wa.gov/about/business/capital-planning/capacity-work-release.htm>.

A DOC WR facility is defined as a "State correctional institution" per the Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 72.65.010(3). Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 137-56-010 (8) defines a "Work/training release facility" as "an establishment approved for housing and monitoring of work/training release residents during the resident's stay in a work/training release program." State correctional facilities are identified as essential public facilities under WAC 365-196-550 (1)(d)(vi).

At this time, no specific site within King County has been selected for a new WR facility. DOC is reaching out and seeking assistance from your department to identify allowable zones and likely land-use requirements for siting a WR facility within your City. This information would allow us to focus our search for suitable sites.

Thank you for your help and assistance with this important initiative. If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact us at our program email: [docwrexpandkc@doc1.wa.gov](mailto:docwrexpandkc@doc1.wa.gov).

Letter sent to the following Authorities Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) in King County on May 10, 2021:

<b>City</b>	<b>Population (2020)</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>Form of Government</b>
Algona	3,210	Code	Mayor-Council
Beaux Arts Village	300	Town	Mayor-Council
Bellevue	148,100	Code	Council-Manager
Black Diamond	5,205	Code	Mayor-Council
Burien	52,300	Code	Council-Manager
Carnation	2,265	Code	Council-Manager
Clyde Hill	3,055	Code	Mayor-Council
Covington	20,530	Code	Council-Manager
Des Moines	32,260	Code	Council-Manager
Duvall	7,950	Code	Mayor-Council
Enumclaw	12,610	Code	Mayor-Council
Federal Way	98,340	Code	Mayor-Council
Hunts Point	420	Town	Mayor-Council
Issaquah	38,690	Code	Mayor-Council
Kenmore	23,450	Code	Council-Manager
Kent	130,500	Code	Mayor-Council
Kirkland	90,660	Code	Council-Manager
Lake Forest Park	13,280	Code	Mayor-Council
Maple Valley	26,630	Code	Council-Manager
Medina	3,300	Code	Council-Manager
<b>City</b>	<b>Population (2020)</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>Form of Government</b>
Mercer Island	24,690	Code	Council-Manager
Newcastle	12,870	Code	Council-Manager
Normandy Park	6,625	Code	Council-Manager
North Bend	7,455	Code	Mayor-Council
Redmond	69,900	Code	Mayor-Council
Renton	105,500	Code	Mayor-Council
Sammamish	65,100	Code	Council-Manager
SeaTac	29,180	Code	Council-Manager
Seattle (County Seat)	761,100	First	Mayor-Council
Shoreline	56,980	Code	Council-Manager
Skykomish	205	Town	Mayor-Council
Snoqualmie	13,680	Code	Mayor-Council
Tukwila	21,360	Code	Mayor-Council
Woodinville	12,790	Code	Council-Manager
Yarrow Point	1,030	Town	Mayor-Council
Auburn	81,940	Code	Mayor-Council
Milton	8,400	Code	Mayor-Council
Pacific	6,925	Code	Mayor-Council
Bothell	48,400	Code	Council-Manager