



Washington State Department of Corrections
Notice of First Public Hearing
NORTH CENTRAL COUNTIES (CHELAN, DOUGLAS, KITTITAS)

North Central Counties (Chelan, Douglas, Kittitas) First Virtual Public Hearing

As required by [RCW 72.655.220](#), the Washington State Department of Corrections will hold a virtual public hearing to consider the potential siting of two properties in Chelan County for a work release facility. The hearing is open to the public.

Date: Wednesday, August 11, 2021
Time: 6:00—8:00PM
Location: Virtual (Event login details will be provided following registration.)

Background

The Department of Corrections (DOC) is expanding its [Work Release program](#). North Central counties (Chelan, Douglas, Kittitas) 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 the 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), 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>.

Per the Revised Code of Washington ([RCW 72.65.220 – Facility siting process](#)), when DOC has selected three or fewer sites for final consideration of a department-owned, operated, or contracted work release or other community-based facility, the department or contracting organization shall make public notification and conduct public hearings in the local communities of the final three or fewer proposed sites. An additional public hearing after public notification shall also be conducted in the local community selected as the final proposed site.

Required notifications were provided to the following:

- (i) All newspapers of general circulation in the local area and all local radio stations, television stations, and cable networks;
- (ii) Appropriate school districts, private schools, kindergartens, city and county libraries, and all other local government offices within a one-half mile radius of the proposed site or sites;
- (iii) The local chamber of commerce, local economic development agencies, and any other local organizations that request such notification from the department; and
- (iv) In writing to all residents and/or property owners within a one-half mile radius of the proposed site or sites.

Note: A communication plan developed by LAC members provided for additional notifications to be sent to other surrounding community stakeholders that may not be captured by the required list noted above.

Sites Under Consideration

In a state-wide effort to search for properties a [Request For Proposal \(RFP\) #12192](#), Work Release Program Expansion Project No. 2020-311 A (1) was issued in late December 2019. The RFP requested proposals for suitable properties to expand the DOC work release program into four underserved counties (Pierce, King, Snohomish, and North Central Region). The following two proposed facilities are being considered to support Work Release Expansion in one of Washington State's most underserved areas, the North Central region.

[Chelan County Regional Jail \(CCRJ\) Annex – 401 Washington St., Wenatchee, WA](#)

The CCRJ Annex is proposed to be designed to house both male and female residents and is a candidate to serve a minimum of 32 male and 8 female occupants (40 total beds). Access to the facility is via the northeast from the existing shared Chelan County complex parking lot. The City of Wenatchee is the primary Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ). The AHJ is responsible for interpreting and enforcing locally adopted environmental, zoning, building, mechanical, plumbing, and other codes, and standards. The property is zoned Central Business District (CBD). Based on discussions with the AHJ, a DOC work/training release facility may be permitted outright in the CBD zone.

[Deaconess Building – 300 Okanogan Ave., Wenatchee, WA](#)

The south wing of the Deaconess Building is proposed to be designed to house both male and female residents and is a candidate to serve a minimum of (59) male and (23) female occupants. Access to the facility is via the south from an existing dedicated parking lot. The City of Wenatchee is the primary Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ). The AHJ is responsible for interpreting and enforcing locally adopted environmental, zoning, building, mechanical, plumbing, and other codes, and standards. The property is zoned Residential Moderate (RM). Based on discussions with the AHJ, a DOC work/training release facility is considered a Conditional Use in the RM zone and is designated an Essential Public Facility (EPF).

Register to Attend

As required by [RCW 72.65.220](#), DOC will be holding its first virtual public hearing to consider the potential siting of two properties in Chelan County for a work release facility on Wednesday, August 11, 2021 from 6:00-8:00PM. This meeting will provide an overview of the Work Release Expansion program, proposals and alternatives of the potential sites, and an opportunity for the public to provide written and/or oral comments. Click the registration form link below to submit written comments and/or to register and provide oral comments at the virtual public hearing.

[Register to Attend North Central Counties First Public Hearing](#)