



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. Pierce 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 Pierce 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: [docwrexpandpc@doc1.wa.gov](mailto:docwrexpandpc@doc1.wa.gov).

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

<b>City</b>	<b>Population (2020)</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>Form of Government</b>
Bonney Lake	21,390	Code	Mayor-Council
Buckley	5,080	Code	Mayor-Council
<i>Carbonado</i>	685	Town	Mayor-Council
DuPont	9,525	Code	Mayor-Council
Eatonville	3,010	Town	Mayor-Council
Edgewood	12,070	Code	Mayor-Council
<i>Fife</i>	10,200	Code	Council-Manager
Fircrest	6,790	Code	Council-Manager
Gig Harbor	11,240	Code	Mayor-Council
Lakewood	60,030	Code	Council-Manager
Orting	8,635	Code	Mayor-Council
Puyallup	42,700	Code	Council-Manager
<i>Roy</i>	820	Code	Mayor-Council
Ruston	1,040	Code	Mayor-Council
<i>South Prairie</i>	500	Town	Mayor-Council
Steilacoom	6,505	Town	Mayor-Council
Sumner	10,360	Code	Mayor-Council
Tacoma (County Seat)	213,300	First	Council-Manager
University Place	33,310	Code	Council-Manager
Wilkeson	495	Town	Mayor-Council