



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. Snohomish 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 Snohomish 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: docwrexpandsc@doc1.wa.gov.

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

City	Population (2020)	Class	Form of Government
Arlington	20,600	Code	Mayor-Council
Brier	6,760	Code	Mayor-Council
Darrington	1,420	Town	Mayor-Council
Edmonds	42,470	Code	Mayor-Council
Everett (County Seat)	112,700	First	Mayor-Council
Gold Bar	2,195	Code	Mayor-Council
Granite Falls	4,425	Code	Council-Manager
Index	175	Town	Mayor-Council
Lake Stevens	34,150	Code	Mayor-Council
Lynnwood	40,690	Code	Mayor-Council
Marysville	69,180	Code	Mayor-Council
Mill Creek	20,590	Code	Council-Manager
Monroe	19,800	Code	Mayor-Council
Mountlake Terrace	21,660	Code	Council-Manager
Mukilteo	21,360	Code	Mayor-Council
Snohomish	10,240	Code	Mayor-Council
Stanwood	7,125	Code	Mayor-Council
Sultan	5,530	Code	Mayor-Council
Woodway	1,360	Code	Mayor-Council