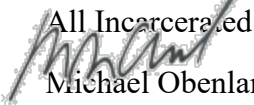




STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
P.O. Box 41100 • Olympia, Washington 98504-1100

February 2, 2022

TO: All Incarcerated Individuals
FROM:  Michael Obenland, Men's Prison Division, Assistant Secretary
SUBJECT: COVID-19 – Incarcerated Individual Betterment Fund Comfort Items

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we continue to face unprecedented impacts to our operations due to COVID-19. The Department of Corrections appreciates the challenges that our staff and the incarcerated population are facing. The most recent series of outbreaks has impacted programming, recreation, food services and visitation. To ease the discomfort of present operations, the Department has negotiated to provide the following comfort items funded by the Incarcerated Individual Betterment Fund (IIBF):

- Effective February 1st, individuals with an active JPay account will be provided a \$15 credit to use for stamps, games and/or music. This will allow you to send e-messages to friends and family or listen to your favorite music. You have until June 30th, 2022 to use these funds before it's removed from your account.
- Effective February 1st, GTL (phone system provider) will add a \$10 credit to individual phone accounts to support your contact with family and friends.
- In the coming days, staff will be handing out a comfort item bag that will include Keefe coffee, crackers, cheese, sausage, beef ramen, chips and drink mix to enjoy.

More planning is occurring to identify additional comfort items to you, using ideas you have provided through tier representatives, as well as meeting with the Statewide Family Council to generate additional ideas from families and loved ones.

We want to commend individuals who are working to keep facility food services, maintenance, laundry, sanitation, and other services operating. You are an **outstanding** example of how we can work together to get the job done. Thank you for working with staff and your peers to follow non-pharmaceutical interventions such as hand washing and sanitization, mask wearing, physically distancing, as well as engaging in safe movements through your identified cohorts.

Please enjoy these comfort items and continue to share your ideas for additional ways to support the population through the use of betterment funds.

“Working Together for SAFER Communities”