

WADOC's Guiding Principles for Restrictive Housing Reform

The following guiding principles are goals to which the Washington Department of Corrections aspires and serve to guide the department's work to reduce its use of restrictive housing.

1. Staff and incarcerated people should be **safe** and their well-being should be supported.
2. All incarcerated people should be housed in the **least restrictive setting** possible.
3. Restrictive housing should be used only for the **most serious, violent behavior** that is an **actual threat** to the safety of people in the facility.
4. Restrictive housing should be used **only as a last resort**, when all other placement and response options have been exhausted.
5. Restrictive housing should have the **least restrictive conditions safely possible** and should seek to address incarcerated people's needs and challenges.
6. Restrictive housing should be used for the **shortest time safely possible**.
7. Proactive approaches and **early, targeted interventions** should be used to reduce the flow of people into restrictive housing.
8. The disciplinary process should seek to **address underlying behaviors** with specialized programming and treatment, and not rely solely on punitive responses.
9. Behavior should be responded to in ways that are **meaningful, proportionate, and effective**.
10. **Incarcerated women** should be afforded the same opportunities as men, and be included in restrictive housing reform efforts in a way that takes into account gender-responsiveness.
11. **Vulnerable populations**—including people with serious mental illness, those with developmental or intellectual disabilities, and aging populations—should be diverted away from restrictive housing, and alternative responses should be utilized.
12. Housing placement should be based on each individual's **classification, needs, and behavior**, not bed space constraints or other challenges.
13. General population and restrictive housing should not be the *only* housing options—other **separate, secure, and therapeutic housing** options should be available.
14. People that need **protective custody** can be safely housed outside of restrictive housing; separate, non-restrictive environments should be available for this population.
15. Staff should receive appropriate and ongoing **training and support**.
16. All people should be treated **equally and fairly** and be afforded the same opportunities, regardless of their race or ethnicity, religion, nationality, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, or disability.
17. These principles apply to **all types of restrictive housing**: administrative segregation, disciplinary segregation, and MAX custody.

WADOC's Restrictive Housing Reduction Goals

- Eliminating the use of restrictive housing in response to non-violent, low-level behaviors, and for particularly vulnerable populations—including youth under 18 and people with serious mental illness.
- Significantly reducing the length of time people spend in restrictive housing, moving towards a long-term goal of ending prolonged restrictive housing.
- Improving conditions in restrictive housing units, including but not limited to a less isolated environment, additional out-of-cell time, opportunities for meaningful human contact, and access to programs and services.
- Addressing any racial and ethnic disparities present in the use of restrictive housing.
- At least a 20 percent decrease in the department's total restrictive housing population by the end of the partnership in September 2020, putting the department on the path to reach a long-term goal of reducing the population in restrictive housing by at least 50 percent in the next four years.