Supporting Incarcerated Individuals to Successfully Transition Back into our Communities

Through the passage of House Bill 2638 -- Graduated Reentry (GRE), The Department of Corrections now provides a graduated reentry process from incarceration to the community. The focus of GRE is to provide opportunities for incarcerated individuals to build skills through delivery of treatment, programs, work, education or participation in cognitive behavioral interventions. Positive support systems such as family, and community involvement are significant in supporting one’s transition from incarceration.

GRE allows for incarcerated individuals to gradually transition back to the community in two ways*

**Work Release (WR):** Expansion of work release for up to 12 months** with up to the last six months being served in the community at an approved address on electronic monitoring, (EHM).

**Electronic Monitoring (EHM):** Transferring to an approved address on electronic monitoring for up to the last six months of their prison sentence.

* Enrollment is dependent of space availability, Individuals found to be eligible for GRE are not guaranteed placement in WR or EHM.

** Transfer to traditional Work Release at six months continues to be an option for incarcerated individuals as well.

Some Eligibility Requirements include:

- Incarcerated individuals MUST have served a minimum of 12 months confinement in a state correctional facility. (Completed jail time does not count.)
- Participants must be six months serious infraction free prior to transferring to GRE. Some serious infractions may eliminate participation completely.
- The Department of Corrections must approve a residence before an incarcerated individual’s transfer to electronic monitoring. Participants unable to secure housing may be eligible for rental voucher assistance for a period not to exceed six months.
- Individuals must participate in WA ONE risk assessments, employment, education, and programming based on their continuous management plan.
- The Department will consider criminal history, nature of harm, prison discipline and behavior and any participation in programs, work, treatment, and education while the individual was incarcerated.
- If an individual was previously terminated or refused placement in WR or EHM on the current incarceration, they are not eligible.

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**Total Participants**: WR: 308
EHM: 326
Combined: 634

**Successful Completions**: WR: 265 – 86%
EHM: 267 – 82%
Combined: 532 – 84%

**Terminated**: WR: 36 – 11%
EHM: 44 – 13%

** Escapes**: WR: 4
EHM: 9

**Administrative Returns**: WR: 3
EHM: 6

**Gender Makeup**: Women (155) – 24%
Men (479) – 76%

Calculations are as of 02/01/2021. The GRE Program began in August of 2018, placing our first incarcerated individual on electronic monitoring in September 2018.

*Does not include active participants
Program Structure:

Individuals must:

- Report and be available to their assigned corrections specialist as directed.
- Abide by the electronic monitoring schedule as determined by their corrections specialist and ensure the device is worn as required.
- Participate in programming and treatments as determined by the Department and continue with any mental health, substance abuse or other treatments and programs previously assigned.

The Department retains the authority to return the participant back to total confinement for any reason including, but not limited to, the participant’s noncompliance with any sentence requirement. The Department may issue rental vouchers for a period not to exceed six months for those transferring to partial confinement under GRE if an approved residence cannot be obtained without the assistance of a voucher.

Reentry Transition Meetings (RTMs):

Reentry Transition Meetings, (RTMs), occur throughout the phases of reentry in accordance with Executive Order 16-05 to ensure the development of an Individualized Reentry Plan (IRP). A successful transition is built on sharing information, building relationships and program completion. RTMs include participant involvement, self-advocacy and goal setting. When participants become involved in this process, they are able to understand each component of their IRP. The IRPs include the participant’s interests and personal needs. They also establish a process for individuals to monitor themselves and ensure their needs and goals are met. When individuals begin understanding these components and recognize their individual strengths, they are better positioned for successful reentry.

- **Phase 1:** Prepare (Institutional Phase) – This meeting will be a snapshot overview of everything the participant has completed prior or during their incarceration and to prioritize any currently unmet programming needs.
- **Phase 2:** Transition (Partial Confinement Phase) – This meeting is designed to answer questions, address concerns, and to Develop their 72-hour plan to meet the basic essential needs during the first few days of partial confinement. Housing will be a priority if not already identified, as well as any barriers.
- **Phase 3:** Stabilize (Release to community) – During this meeting GRE staff will finalize the Inmate Release Plan (IRP), any new expectations or conditions of supervision, and provide insight of what to expect on the day of transfer.

What our participants have to say:

“This was actually life changing for me! This program—along with the help and guidance from the corrections specialist—were the reasons for my success. Thank you so much for offering this to me and allowing me to put my life back together. I don’t know that I would be where I am now without it.” - Past GRE Participant

“For me, graduated reentry helped me out a lot by rebuilding relationships with my family and being able to show them that I can change. I feel good about myself, about having a job and being able to support my family. I feel like a normal person and it feels good to get back to society and being able to do the right thing and go down the right path. Graduated reentry helped me out a lot and it's nice to see that there are good DOC officers that want us to do well and choose the right path.” - Current GRE Participant

“I had a very positive experience with GRE. I feel like I was given a great opportunity to hit the ground running. I was able to start the process of getting my driver's license back, complete all but one of the classes I needed in order to complete my BA, (which I did finish), and get rooted in a recovery fellowship while still having the very real support of my corrections specialist.” – GRE Participant from first group of transfers from fall 2018.

— For More Information—

DOCGraduatedreentry@doc1.wa.gov