



GENESEE MPRI RECEIVES DOJ PRISONER RE-ENTRY INITIATIVE GRANT

The Michigan Department of Corrections has recently received a \$540,000 grant from the Department of Justice through the federal Prisoner ReEntry Initiative (PRI). This grant will be used in Genesee County to provide employment-supportive services in the transition phase of prisoner re-entry. (Additional information on DOJ-PRI activities may be found at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/reentry.html>, <http://www.reentry.gov/learn.html>, <http://www.dol.gov/cfbci/reentry.htm>)

The purpose of the DOJ-PRI grants is to provide prisoners with pre-and post-release support to improve success in achieving employment upon release. The services provided are intended to improve employment readiness and employability. Pre-release services focus on the In-Reach phase to develop employment plans, conduct career skills assessments to target remediation through hard and soft skills training. A referral to community-based service through faith-based or community organizations (FBCO) follows, with continued hard and soft skills training and employment opportunities.

The DOJ grants are partnered with matching funds through the Department of Labor. DOL funding is focused on post-release employment-related support services. A key element of the DOL initiative is a focus on mentoring as an integral part of the re-entry process toward reintegration, employment and reduced recidivism.

The PRI grants closely align with the Michigan Prisoner ReEntry Initiative. The MPRI leverages additional resources for individuals participating in the grant programs, through supports in housing, substance abuse treatment, health and mental health care, family support and other resources for the returning prisoner.

The Genesee PRI grant is Michigan Department of Corrections' third DOJ grant to date from the federal Prisoner ReEntry Initiative. The Genesee PRI grant follows two previous PRI grants awarded for employment-supportive services provided through Oakland MPRI and Wayne MPRI respectively.