Program Description

Authority: ss 16.70(8), 301.08(b), and 66.0301(2) Wis. Stats.

Mission Statement

- The Windows to Work program will promote self-sufficiency for individuals returning to the community through the development of constructive skills and the modification of thought processes related to criminal behavior.

Program Description

- Windows to Work is a pre- and post-release program designed to address criminogenic needs that can lead to recidivism, including: employment, education, anti-social cognition, anti-social personality, and anti-social companions. Instruction begins in the institution or county jail site approximately three to 12 months prior to a participant's release, and continues in the community for approximately 12 months following the participant's release. The participant must maintain residence in the State of Wisconsin. If a Windows to Work Coach feels a participant needs services beyond the 12 months, written justification must be sent to the DOC Reentry Employment Coordinator and approved in writing. Post-release services must not exceed 18 months.

- The five components of Windows to Work are: 1) Cognitive Intervention, 2) General Work Skills and Expectations, 3) Financial Literacy, 4) Community Resources, 5) Job Seeking, Applications, and Resumes. Participants receive classroom training in the five core components during the pre-release portion of the program.

- Following a participant's release from incarceration, the Coach will collaborate with the Division of Community Corrections (DCC) Agent to assist participants with job search and job retention activities. Participants may receive additional assistance in accessing available community resources to address needs for food, shelter, clothing, transportation and other services depending on the Board Area's funding.

- During the pre-release phase, county jail programs may function in a different manner due to the transient nature of the population. Many jail programs offer support to participants on an individual basis. This process still requires the utilization of curriculum as defined above, but in a more individualized manner.