

PROBATION VIOLATOR DIVERSION PROGRAM

Issue

In 2010, 42 probationers out of every 1,000 ended up being sentenced to prison as a result of violating probation conditions. In 2014, that figure rose to 54 out of every 1,000. Last year (2015) probation violators made up 28.3% of our prison intake.

WRAP

In an effort to address this rising population, the Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC) has developed a pilot program targeting prison-bound probation violators.

The department has partnered with Wayne County Third Circuit Court Judges, the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office, Wayne County Defense Attorneys and the Wayne County Office of Community Corrections to develop a pilot program housed within the Detroit Reentry Center operated by the MDOC. The program is called the Wayne County Residential Alternative to Prison (WRAP) program.

WRAP provides vocational and cognitive programming in a secure, highly-structured setting at the Detroit Reentry Center. Probation violators sentenced to the program will receive vocational training in areas such as food technology and forklift operation. Each offender will also be required to successfully complete Cognitive Behavioral programming. Offenders participating in the WRAP program will have an opportunity to earn nationally recognized career/technical certifications, while completing two cognitive behavioral curriculums, designed to affect criminal thinking and attitudes.

Target Population/Eligibility Criteria:

Probation violators who have demonstrated new criminal behavior, whether a misdemeanor or a felony, and who may otherwise be considered prison bound are eligible to be considered for the program. Participants must score moderate to high when using the COMPAS risk assessment. Referrals to the program must be made by the judge via a court order. In addition, MDOC probation staff may recommend participation in the program via amended order, violation of probation report, or presentence investigation report.

Projected Length of Stay

Approximately 120-180 days