

History of Reentry

Reentry emerged as a top priority for the Wisconsin Department of Corrections (DOC) in late 2005 through a strategic planning effort with the Center for Effective Public Policy. By 2007, the unit began to take shape with the recruitment of a Reentry Director, followed shortly thereafter with project manager and coordinator positions. A decision-making body, the Reentry Executive Team, was also formed at this time, consisting of executive staff and Administrators from each WIDOC Division. The current Reentry Unit, organizationally situated within the Office of the Secretary, provides agency-wide technical assistance and support to cross-divisional partners within the DOC.

Reentry Business Plan

The work of the WIDOC Reentry Unit has been guided by a Reentry Business Plan, our roadmap to implement evidence-based strategies for reducing recidivism. The Reentry Business Plan is organized into the six priority areas:

1. Organizational Philosophy
2. Data/Information/Masurement
3. Assessment
4. Case Management System,
5. Interventions, Programs, and Services
6. Continuous Quality Improvement

Reentry Recidivism Data

WIDOC defines recidivism as: Following an episode of incarceration or supervision with the DOC, to commit a criminal offense that results in a new conviction and sentence to WIDOC custody or supervision.

Windows to Work

Release Year (CY)	Participants	One-Year Recidivism Rate	Two-Year Recidivism Rate	Three-Year Recidivism Rate
2011	64	10.9%	23.4%	34.4%
2012	121	19.0%	33.9%	----
2013	133	18.0%	----	----

OARS

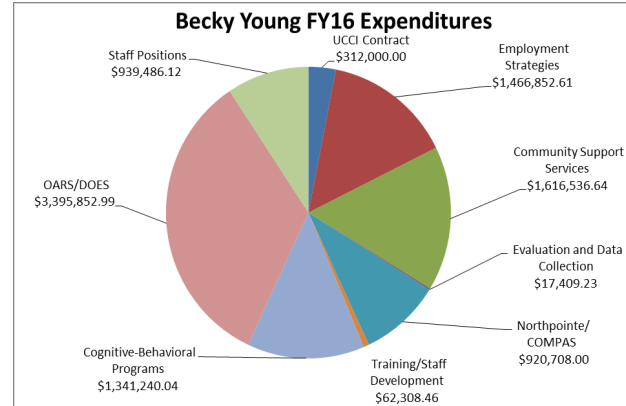
Release Year (FY)	Participants	One-Year Recidivism Rate	Two-Year Recidivism Rate	Three-Year Recidivism Rate
2011	54	13.0%	19.6%	27.5%
2012	60	10.0%	28.8%	33.9%
2013	60	8.3%	24.1%	...
2014	61	13.1%
Total	235	11.1%	24.4%	30.9%

Programs and Initiatives

Legislative Appropriation 112 is the primary funding source for recidivism reduction programming administered by the Reentry Unit. Annually, the Reentry Unit, in collaboration with the Reentry Executive Team, plans and executes the expenditure of \$10.1 million. Programs funded through Appropriation 112 primarily serve those who are medium to high risk to reoffend.

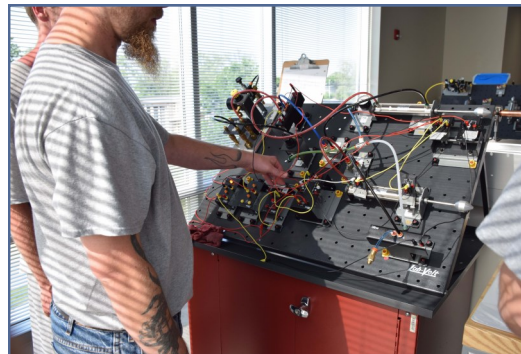
In FY16, DCC and DAI served 4,342 offenders with Appropriation 112 funding. Of these, 2,522 either successfully completed their programming or were enrolled in continuing services.

Below is a breakdown of the program areas where the funds were spent in FY16:



Vocational Training Initiatives

WIDOC has explored several training opportunities to better prepare releasing inmates (and offenders on DCC supervision) for employment in high-demand fields. The **Computer Numerical Control (CNC) Mobile Lab**, and the **Milwaukee Interagency CNC Project** are partnerships with local technical colleges which are designed to provide inmates and offenders with training prior to release. Likewise, WIDOC partnered with Madison College and the Workforce Development Board of South Central Wisconsin on the **Industrial Maintenance Essentials: Fluid Power & Metal Processes Specialized Training Academy**. Participants in this training earned 11 credits from Madison College over 3 months.



Disabled Offender Economic Stability (DOES)

The DOES project promotes public safety by helping offenders with disabilities establish economic security through more rapid and increased access to state and federal benefits. Legal Action Benefit Specialists provide services to 13 WIDOC facilities. DOES Benefit Specialists are lawyers who work with WIDOC staff and community providers to ensure that disabled offenders receive and keep benefits for which they are eligible. During FY16, DOES Project attorneys provided civil legal services and closed cases for 364 clients supervised by WIDOC.

Opening Avenues for Reentry Success (OARS)

The OARS Program is managed by the Reentry Unit in partnership with the Department of Health Services. It was developed to enhance public safety by supporting the successful transition, recovery, and self-sufficiency of offenders with mental health needs as they return to the community. Participants are enrolled six months prior to their release and may continue in the program for up to two years after release. The OARS Program is available in 37 Wisconsin counties, and served 261 participants in FY2016. The program's Average Daily Population (ADP) was 149 participants this fiscal year, a 50 percent increase over the ADP for FY2015. While more study is required, it appears that the OARS program may also have a positive impact on recidivism rates among participants.

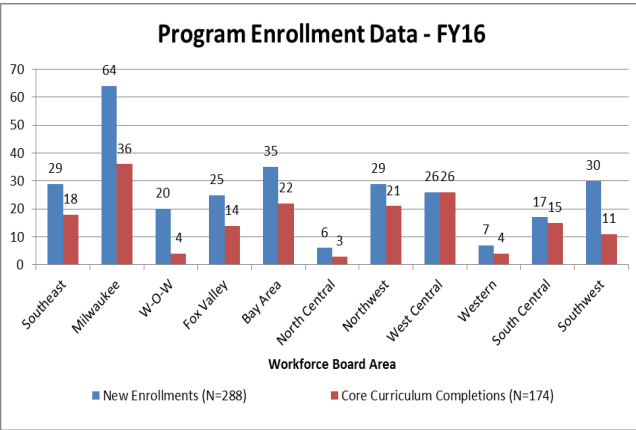
Pre-Release Medicaid Application Assistance

Since January 20, 2015, offenders have been authorized to apply for BadgerCare Plus the month prior to release from prison. Offenders facing challenges to successful application are screened for additional assistance with the application phone call. In the five facilities releasing the highest numbers of these populations, offenders meeting criteria are referred to LAW benefits specialist paralegals. Since the inception of the program, the LAW paralegals have assisted 2,153 inmates with healthcare applications. Of those, 2,073 inmates were determined eligible prior to release, a 96.2 percent success rate. WIDOC staff also assist with applications for releasing inmates at facilities where contracted staff are not available.

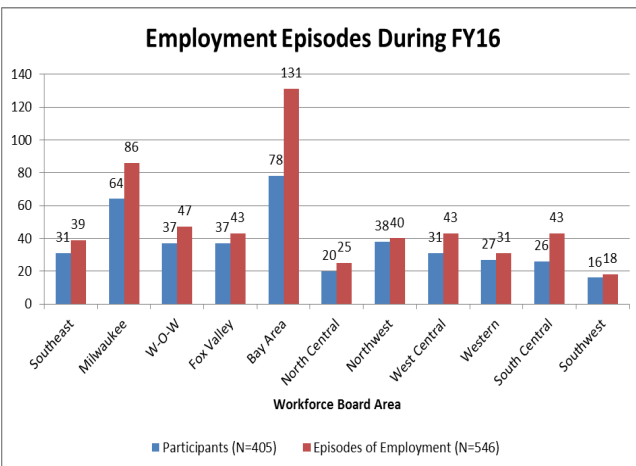
Programs and Initiatives

Windows to Work

Windows to Work is a partnership with all 11 of Wisconsin's Workforce Development Boards. Each board is contracted to provide, or subcontracted to provide, a program at WIDOC institutions or county jail facilities in each workforce development area. Eligible participants are enrolled in the institution/jail approximately 3-9 months prior to release, and programming continues in the community for approximately 12 months following a participant's release from incarceration. There are 4 county jail programs and 16 programs in 12 DAJ facilities active throughout the state. The chart below shows data for new institution enrollments during FY16.



One of the goals of Windows to Work is to increase employment placement opportunities for participants following their release from incarceration. The following chart provides information for employment episodes occurring during FY 2016.

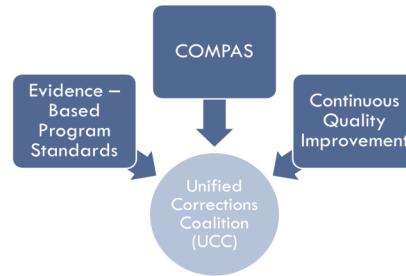


Motivational Interviewing (MI) Training

During FY16, MI training continued to roll out in the Divisions of Juvenile Corrections, Adult Institutions and Community Corrections. Staff who have previously completed MI training attend a refresher course and then a Peer Learning Group. Staff training consists of an initial two-day basic MI followed up by a one-day training a month later. Staff will also attend monthly peer learning group sessions to practice their MI skills. During FY16, 200 DAJ, 325 DCC, and 7 DJC staff received training.

Unified Corrections Coalition (UCC)

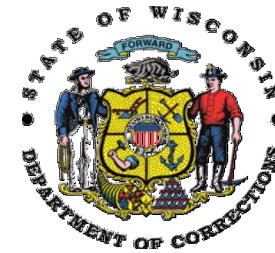
The mission of the Unified Corrections Coalition (UCC) is to operationalize the WIDOC Offender Lifecycle by implementing a single statewide risk & needs assessment and case management system, with an emphasis on evidence-based program standards and continuous quality improvement. The Unified Corrections Coalition is made up of staff from the WIDOC and the Office of State Courts.



University of Cincinnati Corrections Institute Partnership

The University of Cincinnati Corrections Institute (UCCI) provides ongoing technical assistance to the WIDOC through a contracted partnership. Evidence-based alignment activities include:

- Corrections Program Checklist Training and Implementation
- Program Redesign/Realignment Projects
- Staff Professional Development/Coaching/Training—Thinking for a Change, Core Correctional Practices
- Strategic and Sustainability Planning



Reentry at a Glance

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Reentry promotes offender success from admission through discharge through the application of evidence-based practices.