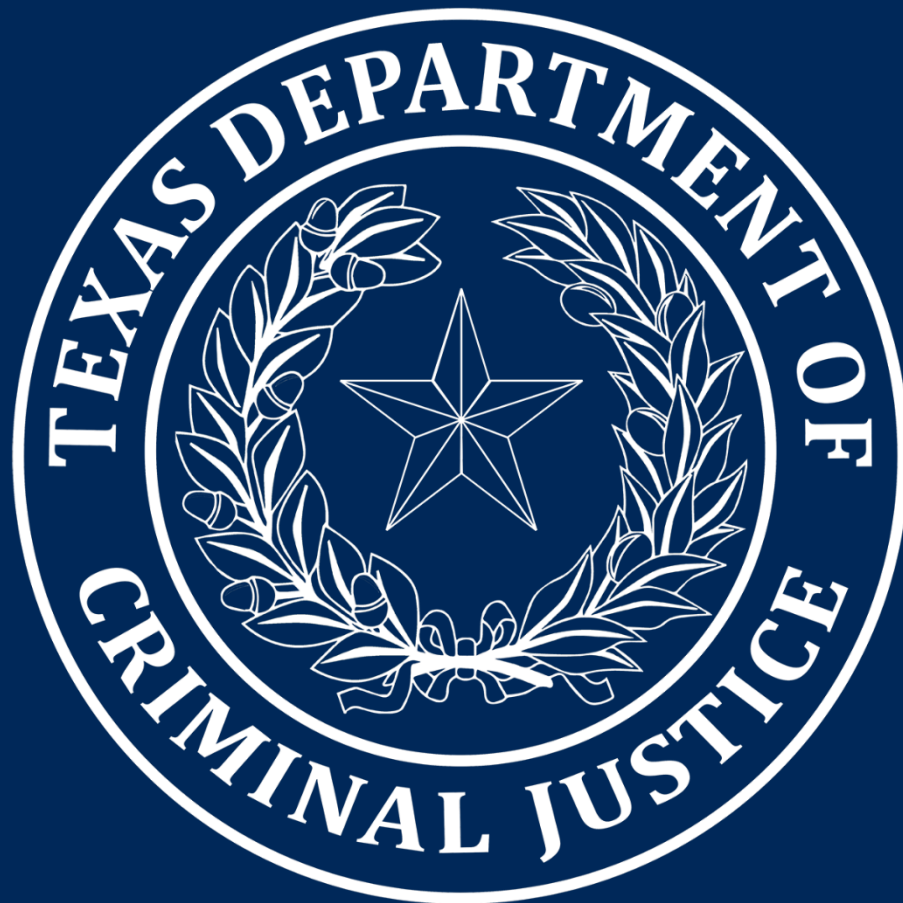


**Texas Department of Criminal Justice**



**Biennial Reentry and  
Reintegration Services Report**

**September 2024**

# Texas Board of Criminal Justice

P.O. Box 13084  
Austin, Texas 78711  
Phone (512) 475-3250  
Fax (512) 305-9398

**Eric J.R. Nichols, Chairman**  
Austin, Texas

**Honorable Faith Johnson, Vice-Chair**  
Dallas, Texas

**Rodney Burrow, M.D., Secretary**  
Pittsburg, Texas

**Honorable Molly Francis, Member**  
Dallas, Texas

**Ambassador Sichan Siv, Member**  
San Antonio, Texas

**General Bill Welch, Member**  
Austin, Texas

**Nate Sprinkle, Member**  
Richmond, Texas

**Sydney Zuiker, Member**  
Houston, Texas

**Tom Fordyce, Member**  
Huntsville, Texas

# Texas Department of Criminal Justice

P.O. Box 99  
Huntsville, Texas 77342-0099  
Phone (936) 437-2101

**Bryan Collier, Executive Director**

**Oscar Mendoza, Deputy Executive Director**



# Table of Contents

Introduction .....	1
Recidivism .....	2
Population Demographics.....	3
Reentry Task Force Membership.....	4
Reentry Task Force Working Groups & Statewide Councils.....	5
Texas Risk Assessment System .....	6
Identification Documents Ordering Process.....	6
Reentry Program.....	7
Pre-Release Reentry Services .....	8
Special Needs Case Management .....	8
Post Release Reentry Services .....	9
Summary of Services Provided .....	9
Employment Initiatives.....	10
Veteran Services and Programming .....	12
Reentry Initiatives.....	14
Looking Forward .....	16
Conclusion .....	17





## Introduction

Section 501.092 of the Texas Government Code requires the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) to develop and adopt a comprehensive plan to reduce recidivism and ensure the successful reentry and reintegration of inmates into the community following their release to parole supervision or discharge. Each biennium the agency is required to deliver a report evaluating the effectiveness of the reentry and reintegration services provided to individuals who are incarcerated, including recidivism.

This report contains an evaluation of data and a summary of activities conducted throughout Fiscal Years 2023 and 2024 by the Reentry and Integration Division (TDCJ-RID) of the TDCJ. TDCJ-RID has grown and adopted practices that ensure effective service delivery for inmates returning to the community following incarceration.

It should be noted that many other reentry-related programs administered by other divisions within TDCJ, and Windham School District (WSD), contribute to reduced recidivism. While this report provides an overview of accomplishments and enhancements relative to reentry, the TDCJ-RID has multiple functions that contribute to successful reentry and are delineated in other reports, including the following:

- [RID\\_501.103\\_Parole\\_and\\_Reentry\\_Fiscal\\_Year23\\_Report.pdf \(texas.gov\)](#)
- [TDCJ TCOOMMI 2023 \(texas.gov\)](#)

During the 88th Texas Legislature, state policymakers demonstrated a commitment to enhancing both state and local level reentry practices. Policy initiatives enhanced the development of a comprehensive reentry process designed to eliminate reentry barriers and achieve the goals of increased public safety and reduced recidivism. Measures taken by the Texas Legislature enabled the TDCJ to continue to utilize evidence-based practices to assess criminogenic risks and needs and develop effective, individualized plans based on that information for return to the community. As a result, there were numerous accomplishments, including:

- ◆ Continued implementation of a Special Needs Reentry Program to supplement the existing continuity-of-care programs;
- ◆ Continued engagement with the Reentry Task Force;
- ◆ On-going certification and re-certification for the Texas Risk Assessment System end users, as well as certification of trainers in use of the assessment tool;



- ◆ Implemented the certification of TDCJ-certified master trainers for the Texas Risk Assessment System (TRAS) for the purposes of training to certify trainers;
- ◆ Continued processing all inmate releases from TDCJ-Correctional Institutions Division (CID) units and privately contracted TDCJ units by case managers to ensure seamless reentry services;
- ◆ Continued support and planned enhancements of the “Website for Work” services that link employers with skilled, releasing inmates and clients in the community;
- ◆ Launched pre-release hiring programs to facilitate post release employment;
- ◆ Improved coordination with the Department of Public Safety (DPS) for ordering Texas identification (ID) cards and Texas driver licenses;
- ◆ Improved tracking and security of inmate identification documents;
- ◆ Augmented collaboration and outcome tracking for mental illness and intellectual disability care;
- ◆ Continued support of the pre-release workbook for use in reentry case management programs for female inmates in state jail facilities;
- ◆ Sustained multi-agency approach to strengthening existing veteran reentry services, programs, and the expansion of veteran dorms;
- ◆ Continued collaboration among various TDCJ divisions and WSD to improve post release employment opportunities; and
- ◆ Began planning for the assessment of inmates who may be eligible for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits immediately upon release in coordination with the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC).

These implementation activities, along with other initiatives, are discussed in detail throughout the remainder of this report.

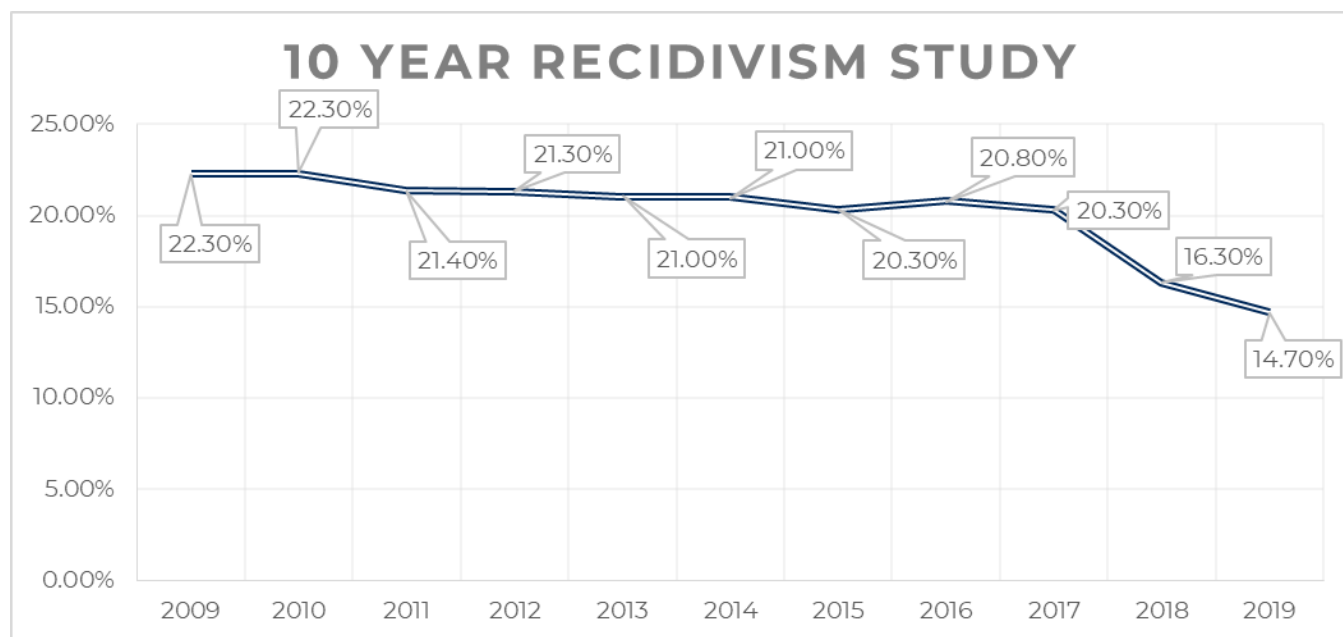
## Recidivism

Recidivism is defined by the Legislative Budget Board (LBB) as a return to criminal or delinquent activity after previous criminal or delinquent activity. As measured by the LBB, recidivism is calculated based on the number of individuals who return to



incarceration within three full years of release or start of supervision. Reduced recidivism is the goal of the TDCJ's reentry program.

The 2023 Statewide Criminal And Juvenile Justice Recidivism and Revocation Rates report by the LBB can be found online. This report indicates that recidivism rates for the TDCJ inmate population are among the lowest in the country. For the cohort of individuals released in 2019, the LBB calculated the recidivism rate based on the three years of data from 2020-2022 to be at 14.7%. This calculation is a significant reduction from the 2017 cohort rate of 20.3%. While TDCJ reentry efforts may have played a part in the 2019 cohort low recidivism rate, the impact of delays and modifications throughout the criminal justice systems in response to the COVID-19 pandemic was a factor. That said, TDCJ has remained steadfast in enhancing reentry practices, assisting individuals with their transition back to their communities, and seeing reductions in recidivism rate calculations in the future. See chart below.



Source: Legislative Budget Board

## Population Demographics

Throughout Texas, more than one million individuals are processed in local jails each year, many of whom transition to TDCJ supervision. As of July 2024, a combined total of approximately 589,175 individuals were on probation, parole, or in prison.

- ◆ 379,387 on direct misdemeanor or felony probation;
- ◆ 134,129 incarcerated in TDCJ facilities; and
- ◆ 75,659 on parole supervision.



Considering the demographics of the justice-involved population, it is crucial to account for those impacted beyond this group. Each individual represents families, communities, and victims from every segment of the state. These groups must be served for reentry initiatives to be successful. Thus, those affected extend far beyond the persons under supervision.

Although these numbers are significant, the challenge is magnified by the vast geographical area of Texas. To address these challenges, continued engagement by TDCJ with state and local partners, along with the development and implementation of internal initiatives, provide significant momentum toward a seamless system. This system aims to ensure all components work in tandem to achieve the goal of reduced recidivism.

## Reentry Task Force Membership

The statewide Reentry Task Force provides a conduit for state and local stakeholders to address reentry practices and provide recommendations for continued enhancement of reentry services across the state. The Reentry Task Force maintained a membership of 29 entities representing a cross-section of the following Texas agencies, organizations, and communities:

- Texas Juvenile Justice Department
- Texas Workforce Commission
- Texas Department of Public Safety
- Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs
- Texas Correctional Office on Offenders with Medical or Mental Impairments
- Health and Human Services Commission
- Texas Judicial Council
- Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles
- Windham School District
- Texas Commission on Jail Standards
- Department of State Health Services
- Texas Court of Criminal Appeals
- County Judges and Commissioners Association of Texas
- Sheriffs' Association of Texas
- Texas District and County Attorneys Association
- Texas Conference of Urban Counties
- Criminal Justice Coordinator, Urban County
- Reentry Coordinator, Urban County
- Urban County Representative



Urban County Commissioner  
Rural County Judge  
Rural County Commissioner  
Texas Inmate Families Association  
Texas Center for Justice and Equity  
Texas Department of Family and Protective Services  
Office of Court Administration  
Texas Department of Criminal Justice  
Texas Veterans Commission  
Faith-Based Volunteers

## Reentry Task Force Working Groups & Statewide Councils

The Reentry Task Force maintains working groups to address specific barriers to successful reentry. In addition to these working groups, the TDCJ-RID serves on multiple statewide councils tasked with developing recommendations to address all gaps and barriers identified. These working groups and councils include:

**Statewide Behavioral Health Coordinating Council:** The council develops, updates, and oversees the implementation of the Texas Statewide Behavioral Health Strategic Plan which outlines a coordinated effort to address behavioral health gaps in services and systems.

**Joint Committee on Access to Forensic Services:** The purpose of the committee is to provide customer/consumer and stakeholder input to the health and human services system in the form of recommendations regarding access to forensic services within the state of Texas.

**Texas Coordinating Council for Veteran Services:** The purpose of this council is to coordinate the activities of state agencies that assist veterans, service members, and their families; coordinate outreach efforts that ensure veterans, service members, and their families are made aware of services; and facilitate collaborative relationships among state, federal, and local agencies, and private organizations to identify and address issues affecting veterans, service members, and their families.

**Texas Interagency Council for the Homeless:** The purpose of this council is to survey current resources for services for the homeless; assist in coordinating and providing statewide services for all homeless individuals; increase the flow of information among providers and authorities; provide technical assistance in assessing the housing needs for individuals with special needs; and maintain a central resource and information center for homeless services.





**Employment Working Group:** Goals include identifying strategies to eliminate barriers to employment in a post-release environment, as well as coordination of resources, job training, and assistance. This work group was tasked with assisting the Mapping the Future grant project to identify gaps in the existing TDCJ reentry system and processes and make recommendations for solutions.

Through collaborative council efforts and implementation of previous recommendations, as well as the body of work produced by the Reentry Task Force throughout the biennium, the TDCJ-RID, alongside agency leadership, has created, expanded, and refined reentry service delivery systems.

## Texas Risk Assessment System

Reentry program supervisors complete certification as Texas Risk Assessment System (TRAS) trainers and become qualified to train reentry case managers as certified end users of the assessment tool. Newly hired reentry case managers are trained and certified in the use of the TRAS, ensuring the TRAS is administered consistently and appropriately, providing an accurate risk level of the inmate.

Existing TRAS users must become re-certified prior to their three-year certification anniversary. An automated TRAS re-certification training program has provided an efficient means for those initially certified to become re-certified. Pre-release reentry case managers work collaboratively with the inmate to develop an individualized reentry case plan that addresses problem areas, goals, action steps, and community resources to aid in the inmate's success upon release from the TDCJ. The case plan transitions to both the supervising parole office and the reentry employment specialist post release, providing continuity in the inmate's transition from prison to community.

By fiscal year (FY) 2023, through coordination with the TDCJ Training and Leader Development Division, several highly experienced TDCJ-RID certified TRAS trainers became certified master TRAS trainers. Master TRAS trainers train and certify TRAS trainers; this is the first time since the implementation of the TRAS that TDCJ staff hold the credential of master TRAS trainers.

## Identification Documents Ordering Process

TDCJ-RID orders individuals a social security card, a certified birth certificate, and DPS ID card. These identification documents obtained on behalf of the individual are provided to them at the time of release from TDCJ. With these identification

documents in hand at the time of their release, individuals are positioned for reentry success.

TDCJ-RID efforts to increase the number of inmates receiving a certified birth certificate and a DPS ID card. TDCJ-RID has also worked with the DPS to provide inmates with replacement driver licenses.

In 2022, the DPS finalized and launched a process for allowing the TDCJ to order replacement driver licenses for qualified individuals in place of a DPS ID card. On December 5, 2022, the first replacement driver license was successfully ordered. There are future DPS plans to expand TDCJ's capabilities with regard to ID ordering. In 2024, TDCJ initiated coordination to upgrade a limited number of its DPS equipment to mobile tablets and is in the early stages of coordinating a pilot project to test the effectiveness and benefits of mobile equipment within our facilities.

TDCJ's contract with the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) supports efforts to increase the number of inmates receiving certified birth certificates. DSHS has provided a process to electronically request a Texas birth certificate for inmates who are unable to physically appear in a reentry case manager's office. For individuals born out-of-state, TDCJ will order a birth certificate, and if received, TDCJ will be able to apply for a Real ID compliant Texas ID card or replacement driver license from DPS.

The TDCJ-RID works to identify opportunities to reduce barriers to reentry with regard to identification documents as it is a critical component in successful reentry.

## Reentry Program

The reentry program operated throughout most of FY 2024 with 195 allocated positions providing pre-release and post release reentry services across the state. However, the agency initiated a strategic restructure of reentry staff to facilitate a new release model.

In FY 2024, release operations were condensed to 17 release sites located in each sector of the state, with the goal of establishing reentry release dorms to further facilitate the agency's 2030 plan of 95% of the employment-eligible release population being employed upon release.





There are 174 allocated positions: 121 case managers located at correctional facilities, 26 post release employment coordinators located in district parole offices and residential reentry centers, five support services specialists who support releasing staff and conduct family coordination for release, 10 human service specialists providing continuity of care planning for special needs inmates, and 12 case manager supervisors. These positions work in tandem to ensure all reentry needs are met by ordering documents, completing pre-release and post release case planning, making referrals to community-based providers, and securing employment.

## **Pre-Release Reentry Services**

Pre-release reentry services include Phase I and II of a three-phased Reentry Program.

During Phase I, a reentry case manager assists eligible inmates in ordering identification documents prior to release, including a replacement social security card, certified birth certificate, military service record (DD-214), DPS ID card, and Texas driver license. All identification documents obtained are issued to the reentering inmate at the time of release from the TDCJ, including resumes and certification documents earned in career and technical education programs. These documents equip the releasing inmate with personal identification, credentials, and interview skills necessary to secure employment, housing, benefits, and other services upon return to the community.

During Phase II, the reentry case manager conducts a risk assessment for parole approved inmates to determine risk level as it relates to criminogenic need and risk of re-offending. Those that score moderate or high risk on the assessment are enrolled in individualized case planning. While in case planning, the case manager and the inmate work together to develop an individualized case plan that addresses their needs, sets goals, lists action steps, and identifies resources targeted toward equipping the inmate for a successful return to the community. Additional efforts to support employment initiatives include career expositions at TDCJ units and pre-release hiring, allowing employers and soon-to-be-released inmates to connect via videoconference or in-person in a reentry release dorm for live interviews.

## **Special Needs Case Management**

Through coordinated efforts to ensure post release continuity of care planning, human service specialists work directly with unit medical staff, community resources, and the inmates and their families. In addition, pre-release benefit



applications are submitted for those inmates who have a severe and persistent illness to minimize delay in receiving eligible aid. Human service specialists completed a total of 1,202 benefit applications between September 2022 and July 2024. In addition to the benefits applications submitted, human service specialists and case managers assist with voluntary pre-enrollment in programs supported by the Affordable Care Act.

## Post Release Reentry Services

Phase III community-based reentry provides a variety of services with a targeted focus on employment, both pre-release and post release. In addition to employment search and job preparation classes, case managers assist with housing and other basic necessities, and provide connections to other community resources. Reentry staff coordinate job fairs, career expositions, and hiring events, and schedule interviews for unemployed and underemployed clients. This service allows a potential employer to meet with a client, receive a completed application on site, and offer employment with the advance knowledge of the client's status with the criminal justice system. The TDCJ-RID has worked in close collaboration with other TDCJ divisions and WSD to improve employability by providing opportunities to obtain vocational certificates and on-the-job certifications to aid in job placement post release.

Through the automation and enhancement of referral reports, identification of unemployed clients and their employment skills continues to enhance existing case management practices to reduce unemployment, enhance industry skilled employment, and bolster hiring within industry trade shortages.

## Summary of Services Provided

For the period of September 2022 through July 2024, reentry case managers completed more than 55,000 applications for birth certificates. Case managers submitted over 60,000 applications for social security cards to the Social Security Administration and processed 39,783 inmates for Texas DPS ID cards or replacement Texas driver licenses.

TDCJ has sent more than 135,000 documents (birth certificates, social security cards, military service records, DPS ID cards, or Texas driver licenses) to TDCJ units or parole offices for delivery to the reentering population.

In addition to pre-release and post release case management provided by the TDCJ-RID during the reporting period, resource guides are available at various locations throughout the TDCJ's correctional facilities and on the TDCJ-RID's public website. A toll-free reentry hotline number is provided, which allows individuals and their families to contact the TDCJ-RID for additional assistance and referrals post release. Reentry case managers assessed 15,130 inmates utilizing the TRAS as part of the parole review process, with 4,718 of those assessed scoring moderate to high in risk. As a continuation of the case management program, reentry employment coordinators enrolled 16,771 clients in post release case management and provided employment services to an additional 21,463 individuals not enrolled in case management services. Over 240,000 referrals were provided for employment, housing, continuing education and skills training, clothing, food, transportation, and other social service needs.

## Employment Initiatives

Employment is one of the most important elements of an individual's successful reentry back into the community, and the TDCJ has continued to enhance programming during the reporting period to support the goal of self-sufficiency on the part of the reentering individual.

Collaboration between the TDCJ-RID, Manufacturing, Agribusiness and Logistics (TDCJ-MAL) Division, Rehabilitation Programs Division (TDCJ-RPD), and WSD connects a pre-release inmate's job training and skills information with employers to increase opportunities for sustainable employment.







To assist in the preparation for employment, 23,195 clients attended employment readiness classes facilitated by reentry staff, while Intensive Employment Classes were conducted for those chronically unemployed or underemployed clients in select locations. During this report period, 3,207 participants attended 90 employment events.

In 2024, with the release model adjusting to 17 target release sites across the state, TDCJ-RID began opening reentry release dorms on those sites. Structured services focused on reentry release are provided at these dorms. Inmates can engage with employers in-person or virtually; meet with local community providers and volunteers; build resumes; submit applications; and focus on family connections as they prepare for their successful return to the community.

Other employment initiatives include:

- ◆ The Strength Through Restoration, Independence, Vision, and Empowerment (STRIVE) dorm was launched in 2018 at the O'Daniel Unit (previously known as the Mountain View Unit) to better prepare female inmates to meet post release employment needs. To date, 709 women have successfully completed the program. Reentry staff assist the women in identifying barriers specific to their reentry needs by providing referrals, job training, resources, and employment assistance along with continued support post release. Career expos are held both in-person and virtually. In addition, STRIVE provides participants with a Reentry Simulator to help program participants overcome fears and anxieties concerning the challenges with returning to the community. The simulator provides a realistic simulation of the challenges clients could face while navigating release such as paying bills, public transportation, attending parole appointments and accessing necessary services – all within a limited time frame and financial resources. Dedicated trained mentors, who are serving longer sentences and have completed the STRIVE program, serve as peers in the dorm and assist with career coaching and release ready classes. During this report period, 12 career expos have been held with 328 participants attending and securing employment. To date, all STRIVE participant graduates have left prison with a job.
- ◆ The Website for Work program was developed to further enhance partnerships with potential employers. The TDCJ-RID Website for Work program provides an electronic means for potential employers to connect with skilled individuals using a web-based application that matches the employer with an available job to an appropriate client in the community. More than 1,200 employers have used or are utilizing the program. In late FY 2024, a contract was awarded to Workbay, an integrated employment platform, that will allow for an interactive application on the inmate tablets that allows inmates to participate in employment readiness and skills training, job



searches, submit applications, and secure employment. The application will remain available post release with the same opportunities and personal profile created on the inmate tablet. This initiative will launch in September 2024 and is an enhancement to the Website for Work program.

- ◆ As part of the ongoing practices and activities already occurring within reentry programming relative to employment, and in accordance with House Bill (HB) 918 of the 86th Legislature, a joint effort between WSD and the TDCJ ensures releasing inmates obtain a resume and practice interviews to enhance job readiness. A total of 13,329 resumes were completed and 13,079 mock interviews were conducted during the reporting period.

## **Veteran Services and Programming**

The TDCJ-RID has a dedicated veterans program supervisor to provide the oversight and coordinate expansion of veteran-centric programming and a veteran services coordinator assigned to coordinate pre-release and post release services for veterans.

Veteran services consist of pre-release and post release activities as well as interagency collaboration. Interagency collaboration includes liaison activities that relate to the development of processes for exchanging information and establishing connections between the criminal justice system and the Veterans Integrated Services Network, through the establishment of a Memorandum of Understanding in 2008. The Continuity of Care network created in response to HB 634 (83rd Legislative Session) has cultivated a robust partnership with the Military Veteran Peer Network and the Veterans Administration's Health Care for Reentry Veterans (HCRV) Program. The TDCJ and the Veterans Administration (VA) maintain an agreement for verification of veteran information through an electronic file transfer utilizing the Veterans Reentry Search Service (VRSS). All veterans are identified through the VRSS upon intake.

Once identified, the TDCJ veteran services coordinator assists with notifying Veteran Benefits Administration of incarceration and aids with apportionment to the spouse, children, or guardian of children.

During incarceration, the TDCJ assists with requesting copies of the Military Service Record Discharge of Duty form 214 (DD-214), requesting copies of military and medical documents, military discharge upgrade assistance, rehabilitation services, veteran programming, veteran peer housing, and providing guidebooks for veterans.

Through a formal partnership with the Texas Veterans Commission (TVC), veteran service officers and the TDCJ veteran services coordinator conduct training and coordinate with reentry case managers to aid incarcerated veterans in applying for

VA disability compensation and healthcare benefits and VA pension information. During the reporting period, a total of 1,336 benefit and compensation applications were submitted to the VA through the TVC, and 711 compensation and pension exams were completed on the veteran's unit of assignment. The reentry case manager provides information regarding education benefits to which the veteran is entitled.

Veteran programming is supported across the state through 47 volunteer organizations committed to the well-being and unique needs of the incarcerated veteran population and the implementation of inmate Veteran Peer Mentor training through the TDCJ Veteran Services staff. Additionally, the TDCJ-RID, in coordination with the TDCJ-CID, facilitates veteran program dorms and veteran peer housing dorms featuring dedicated veteran correctional officers, reentry case managers, and trained inmate veteran peers. There are five program dorms and 24 peer housing dorms:

- ◆ The Travis County State Jail Veterans Reentry Dorm has two housing units, each with 24 beds, set in squadron formation located in Travis County. The veteran's dorm program is a voluntary, transitional program for veterans confined in state jail facilities and TDCJ-CID facilities that provide rehabilitation programming in developing healthy relationships, anger management, and addressing addiction. Through coordination with TVC, the Military Veteran Peer Network (MVPN) facilitates Bring Everyone In The Zone (BEITZ) sessions. In addition, TDCJ-RID Veteran Services staff conduct sessions and trainings for the Veteran X model, a peer-led recovery program.







- ◆ In 2021, the S.T.R.I.P.E.S. (Success Through Restoration, Independence, Perseverance, Excellence, and Service) veteran dorm program was launched at the Coffield Unit. With a dedicated TDCJ veteran services coordinator and a reentry case manager, the program consists of 12 modules of Moral Recognition Therapy (MRT) courses divided over 52 weeks and additional programming provided by volunteers. The MRT classes are taught by AIMVETS volunteer-certified professional facilitators, who have completed 32 hours of MRT training. The S.T.R.I.P.E.S. program is a peer dorm environment designed to help incarcerated veterans develop better decision-making and coping skills, provide them with the necessary tools to enhance their well-being, and assist them with their reintegration into society.
- ◆ The S.T.A.R.S. (Service Through Action Reveals Strength) Women's Veteran Program at the O'Daniel Unit consists of MRT courses, female veteran centered programming, and peer support. The MRT classes are taught by AIMVETS volunteer-certified professional facilitators, who have completed 32 hours of MRT training. In 2023, the Patriot Paws Program was implemented into the dorm, giving incarcerated veterans the opportunity to serve by training service dogs for other veterans. Additionally, veteran peers have been identified and are undergoing peer training to implement the Veteran HOPE model (female version of Veteran X) in the dorm.

Veteran peer housing was designed and implemented with the purpose of assisting distressed veterans in finding help for problems associated with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, Traumatic Brain Injury, or other trauma related to military service. As inmate veteran peers are trained, they deploy to peer housing areas across the state to serve their fellow incarcerated veterans through the Veteran X model. The TDCJ has partnered with the VA and the HCRV Program to provide continuity of care services for all incarcerated veterans.

## Reentry Initiatives

In addition to the plan's initiatives previously discussed, the reentry program demonstrated additional growth and development through numerous other endeavors during the biennium as the TDCJ-RID:

- ◆ Continued to expand reentry case manager involvement in release processing duties on prison units, including state jails, to further enhance continuity in inmate transition from pre- to post release reentry services by launching reentry release dorms.

- ◆ Continued coordination with the WSD, and other TDCJ divisions, including Facilities, MAL, Parole, and RPD, to improve post release employment opportunities through evaluation of pre-release training and certification and engagement with employers offering those job opportunities.
- ◆ Continued coordination with the Information Technology Division to improve tracking and oversight of reentry program components.
- ◆ Maintained a multi-divisional Women's Workgroup to identify and address female needs, processes, and programming throughout the entire system.
- ◆ Expanded the Reentry Certified Peer Specialist program that began as a grant through the governor's office. The program will continue through a new grant with the governor's office, and it will address reentry barriers by utilizing trained inmate peer mentors as employment coaches both pre-release and post release.
- ◆ Enhanced employment efforts focused on securing post release employment prior to release in continued efforts with employers, non-profit organizations, WSD, and partner TDCJ divisions.
- ◆ Implemented additional veteran programs by allowing inmate veterans to be trained as peers through Reentry Peer Specialist training and the Veteran X and Veteran HOPE models.
- ◆ Coordinated with the Texas Restaurant Association and Texas Restaurant Foundation to increase skills training and post release employment within the food service industry.
- ◆ Secured a contract to enhance employment initiatives through an integrated employment system that allows inmates to build a job card with skills, education and training for job search and post release employment prior to release.



## Looking Forward

The implementation steps and initiatives detailed herein highlight the ongoing and significant growth of the reentry program. The momentum will continue with the following plans:

- ◆ Coordination with DPS to launch mobile tablets for document ordering on reentry dorms.
- ◆ Launch the Workbay enhancements for the Website for Work program to increase post release employment pre-release.
- ◆ Continue collaborating with business associations to expand industry skilled employment.
- ◆ Coordination with TDCJ divisions and WSD to further enhance the goal of a seamless reentry system.
- ◆ Collaboration on the continued implementation of the inmate tablet system to enhance reentry initiatives and planning.
- ◆ Expand peer training for Certified Peer Specialists for Mental Health within Texas Correctional Office on Offenders with Medical or Mental Impairments (TCOOMMI) continuity of care programs, Certified Reentry Peer Specialists in reentry program and release dorms, and Veteran Peers for veteran programs and dorms.
- ◆ Continue coordination with partner TDCJ divisions on establishing reentry dorms for inmate movement into, leading up to and within a designated window of release.
- ◆ Expansion of veteran program dorms and veteran peer housing dorms, including trained veteran peer mentors within the dorms.





## Conclusion

Since the inception of TDCJ-RID in 2009, the division has grown and adopted practices that ensure effective service delivery for inmates returning to the community following incarceration. TDCJ has increased the number of individuals served through each component of pre-release and post release reentry programs aimed at helping the individual reenter their community. The direct delivery of services and success of these individuals could not be achieved without TDCJ's partnering state and local agencies and community resources. TDCJ-RID recognizes that there is still work to be done and improvements will be made to the reentry plan and its components as best practices evolve.



[www.tdcj.texas.gov](http://www.tdcj.texas.gov)