Residential Community Release Programs  
Fiscal Year 2020 Report

The following information is provided as required pursuant to P.L. 2013, c.77 regarding the operation of Residential Community Release Programs (RCRP).

Overall, RCRP programs have proven to be a successful means of transitioning the incarcerated population from prison to the community. RCRP programs provide a wide array of cost-effective treatments and services and also provide an inmate with a gradual, supervised transition back to society.

Releasing an inmate in stages is often more effective than the direct release of an inmate from time served, or “maxing out.”

RCRP participants are returned to prison less frequently than comparison subjects and the mean days-to-any-return are significantly greater for RCRP participants.

RCRPs effectively reduce additional incarceration time through decreases in reincarcerations and significant decreases in parole revocations. The mean days-to-revocation are also significantly greater for RCRP participants. Put simply, RCRP participants are reincarcerated in prison less frequently and violate parole less frequently.

During fiscal year 2020:

- The total reimbursement provided to Residential Community Release Programs was $60,449,567.04.
- The average daily rate per resident was $70.53* and the average number of clients for which reimbursement was received during the fiscal year was 2,427**.
- The average number of RCRP residents who were originally imprisoned for violent crimes was 1,687 for a total of 596,531 days.
- The average number of RCRP residents who were originally imprisoned for non-violent crimes was 740 for a total of 263,023 days.

It is important to note that one of the requirements for placement in an RCRP is a good institutional record and belief that the individual is not likely to pose a threat to the safety of the community.

The Department of Corrections uses the term “walkaway”, rather than “escape”, to describe individuals who failed to report back to the RCRP at a specified time.
• There were 85 walkaways during the reporting period, of which 66 were originally imprisoned for violent offenses and 19 were originally imprisoned for non-violent offenses.

The majority of walkaways resulted from the resident’s failure to return on time to the RCRP from an authorized community activity such as work, school, or furlough.

Residential Community Release Programs are required to report walkaways immediately; therefore, upon confirmation of a walkaway from a Program, a walkaway is immediately reported to the Department of Corrections and entered into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) system.

Once a resident has been entered into the NCIC system as a walkaway (even if they return to the RCRP within minutes of the report), they are administratively charged and returned to the Department of Corrections for an appropriate hearing and also referred to the Prosecutor’s office for possible criminal charges. It is important to note that the Department of Corrections’ Special Investigations Division has staff specifically dedicated to pursuing walkaways and has been very effective at reducing the number of outstanding walkaways during the reporting period.

Finally, during Fiscal Year 2020:

• There were 48 incidents of physical violence in the RCRP.

Physical violence has been defined as anything from unwanted contact not resulting in injuries to an inmate fight.

Bearing in mind that the average number of residents assigned to Residential Community Release Programs during any month is 2,427, this is considered a significantly low number of incidents.

* The average daily rate is a straight average of the daily rates of all halfway houses not accounting for bed capacity.

**Number of residents’ reimbursements received is the average daily population.