



# COURT SERVICES AND OFFENDER SUPERVISION AGENCY for the District of Columbia

## CSOSA Fact Sheet

### OFFENDER REENTRY IN WASHINGTON, DC

**OFFENDER REENTRY** is the process through which an individual goes to prison and returns, trying to establish a crime-free life, reconnect with family, and contribute to his or her community.

Between 2002 and 2005, 2,194 offenders on average have returned from prison to Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency (CSOSA) supervision.

#### Released to CSOSA Supervision

- **FY 2002: 2,154**
- **FY 2003: 2,198**
- **FY 2004: 2,267**
- **FY 2005: 2,157**

The core of CSOSA's mission is to increase public safety and prevent crime by reducing recidivism. To do this, CSOSA works to reduce rearrests, improve education levels, increase employment rates, and reduce drug use among the population it serves.

Pursuing these goals requires strategic coordination between CSOSA, other government agencies, and community-based organizations through three stages of reentry — prison, transition, and community integration.

**PRISON:** During the first stage of reentry, the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) incarcerates DC offenders in facilities located across the United States. The BOP works to place DC offenders within 500 miles of the District.

The BOP provides a number of reentry programs for eligible offenders. Service areas include vocational training, substance abuse education and treatment, health and nutrition, employment, personal finance/consumer skills, information/community resources, release requirements and procedures, and personal growth and development. For more information, see [www.bop.gov](http://www.bop.gov).

To increase the opportunities for DC offenders, CSOSA has facilitated videoconference Community Resource Days for offenders at the Rivers Correctional Institute in Winton, North Carolina, the BOP facility with the largest number of DC offenders (approximately 1,000 of more than 6,000 DC inmates). The videoconferences enable DC-based housing, healthcare, employment, and education providers to present information to soon-to-be released offenders.

**TRANSITION:** Roughly half of DC inmates returning from BOP custody to CSOSA supervision transition from prison to the community through a Residential Reentry Center, commonly referred to as a halfway house.

CSOSA places Community Supervision Officers (CSO's) from its Transitional Interventions for Parole Services (TIPS) units in five Residential Reentry Centers located in Washington, DC and operated under Bureau of Prisons contracts.

Community Supervision Officers assigned to TIPS begin assessment and case planning with offenders prior to re-

lease. Transition through a Residential Reentry Center increases an inmate's opportunity to develop a sound reentry plan and connect with necessary services in the community.

**COMMUNITY INTEGRATION:** The most intensive portion of CSOSA's direct role in reentry takes place after release from prison while an offender is on parole or supervised release. CSOSA emphasizes offender accountability and opportunity through risk and needs assessment, close supervision, treatment and support services, and partnerships designed to increase CSOSA's resources to supervise offenders and meet the diverse needs that the population presents.

#### Risk & Needs Assessment

**CSOSA SCREENER & CASE PLANNING:** CSOSA assesses each offender's risk to the community and social needs. The results of the assessment comprise a supervision plan intended to guide the offender's reentry process.

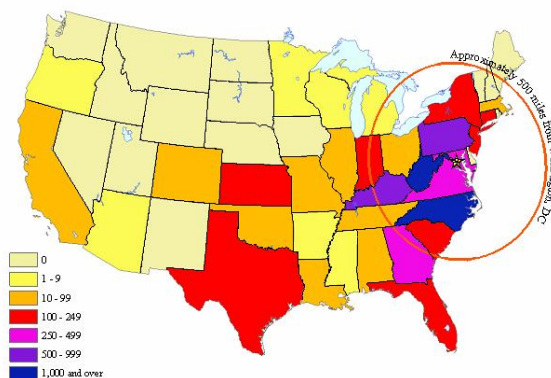
#### Close Supervision

**HIGH LEVELS OF CONTACT:** Offender risk level, determined by the CSOSA screener, guides the frequency with which offenders must report to Community Supervision Officers.

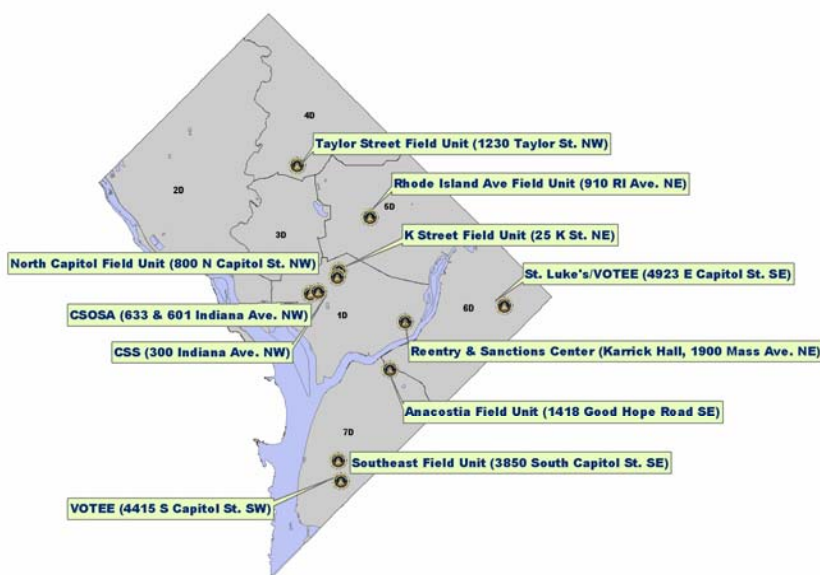
**CSOSA-LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIPS:** Community Supervision Officers and police officers (from the Metropolitan Police Department and the DC Housing Authority Police) routinely **share information** on high-risk offenders, conduct **Accountability Tours** — in which a CSO and a police officer visit offenders in the community, and host **Mass Orientations** — in which police and CSO's meet with offenders just released.

**SURVEILLANCE DRUG TESTING:** Frequent contact with CSO's is supplemented by drug testing, ranging from twice weekly to once monthly.

Distribution of District of Columbia Offenders in Federal Bureau of Prisons Facilities  
By State



# COURT SERVICES AND OFFENDER SUPERVISION AGENCY



*CSOSA Offices and Learning Labs by Police District*

mentors for returning offenders and establish a network of faith-based institutions that may have housing, employment, substance abuse, or other resources that can benefit returning offenders.

**RESIDENCE:** CSO's routinely counsel offenders to seek a healthy residential environment and encourage offenders to move, if necessary. According to DC Housing and Community Development, household income needs to reach almost \$40,000 per year (or \$19-20 per hour) to pay market rate rent for a two-bedroom apartment in the District. Forty-five percent of DC households report less than \$35,000 in annual income. The city has an affordable housing shortage that makes residential stability a significant challenge for offenders.

**MENTAL HEALTH:** CSOSA refers offenders to contract psychologists for mental health screening to determine need for more in-depth psychological evaluation and treatment. The DC Department of Mental Health provides mental health psychological screening and evaluations, counseling, and community-based support services for offenders with diagnosed mental health disorders.

**ID & BENEFITS:** CSOSA verifies an offender's address to assist him or her in obtaining non-driver's identification from the Department of Motor Vehicles. CSOSA also directs offenders to appropriate DC Department of Human Services offices to apply for social services or healthcare insurance for self and/or family.

**PHYSICAL HEALTH/DISABILITY:** CSOSA does not provide any direct health-related services. The agency does counsel offenders to register for the DC Healthcare Alliance or Medicaid if they are eligible. DC Healthcare Alliance provides insurance coverage for residents who meet income requirements. DC Department of Health offers primary healthcare at neighborhood clinics operated by the DC Health and Hospital Public Benefit Corporation.

**GRADUATED RESPONSES:** Swift and certain sanctions for rule breaking are a key to successful supervision. Sanctions include increased in-person contacts, day reporting, electronic and Global Position System (GPS) monitoring, increased drug testing, community service, and short-term residential placement.

**REPORTING VIOLATIONS:** New arrests and repeat violations of parole or supervised release conditions result in reports of alleged violations to the United States Parole Commission or the appropriate releasing authority.

## **Treatment and Support Services**

**SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT:** CSOSA assesses high-risk offenders' addiction severity to make clinically appropriate treatment placements. The agency's fiscal appropriation allows for CSOSA to meet 25% of the population's addiction treatment need. CSOSA refers lower-risk offenders to the DC Department of Health, Addiction Prevention and Recovery Administration (APRA), the agency primarily responsible for addressing the substance abuse treatment needs of eligible District residents.

**REENTRY AND SANCTIONS CENTER:** CSOSA opened its Reentry and Sanctions Center in February 2006. The Reentry and Sanctions Center provides offenders with a 28-day assessment and treatment preparation

program prior to placement in residential or outpatient programming.

**VIOLENCE REDUCTION PROGRAM:** The Violence Reduction Program (VRP) is a three-phase treatment intervention for men, aged 18-35 with histories of violent, weapons, and/or drug distribution convictions.

- *Phase I: Assessment and Treatment Readiness*
- *Phase II: Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy*
- *Phase III: Aftercare and Community Reintegration*

**EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT:** The Vocational Opportunities for Training, Education, and Employment (VOTEE) unit assesses and responds to the individual educational and vocational needs of offenders. The unit also provides adult basic education and GED preparation courses at one of four learning labs staffed by CSOSA Learning Lab Specialists. In addition, VOTEE actively maintains partnerships with the State Education Agency, Adult Education Office in collaboration with the University of District of Columbia to provide literacy services. The DC Department of Employment Services provides employment training, and placement services.

## **Community-Based Support**

**COMMUNITY SUPPORT/SOCIAL NETWORKS:** The CSOSA Faith Community Partnership is designed to provide

