



Department of Corrections

Work Crew



Work Crew: Overview

Fiscal Impact

- DOC net financial impact since 2015: **-\$11.4M**
 - Program originally designed to be budget-neutral
- Estimated investment needed to sustain program: **\$3,968,000**
 - Annual operating budget: **\$400,000**
 - Payroll: **\$2,750,000**
 - Equipment purchase: **\$1,000,000+**
 - Number of new positions needed: **15**
- Average cost per participant when program ended: **\$62,000**

Contracts

- With no-shows, DOC staff regularly required to complete work to satisfy contract obligations
- Why so many no-shows? Population changes since inception of opioid epidemic:
 - Difficult for individuals w/ addiction issues to show up for scheduled work



Work Crew: Data

Key Context

- Work Crew sentences **fell 70%** from 2016 to 2023
 - Used for less than 2% of total supervised DOC population
- Program experienced **two-thirds return to incarceration rate**
 - **More people incarcerated** for Work Crew violations **than being sentenced** to Work Crew
 - Participants regularly missed Work Crew for existing obligations like employment, child care, medical appointments/treatment, etc., resulting in incarceration
 - And those who tried to make work crew missed jobs/childcare duties/medical care/treatment, negatively impacting employment and recovery
- Active arrest warrants when program terminated: **190**



Leading Cause of Re-incarceration

- In 2019, [CSG reported](#) work crew was the **leading cause of returns to incarceration** for technical violations (46%)
 - **More returns** than OOP/curfew violations, violent/threatening behaviors, sex offender condition violations, and DV condition violations **combined**



Who is Being Served?

Key Context

- Like Work Crew, Home Detention was costing DOC \$200,000+ per year for about a dozen individuals
 - Calls for ending program prompted pushback -- it was deemed to be a critical sentencing tool that quickly moved dockets/resolved cases
 - Legislature created expanded pathway for Home Detention referrals
 - Number of individuals on Home Detention today: **8**

Alternative Community Sentence

- In conjunction with State's Attorneys, DOC designed a new community-service based program based on direction from General Assembly
 - Pre-approved furlough structure w/ "menu" of set options for SAs and defense counsel
- Program being implemented over time, in a phased approach, starting in Hartford, Barre, Rutland, and Springfield



Questions?