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STATE OF NEW JERSEY, DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

William H. Fauver, Commissioner

ANNUAL REPORT 8 6

COUNTY WORK RELEASE PROGRAMS

CALENDAR YEAR 1986

Division of Adult Institutions

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## INTRODUCTION

This report is the thirteenth summary of data pertaining to the County Work Release Program in the State of New Jersey. The report was prepared by Judith K. Ungaro and Deborah A. Kaczka, of the Bureau of County Services. It provides pertinent information about the programs which were operating in 21 counties on December 31, 1986. This report is based on data secured through the cooperation of sheriffs, jail administrators, and work release administrators. Reports were compiled for all inmates who served sentences on work release to successful or unsuccessful completion during the calendar year 1986.

## DEFINITION OF COUNTY WORK RELEASE

County Work Release is a program which permits selected offenders committed by the municipal or county court to a county correctional facility, to be in the community on order of the court during specified periods to engage in remunerative employment, to attend vocational training, and in the case of female offenders, to attend to family needs, in accordance with the New Jersey Administrative Code 10A:31-3.24.

## OBJECTIVES

Work Release is a multi-purpose program: (1) it provides for full time normal employment or vocational training in the community; (2) it permits the developing or strengthening of good work habits and skills, thus lessening the job finding problem when discharged; (3) it affords inmates opportunities to continue or strengthen constructive ties with family, friends, and the free community; (4) it permits pre-release preparation and an opportunity to test readiness for release to the community; (5) it permits deduction from inmate earnings to help defray the cost of incarceration, to support dependents, and to reduce debts and pay court fines; (6) it enables the accumulation of savings to help meet financial needs or burdens after release from confinement; and, (7) it provides opportunity to meet family needs by inmates contained in the county correctional facilities.

## ROLE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

Chapter 372, Public Laws of 1968, as amended by Chapter 243, Public Laws of 1969, provides that the Department of Corrections shall prepare and enforce regulations for the operation of this Act in accordance with the provisions thereof. The Department of Corrections, therefore, makes staff available for maintaining general supervision over work release operations.

The following services are provided for county governments by the Bureau of County Services:

1. Consultation and technical assistance are provided to help resolve operational problems as they develop.
2. Recommendations are offered periodically in order to enhance program effectiveness.
3. Experiences of various counties with well operating programs are shared with those counties interested in improving operations.
4. Quarterly reports are collected and reviews are made on how many inmates are participating, where their earnings are allocated, and how operational procedures are being improved.
5. Periodic visits are conducted to review the program and insure compliance with the rules and regulations.

COUNTIES WITH WORK RELEASE AUTHORIZATION AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1986

<u>County</u>	<u>Date Adopted</u>	<u>Work Release Administrators</u>
Atlantic	5/10/70	Ralph S. Petti
Bergen	4/16/69	Sheriff Vehe Gary Garabedian
Burlington	5/28/69	Glenn Miller
Camden	3/20/73	Daniel Gleason
Cape May	8/22/72	Sheriff James Plousis
Cumberland	5/10/73	Captain Dennis Flukey
Essex	3/13/69	Thomas Thompson
Gloucester	8/21/70	Sheriff George G. Small
Hudson	7/27/72	Warden William E. Boyle
Hunterdon	8/15/72	Lieutenant Nancy Papenfuhs
Mercer	7/21/70	Robert Tartar
Middlesex	7/3/69	John H. Honywill
Monmouth	12/3/74	Sheriff William Lanzaro
Morris	8/13/69	Sheriff John M. Fox
Ocean	3/21/73	Warden Theodore J. Hutler, Jr.
Passaic	10/1/69	Sheriff Edwin J. Englehardt
Salem	10/15/69	Sheriff Norris B. Williams
Somerset	4/21/70	Warden John Gardner
Sussex	8/26/86	Warden Joseph Diemar
Union	7/27/72	Warren Maccarelli
Warren	10/7/70	Warden Robert Sharr

The above table indicates the counties wherein the Board of Chosen Freeholders adopted the enabling resolutions, the dates they were adopted, and the person designated as the County Work Release Administrator.

The County Work Release Program began in the State in the Calendar Year 1969 with seven counties, expanded to 12 counties in 1970, 16 counties in 1972, 19 counties in 1973, and 20 counties in 1974. In 1986, the remaining county in New Jersey, Sussex County, adopted the work release resolution. As a result, all 21 counties in the state have a viable work release program.

NUMBER OF INMATES ASSIGNED TO THE PROGRAM

1977	927	1982	1272
1978	1073	1983	1464
1979	1125	1984	1579
1980	1026	1985	1591
1981	1177	1986	1567

Participants engaged in work release were employed an average of 33 days during 1986 as against 32 days in 1985.

The following comparison is of those inmates who either successfully completed the program or who were removed from the program during calendar years 1985-86 for the reasons listed below.

	<u>1985</u>	<u>1986</u>
Number Removed from Program During Calendar Year	1570	1569
a. Completion of Sentence	1141	1167
b. Termination of Job	42	16
c. Employer Action	17	65
d. Infractions	205	144
e. Escape	12	13
f. Inmate Request	19	8
g. Other Reasons	134	156
Number Placed on Program During Calendar Year	1591	1567
Total Work Days for Calendar Year	51,415	58,112

DIMINUTION OF TERM

The Statutes governing County Work Release Programs provide that a work releasee may be granted a diminution of not more than 1/4 of his/her term if his/her conduct, diligence, and general attitude merit such a reduction. During the calendar year 1986 there was a reduction of sentence by 14,528 days as against 12,584 days during the calendar year of 1985. This reduction was based on one day for every four day period in work release status.

COMPARISON OF ANNUAL TOTAL EARNINGS AND DISBURSEMENTS

	<u>1985</u>	<u>1986</u>
Inmate Earnings	\$1,550,942.85	\$1,454,498.73
Earnings Available Upon Release	182,698.60	271,380.99
Contributions Toward Support and Board	707,738.40	514,411.88
Contributions Toward Room and Board	221,101.63	226,186.57
Inmate Payment Toward Financial Obligations	180,805.24	199,353.53
Cash Advanced to Inmates	19,863.73	21,242.63
Transportation and Other Daily Expenses	136,556.73	146,643.88
Court Costs and Fines	91,218.95	74,520.06

VOCATIONAL AND FAMILY CARE RELEASE

<u>Vocational Release</u>	<u>1985</u>	<u>1986</u>
Number of Inmates Participating	77	57
Number of Day	1545	1691
 <u>Family Care Release</u>		
Number of Inmates Participating	19	22
Number of Days	473	485

SATELLITE UNITS

Sheriffs, Freeholders, and other county officials, in several counties, continue to give attention to the establishment of minimum security facilities either apart from or adjoining the main jail, to house work releasees. Counties that have established such units are Atlantic, Bergen, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Essex, Gloucester, Hunterdon, Middlesex, Ocean, Passaic, and Somerset

Over the years, the establishment of separate facilities and/or separate housing for work releasees has proven successful. These units have assisted in alleviating many of the problems associated with housing Work Releasees with general population inmates, as well as assisting in the reduction of jail overcrowding in the main facilities.

### CLASSIFICATION

The Classification Process is an important element in the administration of the Work Release Program. In most counties, professional staff are utilized to provide diagnostic services which aid in the preparation of the work release application for the court. This practice provides the basic information needed to assist judges in making decisions regarding which inmates are to be placed on the work release program.

Once again, we would like to thank all county administrators and employees involved in the work release programs. Your continued efforts and professionalism has greatly enhanced the success of the program.

Respectfully submitted:

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