

## **New York City Department of Correction Discharge Planning Report Calendar Year 2024**

*Pursuant to NYC Administrative Code 9-129, the Department must produce an annual report regarding implementation of NYC Administrative Code sections 9-127 and 9-128, as well as recidivism among individuals who receive discharge planning services.*

### **Implementation of NYC Administrative Code 9-127**

The Department of Correction ("DOC" or "the Department") and the Department of Homeless Services (DHS) developed a data match process by which DOC sends its discharge files on a monthly basis to DHS and DHS then computes the percentage of shelter entrants with DOC stays in the six months preceding shelter entry. This data match is conducted monthly, and its results are used to inform various components of the discharge planning effort.

Additionally, DOC partners with the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice (MOCJ) and its contracted social service organizations to assist sentenced individuals with discharge planning and post-release services. These organizations meet with interested individuals to complete a discharge plan that identifies each person's housing, employment, and sobriety needs. Based on the information provided in these discharge plans, the social service organizations assist individuals in addressing their unique needs. This includes providing housing support, vocational training, job readiness workshops, job placement, and case management, among other services.

Throughout 2024, the Department has continued to coordinate services to ensure that sentenced individuals have an opportunity to meet with a social services organization to complete a transition plan, receive information about community-based services, and get connected with safe, stable housing. A dedicated DOC staff member coordinates with facility-based Programs staff and social service organizations to ensure that sentenced individuals with upcoming release dates receive vital discharge planning services. As a result, the Department has seen a significant increase in the number of successful transition plans and housing placements.

### **Implementation of NYC Administrative Code 9-128**

DOC continues to make applications for government benefits available across facilities through the use of benefit boards, Programs staff, and reentry provider partners. Available resources include applications and descriptions of benefits available at all levels of government, including for the Social Security Administration at the federal level, the New York State Office of Children and Family Services at the state level, and New York City 311 Jail Release Services at the local level.

DOC partners with the Center for Urban Community Services (CUCS), which assists sentenced individuals with the preparation of applications for government benefits. CUCS staff work with individuals to determine their eligibility and complete applications during incarceration, in the hopes of enabling activation or reactivation of benefits as soon as possible upon their release from custody. CUCS also assists individuals with Medicaid applications. Interested individuals can also request a copy of their birth certificate through a collaboration the Department has with the

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Bureau of Vital Statistics, a unit within the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH).

**Recidivism**

The primary goal of discharge planning services is to support successful community reintegration, and subsequently reduce recidivism. The Department works closely with MOCJ and contracted reentry providers to ensure that persons in custody have a continuity of care from their time in custody to their reintegration into the community.

The Department has recently established a tool to score persons in custody for potential to recidivate, as well as launched a new data management system that enables the Department to track all individuals receiving discharge planning services. In 2025, the Department hopes to be better positioned to evaluate the recidivism rate among this group of individuals.