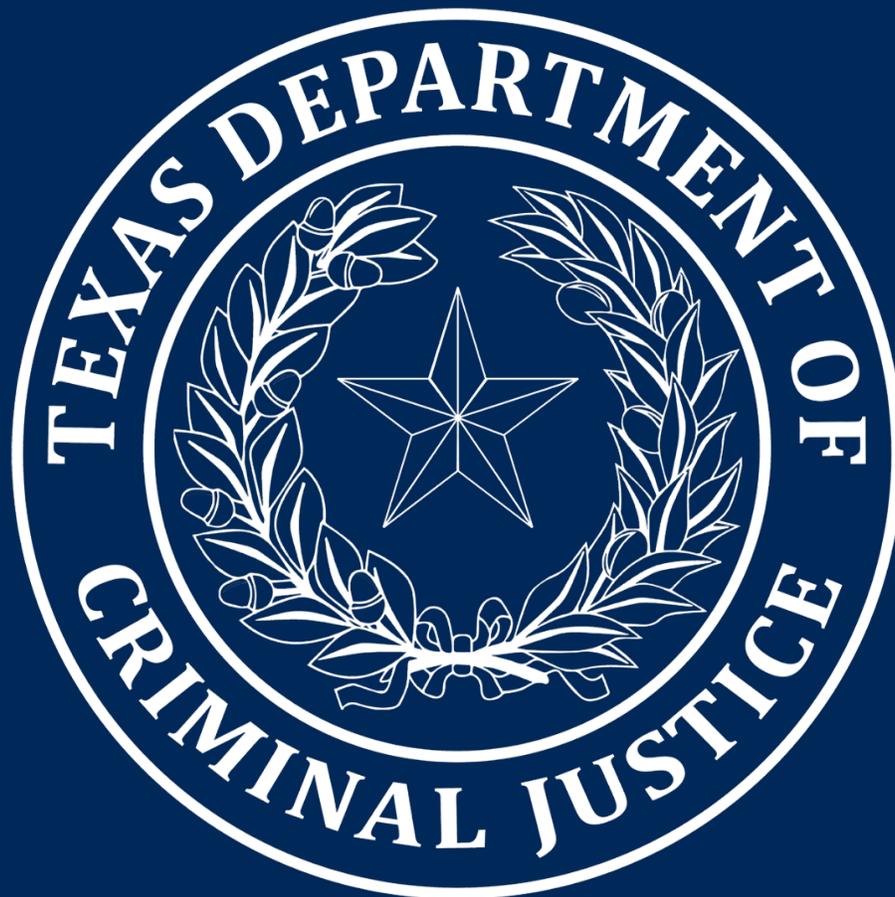


Texas Department of Criminal Justice



**Parole and Reentry Referral
Report Fiscal Year 2023**

December 2023

Texas Board of Criminal Justice

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Overview

Texas Government Code §501.103 and Article V, Rider 47 of the General Appropriations Act for Fiscal Years (FY) 2024-2025 as passed by the 88th Texas Legislature, Regular Session in 2023, requires the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) to submit an annual report detailing certain resource referrals for individuals released after discharging their sentence and for individuals under parole supervision.

The rider and statute require the report include information about referrals for employment, housing, medical care, treatment for substance use, mental illness, education, veteran services, and basic needs. Other types of information about available resources, areas where resources were not available, and outcomes of referrals are to be included in the report, along with data on reentry coordinator and parole officer training.

Executive Summary

Access to information, employment, and resources are key to an individual's successful reentry into society after releasing from incarceration. The TDCJ provides support services, program opportunities, education and work training, access to case management, resource referrals, and a path to a successful reentry. TDCJ staff are trained to provide pre- and post-release assistance to individuals released from incarceration.

After meeting with a reentry case manager while incarcerated, released inmates are provided with a resource referral packet, access to case management services, and individual reentry planning that includes resources and other information in the areas of substance use, medical, mental health, education, employment, housing, veteran services, COVID-19 testing, and basic needs. In FY 2023, TDCJ Reentry and Integration Division's (TDCJ-RID) reentry case managers provided 150,467 referrals to resources to assist in successful transitions.

Upon release to parole supervision, TDCJ Parole Division's (TDCJ-PD) parole officers made 147,210 referrals during FY 2023 to address compliance with conditions imposed by the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles (BPP) and to meet other identified needs pertaining to substance use, medical, education, employment, housing, veteran services, basic needs, and special needs.

Additional providers could help clients reintegrate in several areas across the state. By having access to local providers, clients would avoid traveling outside of their local area or residence county to receive services. TDCJ is continuously working to build

and enhance referral networking opportunities with community partners to maintain and augment resources for clients. Although many community services throughout the state have resumed operations, staffing challenges faced by many businesses across the country may still limit access to these services.

State-wide releasing was initiated during the COVID-19 pandemic to mitigate the spread of the virus. In FY 2023, the agency continued to release inmates directly from their assigned unit. However, in late FY 2023, in an effort to increase the services provided to inmates preparing to reenter society, the agency began planning to return to an expanded regional release site model. The new model is scheduled to launch in early FY 2024 and will be composed of 17 unit-release sites located in every TDCJ-CID region across the state. The TDCJ-RID will continue to be responsible for releasing and establishing reentry dorms at each site. These reentry dorms will focus on providing employment classes and securing post release employment opportunities prior to release. In FY 2023, a pilot reentry dorm was launched at the Dominguez State Jail and will serve as a model for future reentry dorms.



TDCJ Reentry System

The TDCJ's reentry efforts begin upon an inmate's arrival at any of the agency's correctional facilities. Reentry efforts are agency-wide, with TDCJ divisions working collaboratively to deliver programs and services aimed at assisting inmates upon release to the community.



Inmates receive extensive diagnostic assessments upon intake that include:

- obtaining personal and family history through inmate interviews;
- a full physical and mental health assessment;
- a database search conducted in cooperation with the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) to identify inmates who have been part of the public mental health system;
- a criminal history check;
- a Veteran Reentry Search Service (VRSS) check to verify veteran status;
- an educational assessment and verification conducted by the Windham School District (WSD) to identify inmates who must receive services through the special education program based on the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act*; and
- an individual screening and assessment via the Texas Risk Assessment System (TRAS) to identify criminogenic risk levels and reintegration barriers. This information can be used for programmatic placement throughout the remainder of the incarceration period.

Information gained through various evaluations and assessments is used to develop an Individualized Treatment Plan (ITP) for each inmate. The ITP indicates the inmate's level of need and serves as a guide for placement and enrollment in programs and treatment.

Programs available to inmates during their incarceration are aimed at preparing an inmate for a successful life upon release. The types of programs include academic, career and technical education, post-secondary education, life skills, cognitive intervention, substance use treatment, sex offender treatment, and faith-based programming. Additionally, thousands of volunteers supplement the programming provided by the TDCJ, WSD, and contract staff.

As an inmate nears release, the TDCJ-RID and TDCJ-PD work together to ensure the inmate is prepared for release.

Reentry and Parole

In preparation for an individual's release, TDCJ release and reentry efforts are driven by the TDCJ-RID and the TDCJ-PD. There are specialized program opportunities for some inmates who have unique needs that need to be addressed prior to release.



TDCJ Reentry and Integration Division

The actions of the TDCJ-RID are guided by legislative mandates, proven best practices, and a set of core values designed to establish a comprehensive reentry and integration plan for those involved in the adult criminal justice system.

During FY 2023, the TDCJ-RID deployed 142 case managers to provide special needs, case planning, and releasing services prior to release and 51 case manager positions to provide post-release services to clients across the state. Over 38,000 individuals received pre- and post-release services from the TDCJ-RID in FY 2023.

The needs of those discharging upon completion of sentence from both prisons and state jails are addressed through referrals to state-funded programs, non-profit organizations, and other alternatively subsidized programming to provide continuity of care services to these clients by connecting them with community-based intervention and support services. At the time of their release, all inmates are provided with a resource pamphlet which lists organizations that assist with health care, social services, substance use, veteran specific needs, employment, and support systems.

To reduce recidivism, the TDCJ-RID provides a three-phased Reentry Program for adults releasing from a TDCJ prison or state jail. The Reentry Program works in conjunction with the Texas Correctional Office on Offenders with Medical or Mental Impairments (TCOOMMI), which coordinates the mental health and medical needs of individuals releasing to the community, as well as for those under supervision, through established partnerships and targeted state resources.

The three-phased Reentry Program designed to assist inmates in preparation for successful return to the community consists of the following:

Phase I – Identification Processing Services: During Phase I of the Reentry Program, a reentry case manager assists eligible inmates in ordering identification documents. If applicable, a replacement Social Security card, certified birth certificate, and military service record (DD-214) are ordered.

- For prison-sentenced inmates, documents are ordered at the time of initial parole eligibility or within six months of discharging their sentence.
- For state jail and Substance Abuse Felony Program (SAFP) inmates, documents are ordered upon arrival to the TDCJ.

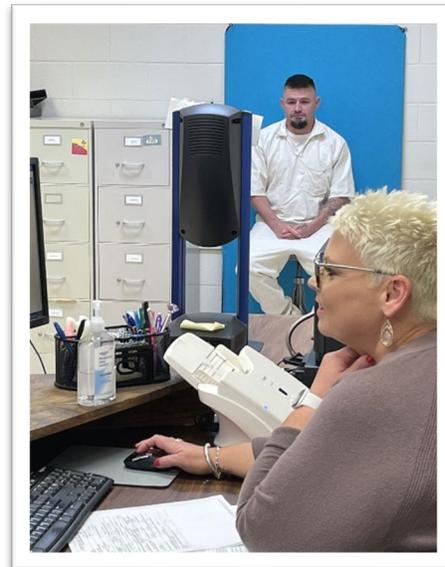
Once the Social Security card and certified birth certificate have been received, these documents are used as supporting documentation to request a Department of Public Safety Identification Card (DPS ID) or replacement Driver License. TDCJ-RID case managers process and submit the DPS application.

- For prison-sentenced inmates, a DPS ID or replacement Driver License is ordered at the time of parole approval, or within six months of discharging their sentence.
- For state jail and SAJP inmates, a DPS ID or replacement Driver License is ordered immediately upon receipt of the Social Security card and birth certificate.

Identification documents are received, processed, and verified by the TDCJ-RID's Verification and Identification Processing Unit. All identification documents obtained for an inmate are provided to the inmate at the time of release from the TDCJ. In FY 2023, the TDCJ-RID ordered:

- 31,125 certified birth certificates
- 32,191 replacement Social Security cards; and
- 22,809 DPS applications were submitted.

Phase I services for identification documents are essential for all releasing inmates as this is the primary starting point for the inmate to be able to obtain housing and employment, as well as other services upon return to the community.



DPS and TDCJ continued to make enhancements to the ID card ordering process. These enhanced processes allow for a DPS ID or replacement Driver License to be ordered through an affidavit process created by the TDCJ-RID and DPS for individuals who have not received a Social Security card but have a verified Social Security number on file with the TDCJ. This process also included the ability to display the individual's home address, to which they are returning to, to appear on the DPS ID or replacement Driver License. In FY 2023, additional coordination with DPS, allowed TDCJ to order replacement Texas Driver Licenses to eligible inmates. This process automatically replaces a Driver License, if the individual has an active current Driver License in the DPS system versus surrendering the Driver License in the process of issuing a DPS ID. The next phase of this plan will include the opportunity to order renewal Driver Licenses and eventually renewal Commercial Driver Licenses.

Phase II – Assessment and Reentry Planning: At time of parole approval, a unit-based reentry case manager conducts a Reentry Tool or Supplemental Reentry Tool assessment using the TRAS to determine risk level as it relates to criminogenic risk of re-offending. Through the assessment process, reentry barriers are identified, and areas of needed support are used to build and develop resources for release. Those inmates who score moderate or high risk on the assessment are enrolled in individualized case planning to address needs, goals, and action steps, and are given access to resources targeted toward equipping the inmate for successful return to



the community. The reentry case plan is developed as a cooperative effort between the case manager and the inmate. A copy of the case plan is provided to the inmate at the time of release and the case plan is available to the supervising parole officer and community case manager post-release.

During Phase II, inmates who are set to release are offered mock interviews and resume building programs. The TDCJ-RID, TDCJ-Rehabilitation Programs Division (TDCJ-RPD), TDCJ Manufacturing, Agribusiness and Logistics Division (TDCJ-MAL), TDCJ Facilities Division, and the WSD work together to ensure these skill-building exercises are completed prior to release.

At the time of release, TDCJ-RID case managers provide the releasing inmate with their identification and educational documents, job training and work records, and copies of their resume. The records are maintained in the individual's electronic file and copies of the resume can be provided post-release upon request. In FY 2023, TDCJ-RID staff assisted with the following:

- 29,910 eligible individuals received certified birth certificates
- 33,556 eligible individuals received their Social Security card; and
- 15,486 eligible individuals received a DPS ID.

Inmates receive a personalized information packet tailored to the area and county in which they are to live, along with their developed reentry case plan. The packet includes maps to the locations of the referrals identified in the case plan, including non-profit reentry groups, housing, employment, substance use support services, health care, and other reentry need based supports. In FY 2023:

- 22,194 personalized information packets were completed for parole and mandatory supervision releasing inmates; and
- 12,518 for inmates who were released from a SAFP program, state jail, or flat discharge.



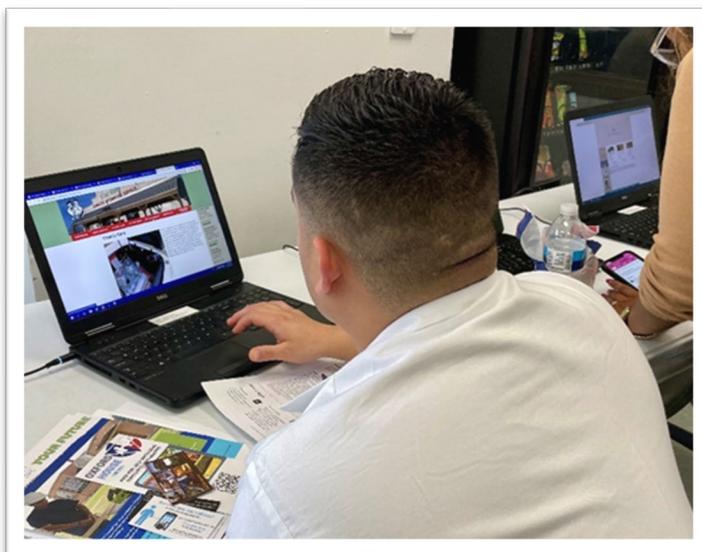


Reentry services are available to individuals previously associated with the TDCJ. The Reentry Hotline at (877) 887-6151 is a toll-free number available to individuals who need support after their release. In FY 2023, 11,164 calls were received by the Reentry Hotline and assistance was given.

Phase III – Community Reentry Services: The third phase of the Reentry Program is available to individuals post-release who were enrolled in Phase II pre-release or those who are self-referred or referred by a parole officer.

Individuals receive reentry case management services to assist with employment, food, clothing, education, finance and budgeting, nutrition and health, life skills, parenting and relationships, medical and mental health, transportation support, and cognitive skills.

TDCJ-RID case managers organize job fairs and hiring events across the state which provide job leads and expose the individual to additional training and employment resources available through local services in the area.



TDCJ is planning for the future with a plan encompassing six pillars of impact. One major part of this plan is focused on reentry, with a goal to have 95% of work eligible inmates employed prior to release, to include employment in skilled industry positions. To achieve this goal, reentry will leverage the inmate tablet system to push job openings to inmates based on training and skill sets, incorporate a resume writer program, and allow inmates to apply for jobs, track application status, and follow up with employers. In addition, the TDCJ-RID implemented a divisional restructure to address retention for service direct level staff and target pre-release employment efforts.

At any time, formerly incarcerated individuals can reach out to the TDCJ-RID via the toll-free reentry hotline number for additional assistance and referrals. This hotline is answered by dedicated reentry staff trained to address the variety of needs that may arise post-release.



TDCJ Parole Division

The TDCJ Parole Division (TDCJ-PD) supervises clients released from the custody of the TDCJ Correctional Institutions Division (TDCJ-CID) to serve the remainder of their sentence in the community. The TDCJ-PD works collaboratively with community partnerships, volunteers, clients, and their families to provide a positive vehicle for the reintegration process.

In FY 2023, over 32,500 inmates were released to parole supervision. During this same time, approximately 1,189 parole officers supervised an average of 76,392 active parole clients.

The TDCJ-PD's mission is to facilitate successful client reintegration by identifying factors that may contribute to recidivism and providing clients with services to mitigate those factors. Parole supervision services include employment assistance, housing, education, anger management, cognitive intervention, and substance use treatment. Since the start of COVID-19, the delivery of some of these services has been enhanced to include virtual platforms which have proven to be beneficial for clients even after COVID-19.

The TDCJ-PD collaborates with the BPP to ensure clients have the necessary special conditions in place prior to release from incarceration to help them reintegrate successfully into society. The TDCJ-PD places clients in aftercare programs and residential reentry centers when no other viable home plans are available. During client supervision, the TDCJ-PD provides appropriate referrals to resources to ensure client compliance with imposed special conditions and to address any identified needs that arise.

The TDCJ-PD, TDCJ-RPD, and the WSD are responsible for ensuring inmates have completed required BPP-voted programming prior to release from prison. In addition to program completion, these divisions coordinate with the TDCJ-RID throughout the releasing process to ensure appropriate placement for any special needs inmates are coordinated prior to release to ensure continuity of care is maintained.

Coordination between various divisions in the agency, such as TDCJ-RID, TDCJ-MAL, and TDCJ-PD, as well as the WSD, have resulted in an improved exchange of information and increased strategies for employment and vocational certification opportunities for clients. To further the goal of ensuring a successful transition into the community, representatives from each division and WSD participate in on-going meetings which focus on current and proposed employment initiatives.



Specialized Reentry and Parole Programs and Services

Some inmates have unique and specialized needs. As a result, the TDCJ-RID and TDCJ-PD have developed programs to promote reentry efforts and services aimed at assisting inmates upon release to the community and reducing recidivism. A few examples of specialized programs include:

The Strength Through Restoration, Independence, Vision, and Empowerment (STRIVE) Reentry Center launched its inaugural cohort in August 2019 and is a comprehensive, collaborative initiative that involves several TDCJ divisions, namely the RID, RPD, PD, CID, MAL, and the WSD.

Spanning 12 weeks, the program integrates a trauma-informed care methodology to address a range of issues. These encompass domestic violence, sexual assault, traumas from both childhood and adulthood, gender socialization, parenting, and substance use. Through the knowledge and skill-building activities offered, participants can embark on a journey of self-discovery, enlightenment, and empowerment. The diverse STRIVE curriculum is centered on themes related to trauma and abuse.

The WSD offers educational programming that encompasses goal setting, wellness, financial literacy, employment skills, and the chance to obtain recognized certifications such as Southwest Airlines Professional Communications, ServSafe, OSHA-10, and Fork-lift training.

Within STRIVE, reentry services comprise employment expositions, online job search tools, telephonic or online interview techniques, and sessions with employer representatives. Peer-led education, facilitated by peer support specialists, is a crucial component of STRIVE, focusing on substance use recovery, wellness, and fitness. Prior to becoming mentors, these peer support specialists not only complete specific training but also graduate from the STRIVE program themselves. Stationed within the dormitories, they are readily available to advocate for and assist STRIVE participants.

Dedicated correctional officers, specifically chosen for their alignment with the program's values, provide security for STRIVE. These officers voluntarily commit to the program. Since its commencement in August 2019, STRIVE has successfully graduated 568 participants, with 161 participants completing the program successfully in 2023 alone.

Each participant, drawing from both previous and TDCJ work experiences, crafts a resume. This resume is utilized during career expositions where participants, dressed in professional attire, interact with potential employers aligned with STRIVE. These

interviews, held both in-person and virtually, often result in job offers before participants are released. Due to generous donations from staff, volunteers, and the community, participants receive clothing and accessories suitable for work and casual settings. Approximately 21,584 clothing and accessory items have been distributed to participants graduating from the STRIVE program. The STRIVE Reentry Center is the only program in the TDCJ that has their very own boutique onsite.

Before their release, those on parole undergo a mandatory Parole New Arrival orientation and Substance Abuse Counseling Program I Class. This ensures they do not miss a workday for this essential training later. The TCOOMMI conducts pre-release assessments and arranges post-release services for inmates with special needs, ensuring a smooth transition by connecting them with community resources.

STRIVE has partnerships with sober living establishments, offering transitional housing options. If participants need support with child custody or related matters, referrals are made to the Texas Office of Attorney General and the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, providing a holistic reintegration approach.



Veterans: The TDCJ-RID has a dedicated Veterans Coordinator assigned to coordinate pre- and post-release services for veterans who are incarcerated with the TDCJ. During intake at a TDCJ facility, an individual's veteran status is identified and verified using the VRSS administered by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. As of August 2023, 7,013 veterans were incarcerated in the TDCJ and 6,680 were identified as under parole supervision.

The agency has initiatives such as unit programming and housing dedicated to veterans, assistance with veterans benefit applications, access to education benefits,

and continuity of care coordination with veteran peer groups for post-release assistance. The TDCJ recognizes the need to address the specific needs of this special population as research has revealed that veterans involved in the criminal justice system have an increased likelihood of a history of alcohol dependence, frequently live with a mental illness, suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder, have difficulty finding employment, and are at risk for post-confinement suicide.

Since the opening of the Success Through Restoration, Independence, Perseverance, Excellence and Service (STRIPES) Veterans Dorm at the Coffield Unit in July 2021, there have been 37 graduates. Most recently, the STRIPES program was expanded into the Travis County State Jail to include prison inmates. The STRIPES Veterans Dorm is a collaboration with multiple TDCJ divisions and provides support programming incorporating Moral Recognition Therapy curriculum, coordination for a Texas Veteran Commission peer specialist program specifically designed for those incarcerated, and other veteran specific programming. This program is designed to equip veterans with the necessary tools to enhance their well-being and ultimately their reintegration into society.



As of January 2023, the STRIPES female Veterans Dorm, located at the Mountain View Unit, was renamed to the STARS (Service Through Actions Reveals Strength) female Veterans Dorm to set them apart from their male counterpart dorms and give them recognition for the important work they are doing on their own journey to healing. The dorm houses 34 veterans and is the only female veteran dorm program within TDCJ. STARS was created to assist veteran-specific needs through gender-specific programming to pave a path towards a healthy future.

Additionally, in FY 2023, the TDCJ-RID in coordination with TDCJ-CID continued implementing Veteran Peer Housing Dorms on multiple units. There are currently 11 units with living areas dedicated solely to veterans. This concept of barrack living behind bars creates an environment where veterans can support one another peer to peer on common issues related to military trauma.

Medical or Mental Impairments: The TDCJ-RID includes the TCOOMMI which developed and facilitates continuity of care at transition for special needs inmates, through different specialized programs based on individual need.



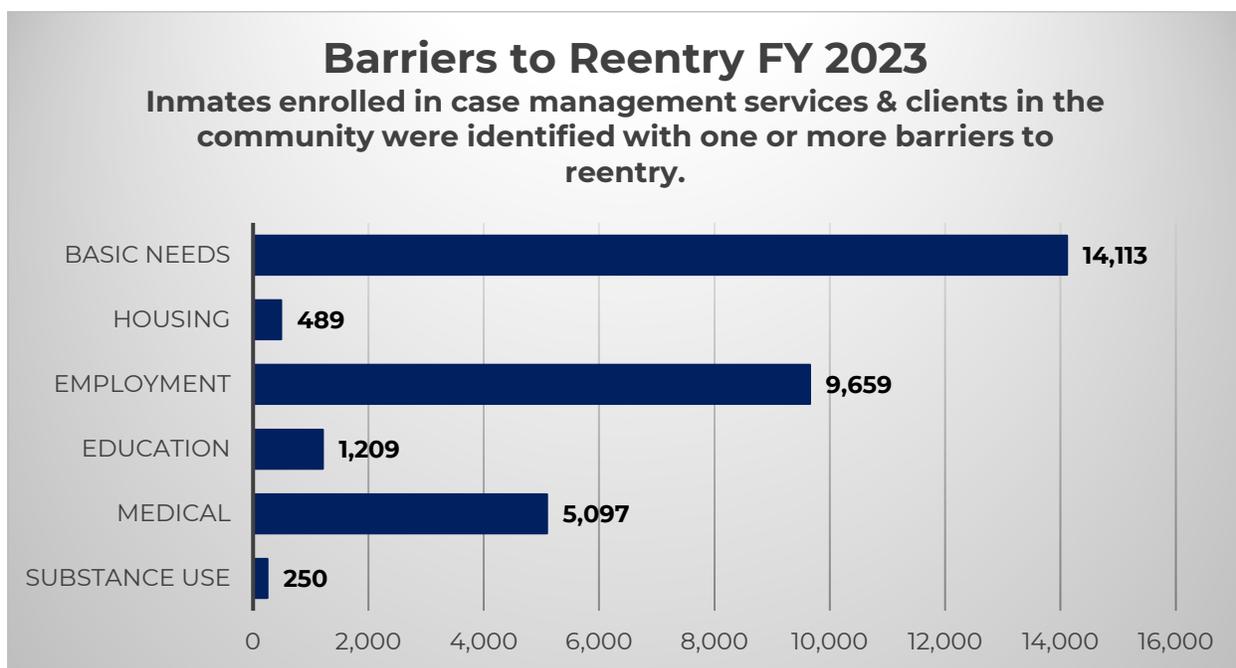
Continuity of care is the process of identifying service needs of a special needs inmate, developing a plan to meet needs, and coordinating services between various agencies who provide treatment, care, or services. During FY 2023, TCOOMMI served 22,571 individuals within continuity of care medical programs and 39,804 in mental health continuity of care programs.

TCOOMMI works collaboratively with agency university medical and mental health providers and reentry staff to improve identification processes and through joint efforts improve potentials for healthcare coverage to be achieved through federal benefit application processes or connections with community partners and referrals to the Healthcare marketplace.

Reentry Barriers and Referrals

To ensure an inmate has the greatest possible chance for a successful transition and reintegration to the community, TDCJ staff work to identify individual needs of each person and coordinate with a contracted vendor or another state agency for services specific to that need.

These resources may be state paid or subsidized, private pay or private insurance, or provided by peer support networks at no charge. The COVID-19 pandemic altered the availability of some services while other services have moved to alternate methods of delivery.



Basic Needs

Basic needs encompass identification documents such as social security cards and DPS ID, clothing, food, social, and support services. Clients lacking resources to meet the basic needs for clothing and food can be assisted through referrals to local charities, food banks, churches, and non-profit organizations. Support services can range from budget management and assistance with utilities to parenting and life skills programs. A client may have several referrals within this category.

Employment



For those clients who are unemployed or under employed, a referral is made by the parole officer to TDCJ-RID community case managers, the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) when appropriate, and to job fairs and hiring events coordinated by TDCJ-RID staff. TDCJ-RID and TDCJ-PD staff collaborate to provide weekly classes for these clients at the local parole office to identify and address the barriers causing the continued unemployment.

TDCJ-RID community case managers work directly with individual employers to increase the number of employers actively hiring clients. The TDCJ-RID coordinates with employers interested in hiring clients and helps make the connection between the client and employer.

TDCJ-RID and TDCJ-PD staff focus on employment as a significant element of a successful transition to the community. Employment assistance is provided both pre- and post-release. To capitalize on education, as well as job and skills training received while in custody, the TDCJ offers hiring events, job fairs, career expositions, employment preparation classes, and soft skills training (non-technical skills, such as skills related to communication, listening, time management, and empathy) on a consistent basis to enhance the client's employability, often working in conjunction with the TWC. By securing employment, the risk of losing a residence is reduced, thereby providing a more stable environment for the client to complete their term of supervision and reintegrate into the community. In FY 2023, TDCJ-RID staff hosted 42 employment events with over 1,711 individuals attending.

Collaboration between the TDCJ's RID, MAL, and the WSD connects a pre-release inmate's job training and skills information with employers to increase opportunities for sustainable employment. Barriers for employment are caused by many variables, including geographical locations and a client's job skills. There are barriers related to licensing restrictions as well as overall job markets in the client's surrounding area.

For those inmates with specific vocational skills, the inmate's information is uploaded to the TDCJ [*Website for Work*](#) web portal for potential employers to review and, if interested, offer employment. As of the end of FY 2023, there were 1,100 employers active and hiring via *Website for Work*.



Medical

The TCOOMMI office works in conjunction with local resources to provide referrals to medical care for clients without medical coverage due to ineligibility for disability benefits on a federal or state level, or with limited access to care due to financial constraints. Through case management efforts between TDCJ-RID and TDCJ-PD staff referrals to programs for assistance in transportation, access to chronic care community programs and education about the importance of health and coverage are made. During FY 2023, a pilot to facilitate pre-release connection to community resources for Healthcare Marketplace enrollment was established with a post-release enrollment rate of 53%.

Substance Use

Inmates who are known substance users are referred to various programs. The In-Prison Therapeutic Community and SAFP programs are six to nine-month programs in the prison setting, with an aftercare component that lasts approximately 12-15 months after release to parole supervision, ensuring a seamless continuum of care. The exact length of the program is based on the inmate's progress and needs.

Other programs addressing chemical dependency during incarceration include the Pre-Release Substance Use Program, Driving While Intoxicated Recovery Program, In-Prison Substance Use Treatment Program, and State Jail Substance Abuse Program.



The Therapeutic Community Substance Abuse Aftercare Treatment Program administers a range of therapeutic outpatient and resource programs to clients released to supervision who completed certain programs while in prison. It oversees and coordinates these interrelated programs for the substance use treatment of clients and makes use of case management and drug and alcohol testing to assist in supervising clients.

The Substance Abuse Counseling Program is an education, intervention, and treatment program serving clients on parole supervision. The program is designed to reduce the recidivism rate of clients who use alcohol or drugs while on parole supervision, have a history of drug or alcohol use, or who request assistance with drug and alcohol related issues during their parole supervision. TDCJ-PD counselors licensed by the DSHS provide these relapse services. Outpatient and inpatient treatment services are provided by contracted treatment vendors for those eligible clients who submit positive urinalysis specimens. Peer support programs such as Narcotics or Alcoholics Anonymous or Winner's Circle (a non-secular support program) are available for clients during and post treatment.

Because the TDCJ-PD has dedicated funding for substance use treatment services for individuals on supervision, the discharging population is more likely to encounter barriers to services; however, lack of transportation and waiting lists for services may still pose potential issues for supervised clients.

Education

Inmates released to supervision with less than a sixth-grade education or without a verified High School Equivalency Certificate or high school diploma, as well as those clients who do not possess adequate vocational skills, are referred to TDCJ-RID case managers, the TWC, and the Texas Educational Agency (TEA) when appropriate. The barrier to obtaining education typically exists when testing centers are geographically limited in rural areas or testing hours are not varied.

Housing

For those inmates who need housing, a referral is made to arrange for a bed in a contracted residential reentry center.

Inmates are not released to supervision without an approved residence. There are eight privately operated residential reentry centers for inmates without an approved residence. Individuals under parole supervision are placed in a residential reentry center either upon release or upon referral from field parole staff in the event they no longer have an approved residence.



Other housing options include TDCJ-approved community residential resources where two or more unrelated clients reside, and the facility is owned by an individual, a private entity, non-profit, or faith-based organization with which the TDCJ has no contracted agreement. Community residential resources must complete an application process to be approved to accept clients on parole supervision. These residential resources receive no compensation from the TDCJ, and any fees must be paid by the clients.

A Temporary Housing Assistance Program (THAP) facility is also a community residential resource where two or more unrelated clients reside, owned by an individual, a private entity, non-profit, or faith-based organization with which the TDCJ has no contracted agreement. THAP facilities do receive compensation from the TDCJ in an amount not to exceed the established cost to house a client incarcerated in a correctional institution or housed in a residential reentry center. These facilities must complete an application process to be approved to accept clients under parole supervision. Consistent with Texas Government Code § 508.157, THAP sites cannot be in a county that has a state contracted residential reentry center.

While housing options are available for the paroling population, housing barriers for formerly incarcerated individuals might include limitations of public housing assistance programs or entitlements for clients with felony convictions, lack of housing in the county of conviction, or a restriction that prohibits clients from returning to the county of conviction. The agency's contract residential services are not available to inmates who release from prison after having served their entire sentence and therefore are not under parole supervision. Initiatives by TDCJ-RID to identify housing barriers prior to release have contributed to more stable housing options for these clients by connecting them with community services, establishing family connections, and assisting in obtaining sustainable employment.

Mental Health

TCOOMMI coordinates access to care and referrals to all Local Mental Health Authorities across the state. Specific TCOOMMI funds are utilized to provide services for eligible individuals with severe and persistent mental health disorders. For individuals who may not meet the traditional qualifiers for services within the public mental health system, community resource information for general medical and other public assistance options are provided.

Veteran Services

Inmates and clients verified through the VRSS as veterans of the United States Armed Forces are eligible for referral services at both the state and federal levels



through the Texas Veterans Commission (TVC) and the Veterans Administration (VA) - Health Care for Re-Entry Veterans (HCRV) program, and peer network support services on a local level, such as the local county Veteran Services Officer. These resources provided to veterans include housing, medical, and mental health assistance, in addition to other individual needs. Through a cooperative agreement with the TVC, TDCJ-RID reentry case managers assist veterans with filing disability claims, health enrollment, apportionment application, and compensation and pension reinstatement forms. In addition, the TDCJ Veteran Services Coordinator, in coordination with the TVC, provides training to parole officers and reentry case managers.

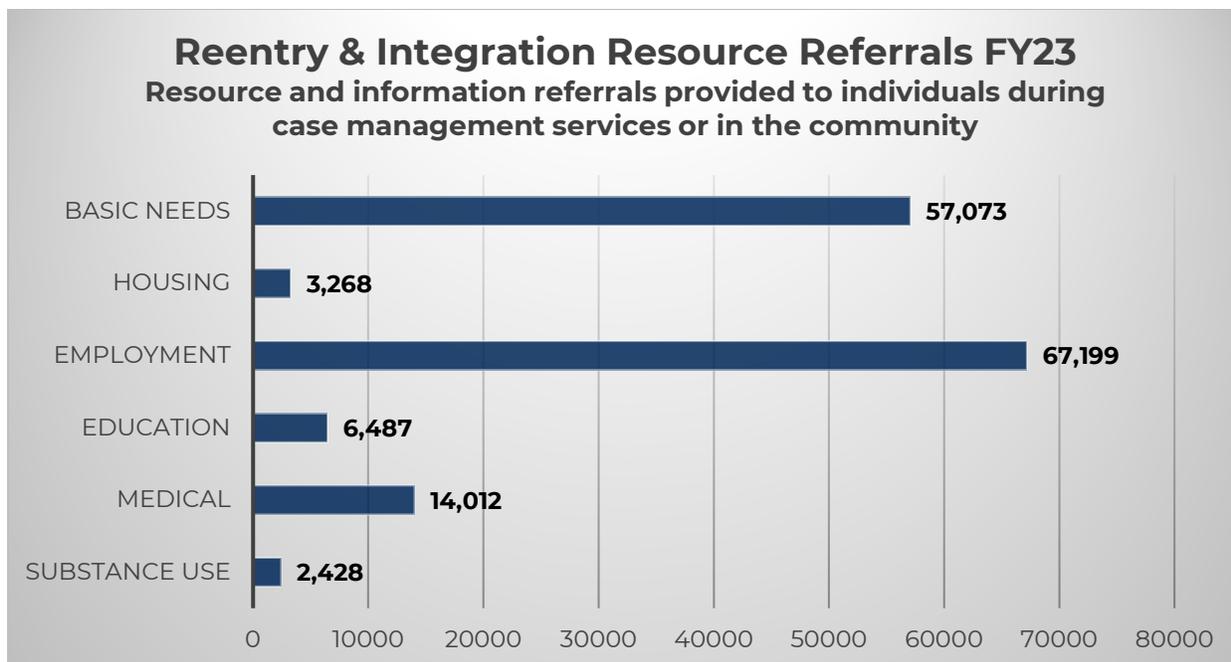
Referrals and Outcomes

Agency staff works with individuals releasing from prison to identify all needs, parole requirements, or any barriers to reentry and assists the individual by referring them to a resource.

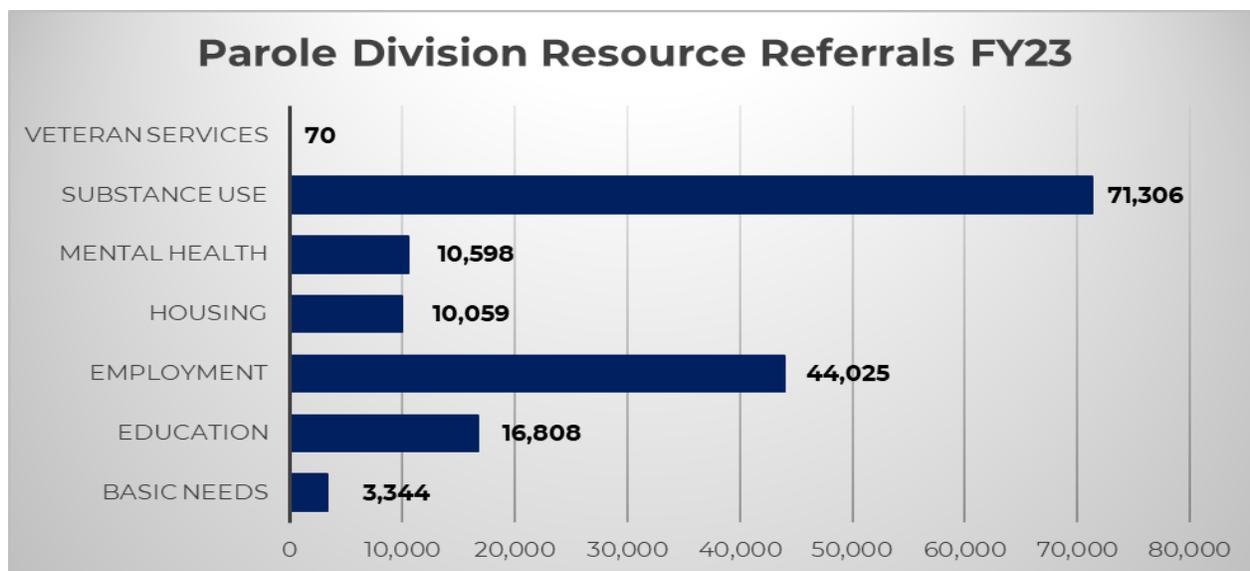
Over 300,000 referrals were made in FY 2023. Referral resources include:

- TDCJ resources such as residential reentry centers;
- State agencies such as the TVC, TEA, or the TWC;
- Local mental health authorities for psychiatric issues, including intensive case management, transitional case management, or continuity of care services through a TCOOMMI contracted vendor;
- Residential and outpatient substance use treatment or psychiatric services; and
- Community resources such as churches or food pantries, and support services such as Alcoholics Anonymous, Winner's Circle, or the VA - HCRV program.

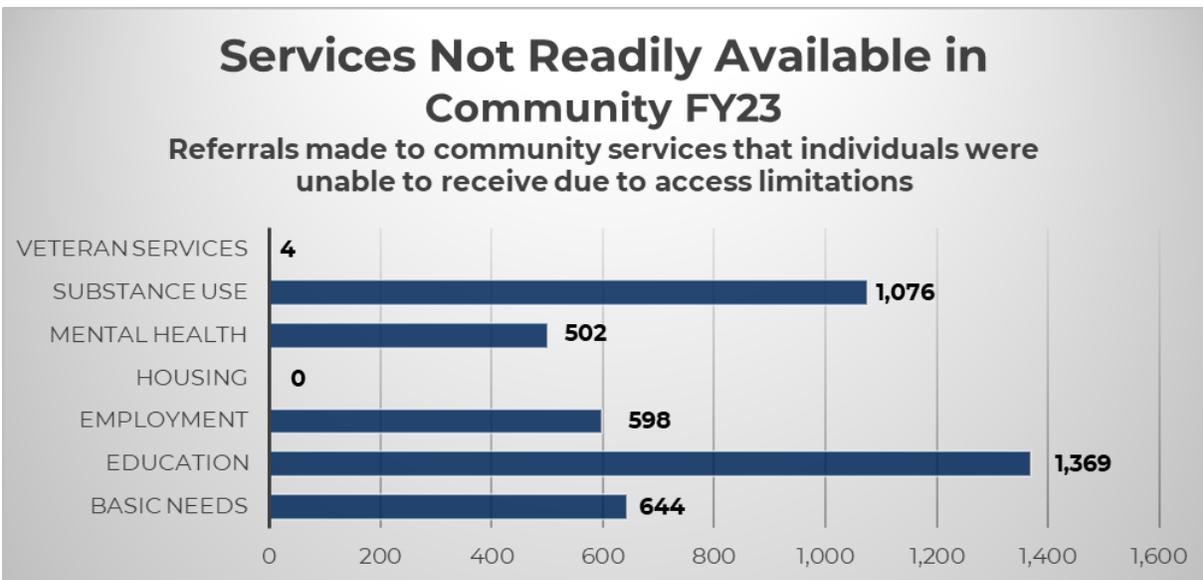
A total of 150,467 resource referrals were made by the TDCJ-RID, including multiple resources in each area given to inmates enrolled in case management services and released in FY 2023.



Of the 156,210 referrals made by the TDCJ-PD in FY 2023 to clients on parole supervision, only 4,193 referrals were made for services not readily available or that involved waiting lists.



The following chart provides a breakdown of services not readily available due to access limitations for referrals that were given to individuals on parole supervision. Housing had no areas where services were not available that involved a waiting list.



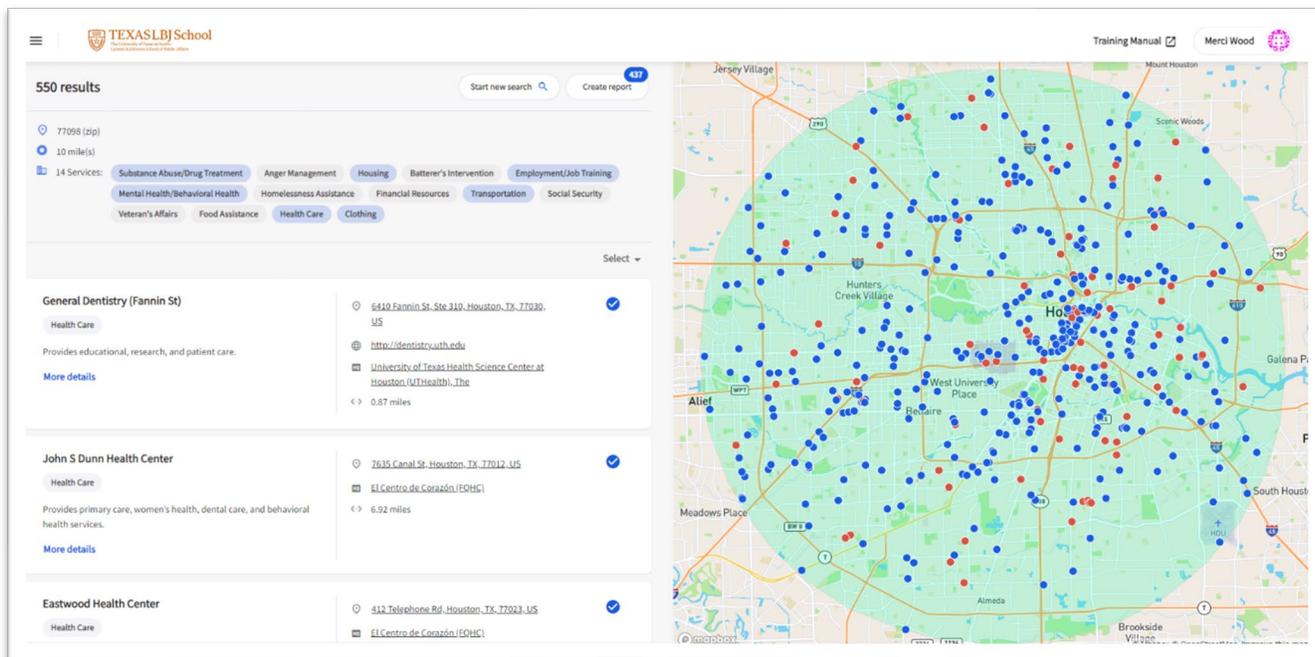
Outcomes of referrals are measured based upon availability of services. If a referral was made and the service was not available or a waiting list existed, the outcome of the referral was considered unsuccessful. The agency works to ensure the resource directory for referrals is up-to-date and accurate to avoid delays in service delivery. Appendix A lists availability of referrals in the 254 counties across the state.

The TDCJ has partnered with Texas Connector, an online, interactive resource guide which gives case managers and parole officers the ability to access numerous non-profits and agencies in the client’s area to further assist with the client’s reentry needs.

Texas Connector allows the TDCJ to produce general or specific reports containing information for referrals. General reports may list several program or service options, including substance use, education, batterer’s intervention, anger management, housing, employment, or mental health. A specific report may be narrowed to any program or service needed for an individual client.

Texas Connector provides the ability to search for resources statewide by a specific address or region by city, county, or ZIP code parameters. Staff may produce a report containing the requested search information for a radius ranging from one to 100 miles.

Resources identified as no longer available are removed from the directory. In areas lacking resources, individuals are referred to the nearest available resource.



Along with Texas Connector, the TDCJ-RID maintains a resource directory that is shared with the TDCJ-RPD and the WSD for use in determining pre-release referrals during case planning. This directory is published on the TDCJ website for community partners, inmate families, and other agency staff.

The TDCJ-PD utilizes an electronic case management system that contains a resource directory for parole officers to track client information. Parole officers address referrals and monitor effectiveness monthly and provide additional referrals or modifications as needed.

In addition to identifying the outcome of referrals, parole officers and case managers have identified those counties where additional resources or providers would be beneficial to meet clients' reentry needs (Appendix A).

Training and Curriculum Development

Training is an agency priority with the goal of providing staff the tools necessary to perform their job functions efficiently and effectively and apply proven practices to aid in case management and supervision of clients.

Reentry and Integration Division Training

In FY 2023, training for TDCJ-RID staff included TRAS End User Certification Training, Basic Training for New Case Managers, and Basic Training for New Community Case Managers.



TRAS End User Certification Training is a 16-hour class that develops the knowledge and skills necessary for completing an inmate's TRAS assessment. All newly hired reentry case managers are required to attend TRAS End User Certification training and pass the certification test.

Basic Training for New Case Managers is a 22-hour class which consists of an overview of the TDCJ-RID, reentry planning, identification documents, and release processing. The training includes work in a computer lab. Case managers are required to complete 56 hours of structured observation of an experienced case manager performing duties on a TDCJ facility prior to attending Basic Training for New Case Managers.

Basic Training for New Community Case Managers is a 36-hour class combining a 16-hour TRAS End User Training with topics specific to the community case manager. The course concentrates on the tasks that are community case manager specific, such as job fairs, oral communication, and community reentry case manager duties. In Basic Training for New Community Case Managers, community case managers are required to complete 32 hours of structured observation of an experienced community case manager performing duties prior to attending the formal case manager training, and eight hours observing a case manager on a unit. Structured observation, together with formal classroom training, has been determined to be critical to a case manager's success.

Parole Division Training

In FY 2023, training for Parole Division staff consisted of:

- Parole Officer Training Academy – training for newly hired parole officers (240 hours)
- In-Service Training – annual training consisting of various pertinent topics identified by management (22 hours)
- Unit Supervisors Course – overview of supervisory duties (36 hours)
- Parole Supervisors Course – overview of functions of an office manager (36 hours)
- Firearms – firearm preparedness course for staff who choose to carry a weapon (40 hours); and
- Specialized Officer Supervision Schools (SOSS).

SOSS courses returned to in-person as of July 2023 and consist of a week-long training that is conducted for officers prior to assignment to a specialized caseload. SOSS courses were conducted for Special Needs (32 hours), Sex Offender (36 hours), Therapeutic Community (32 hours), District Reentry Center (32 hours), and Super-Intensive Supervision Program/Electronic Monitoring Officers (40 hours).



Appendix A

The agency strives to ensure client needs are met. The following is a list of counties where staff have identified client needs that could be better assisted with additional services or providers.

A mark in the table below indicates the county has limited or no resources, or resources may not be available in some areas of the county. The difficulties to acquire or maintain services may have been increased due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Referral Needs by County

COUNTY	HOUSING	BASIC NEEDS	EDUCATION	EMPLOYMENT	VETERAN SERVICES	MEDICAL	MENTAL HEALTH	SUBSTANCE USE
Anderson	X	X	X	X			X	X
Andrews	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
Angelina	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Aransas		X	X	X		X	X	X
Archer								
Armstrong								
Atascosa	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Austin								
Bailey	X			X		X		
Bandera	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Bastrop		X		X		X	X	
Baylor		X	X	X		X		X
Bee		X	X	X		X	X	X
Bell	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Bexar	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Blanco		X				X	X	
Borden								
Bosque	X	X		X		X	X	
Bowie		X	X		X			X
Brazoria	X		X		X			X
Brazos		X						
Brewster								
Briscoe	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
Brooks	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Brown	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
Burleson	X	X	X					X



COUNTY	HOUSING	BASIC NEEDS	EDUCATION	EMPLOYMENT	VETERAN SERVICES	MEDICAL	MENTAL HEALTH	SUBSTANCE USE
Burnet	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Caldwell		X				X	X	
Calhoun		X	X	X		X		X
Callahan	X	X			X		X	
Cameron								
Camp	X	X	X		X			X
Carson								
Cass	X	X	X	X	X			X
Castro								
Chambers	X		X	X		X		X
Cherokee	X	X	X	X			X	X
Childress	X					X	X	
Clay			X	X				
Cochran	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Coke	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
Coleman						X	X	
Collin			X					
Collingsworth								X
Colorado								
Comal		X	X	X		X	X	X
Comanche	X	X				X		X
Concho	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
Cooke	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Coryell	X					X	X	
Cottle						X		
Crane								
Crockett	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Crosby	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Culberson								
Dallam		X				X		X
Dallas	X	X	x	X	X	X	X	X
Dawson								
Deaf Smith		X	X			X	X	X
Delta	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
Denton	X		X					
DeWitt		X	X	X		X		X
Dickens	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Dimmit	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Donley						X	X	X



COUNTY	HOUSING	BASIC NEEDS	EDUCATION	EMPLOYMENT	VETERAN SERVICES	MEDICAL	MENTAL HEALTH	SUBSTANCE USE
Duval	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
Eastland		X				X	X	X
Ector								
Edwards		X	X			X		
Ellis	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
El Paso								
Erath	X		X	X	X		X	X
Falls	X	X				X	X	
Fannin	X		X		X			
Fayette		X				X	X	
Fisher							X	
Floyd	X					X		
Foard			X	X		X	X	
Fort Bend					X			
Franklin	X	X	X		X	X		X
Freestone	X	X	X	X				X
Frio	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Gaines	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Galveston	X	X					X	X
Garza	X	X	X	X	X			
Gillespie	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Glasscock								
Goliad		X	X	X				X
Gonzales				X		X		
Gray	X	X	X	X		X	X	X
Grayson	X		X					
Gregg	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Grimes	X		X					X
Guadalupe	X	X	X	X		X	X	X
Hale	X	X	X	X		X	X	X
Hall							X	
Hamilton	X					X	X	
Hansford								
Hardeman			X	X				
Hardin	X							
Harris	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
Harrison	X	X	X	X		X	X	X
Hartley								
Haskell	X						X	



COUNTY	HOUSING	BASIC NEEDS	EDUCATION	EMPLOYMENT	VETERAN SERVICES	MEDICAL	MENTAL HEALTH	SUBSTANCE USE
Hays		X	X	X		X	X	
Hemphill								
Henderson	X	X	X	X				
Hidalgo	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Hill	X	X		X		X	X	
Hockley			X		X			
Hood					X		X	
Hopkins	X	X	X		X			X
Houston	X		X	X				
Howard								X
Hudspeth								
Hunt	X				X			X
Hutchinson		X						
Irion	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Jack			X	X				X
Jackson		X	X	X		X		X
Jasper	X		X	X	X			X
Jeff Davis								
Jefferson	X							
Jim Hogg	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
Jim Wells	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Johnson			X	X	X		X	X
Jones						X	X	
Karnes				X		X		
Kaufman	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Kendall	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Kenedy	X	X						
Kent							X	
Kerr	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Kimble	X	X	X	X	X			
King	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
Kinney		X	X					
Kleberg		X	X	X		X	X	X
Knox	X							
Lamar		X	X		X			X
Lamb							X	
Lampasas					X			X
La Salle	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
Lavaca		X	X	X		X		X



COUNTY	HOUSING	BASIC NEEDS	EDUCATION	EMPLOYMENT	VETERAN SERVICES	MEDICAL	MENTAL HEALTH	SUBSTANCE USE
Lee	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Leon	X		X	X	X	X		X
Liberty								
Limestone								
Lipscomb								
Live Oak		X				X		X
Llano	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Loving								
Lubbock								
Lynn	X	X	X	X	X			
Madison	X		X	X	X	X		X
Marion	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Martin								
Mason		X				X		
Matagorda	X		X					X
Maverick	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
McCulloch	X	X				X		X
McLennan	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
McMullen		X				X		
Medina		X				X		X
Menard	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Midland								
Milam	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Mills	X	X						X
Mitchell				X		X	X	
Montague								
Montgomery	X		X					
Moore	X	X	X		X	X		X
Morris	X	X	X		X	X	X	X
Motley								
Nacogdoches	X	X	X	X		X	X	X
Navarro	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Newton	X		X	X	X			X
Nolan	X	X		X	X	X	X	
Nueces	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Ochiltree								
Oldham								
Orange	X							
Palo Pinto								



COUNTY	HOUSING	BASIC NEEDS	EDUCATION	EMPLOYMENT	VETERAN SERVICES	MEDICAL	MENTAL HEALTH	SUBSTANCE USE
Panola		X	X			X		
Parker								
Parmer						X		
Pecos								
Polk			X		X			
Potter	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Presidio								
Rains	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
Randall	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Reagan	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Real		X						
Red River		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Reeves								
Refugio		X	X			X		
Roberts	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Robertson	X	X	X					X
Rockwall	X							
Runnels	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
Rusk	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Sabine	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
San Augustine		X				X		
San Jacinto	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
San Patricio	X	X	X	X	X		X	
San Saba	X	X						X
Schleicher	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Scurry	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Shackelford					X	X	X	
Shelby								
Sherman								
Smith	X		X	X				
Somervell	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Starr	X	X	X	X		X	X	
Stephens	X		X	X	X		X	X
Sterling		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Stonewall							X	
Sutton		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Swisher						X		
Tarrant	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Taylor								



COUNTY	HOUSING	BASIC NEEDS	EDUCATION	EMPLOYMENT	VETERAN SERVICES	MEDICAL	MENTAL HEALTH	SUBSTANCE USE
Terrell	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Terry							X	
Throckmorton								
Titus	X	X	X		X		X	X
Tom Green			X					
Travis	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Trinity	X		X	X		X		X
Tyler	X		X	X	X			X
Upshur	X	X	X		X	X		X
Upton								
Uvalde	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Val Verde	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Van Zandt	X	X	X	X			X	X
Victoria	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Walker	X	X	X		X	X		
Waller	X	X	X	X	X		X	
Ward								
Washington		X						
Webb	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Wharton	X		X					X
Wheeler								
Wichita								
Wilbarger								
Willacy	X	X	X			X		X
Williamson	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Wilson				X		X		
Winkler								
Wise					X			
Wood	X	X	X	X			X	X
Yoakum	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
Young								
Zapata	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Zavala	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X



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