



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Wisconsin Department of Corrections offers Veterans Resources to incarcerated people

MADISON – The Wisconsin Department of Corrections (DOC), in conjunction with the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) and other partners held a series of expos to provide incarcerated veterans and DOC staff information about benefits, programs, and services available to them. The expos were held during the week of April 10th and offered participants opportunities to speak with a number of community partners in order to better prepare for their release into their communities.

This is the third year that DOC and WDVA have partnered for these expos. This year, more than 200 individuals from Stanley Correctional Institution (SCI), Oshkosh Correctional Institution (OSCI), Jackson Correctional Institution (JCI) and Oakhill Correctional Institution (OCI) were able to receive resources from numerous agencies including:

- Federal, State, and County Veterans Affairs (VA) Departments
- The Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development
- The Wisconsin DOC Division of Community Corrections
- AMVETS

There are approximately 1,400 incarcerated veterans in Wisconsin correctional facilities. Expos like these are held so veterans can engage one-on-one with experts regarding the resources available to them.

Working with our state, federal, and local partners to help incarcerated individuals thrive upon release is critical. Previous expos were able to bring similar resources in incarcerated people at Oshkosh, Racine, Stanley, Fox Lake, Redgranite, and New Lisbon.

The DOC is also running two Veterans Wings inside correctional facilities where incarcerated veterans can live near each other and participate in veteran-specific activities and programs. OSCI's Veterans Wing has been in existence since 2017 and currently houses 54 inmates. Those individuals receive self-help groups run by AMVETS, an art program through the Medical College of Wisconsin, and resources from Federal, State, and County Veterans Affairs (VA) offices that visit a minimum of once a month.

SCI has a newly created a Veteran's Wing and is in the process of moving individuals into that wing. SCI's wing will include a Veterans library with historical books and contacts for numerous Veterans Affairs agencies. They also plan to have resources come into the wing to help with VA benefits including housing, medical assistance, schooling, and programming specifically designed to assist Veterans with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.