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Cookie Crews
COMMISSIONER

MEMORANDUM

To: Interim Joint Committee on Appropriations and Revenue
From: Cookie Crews, Commissioner
Kentucky Department of Corrections
Date: December 18, 2025
RE: 2024 Regular Session House Bill 6: Program Completion and Sentence Credit Payments

The 2024 Regular Session House Bill 6 continued payments for program completions resulting in sentencing credit through the 2024-2026 fiscal biennium. HB 6 required the Kentucky Department of Corrections (DOC) to report the following annually:

- 1) Number of program completions;
- 2) Cost of payments for each category of sentencing credit; and
- 3) The programmatic impact on recidivism.

Corrections Policy and Procedures (CPP) 30.1 establishes the procedures used to identify and evaluate evidence-based, promising practice-based, and life skills-based programming approved for state inmates. Additionally, CPP 30.2 details the specific process that must be followed by county jails for these approved programs to be eligible to earn program credit.

A memorandum of agreement was developed to outline payments and reporting requirements for jail incentives. Criteria include: screening inmates via an evidence-based risk and need assessment with placement into programs that address individualized criminogenic needs; adherence to program guidelines and fidelity; reporting of program attendance and completions; and introduction of new quality assurance measures.

Programming is provided by DOC Division of Reentry Services within communities and state prisons, in conjunction with DOC-approved community partners and vendors. DOC strives to select evidence-based

programming that addresses the key factors associated with reducing recidivism and providing a second chance to inmates upon release.

Courses eligible for jail incentives are listed in the local facilities course catalogue, which is available on DOC's website and updated quarterly.

FY25 – July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025:

	<u>Number of Program Completions</u>	<u>Total Payment Amounts for Completions</u>	<u>Total Days of Sentence Credits</u>
1 st Quarter 7/1/24-9/30/24	3,953	\$3,272,270	319,500
2 nd Quarter 10/1/24-12/31/24	4,002	\$3,377,730	319,980
3 rd Quarter 1/1/25-3/31/25	3,603	\$3,143,200	288,420
4 th Quarter 4/1/25-6/30/25	3,878	\$2,206,800	308,655
TOTAL	15,436	\$12,000,000	1,236,555

Payments are made the following month and run June – May. Program completion data is July – June.

Number of program completions by program type:

<u>Program Name</u>	<u>Number of Program Completions</u>
MRT*	2,698
MRT Parenting*	865
MRT Staying Quit*	228
MRT Thinking for Good*	1,789
MRT Untangling Relationships*	1,730
MRT Anger Management*	3,409

MRT Trauma*	1,207
MRT Mentor*	13
PORTAL New Direction*	1,837
Substance Abuse Program (SAP)**	1,152
SAP Mentor**	41
PSAP**	54
SOAR**	150
SOAR Mentor **	12
Adult Basic Education **	231
OSAP **	1
Employment Program *	19
TOTAL	15,436

**Indicates \$2 per diem program*

***Indicates \$10 per diem program*

Additional per diem for jail incentives paid for program attendance as outlined in KRS 532.100(7)(b):

<u>Additional Per Diem</u>	<u>Days of Program Attendance</u>	<u>Total Attendance Payment Amounts</u>
\$1	*284,200	\$284,200.00
\$2	195,972	\$389,500.00
\$10	**14,117	\$144,730.00
TOTAL	494,289	\$817,314.00

**This number represents the additional \$1 per diem for those attending substance abuse program (SAP) per KRS 532.100(7)(c) for a total per diem of \$10.*

***This number does not include those attending the substance abuse program.*

****Program Attendance days are for the period July – June. Payments are made the following month and typically run June – May.*

Programs that focus on education, vocational training, or life skills equip inmates with the tools needed to successfully return to their communities. Cognitive-behavioral programs help inmates develop healthier coping mechanisms and decision-making skills. Programs that provide addiction treatment are shown to reduce recidivism by addressing the underlying issues that may contribute to criminal behavior and curb generational cycles of crime.

Program participation aims to keep the state's recidivism low and boost public safety. Recently, Kentucky has secured low recidivism rates with nearly 70% of people released from state custody over the past two years not being re-incarcerated. Additionally, overdose deaths have decreased for the third year in a row, with 2024 seeing a more than 30% decrease.

