

**Promoting Family Reintegration in  
Intensive Reentry Programs  
Virginia Department of Corrections**

FY2023 Report



Chadwick Dotson, Director

October 15, 2023



**Enabling Authority: Appropriation Act - Item 404 K.**

**Description:** Annual status report on Services to Promote Family Integration in Intensive Reentry Programs.

**Purpose:** By October 15th of each year, the Department of Corrections shall provide a status report on overcoming obstacles to reentry and to promote family integration in correctional centers designated for intensive reentry programs to the Chairs of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees, the Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security, and to the Department of Planning and Budget on the use of this funding.



## Authority

This report has been prepared and submitted to fulfill the requirements of the Appropriation Act Item 404.K of the Acts of Assembly of 2023. This provision requires the Virginia Department of Corrections report information pertaining to the agency's actions to overcoming obstacles to reentry and to promote family integration in the correctional centers designed for intensive reentry programs to the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees, the Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security, and the Department of Planning and Budget on October 15<sup>th</sup> of each year.

## Background

The Virginia Department of Corrections (VADOC) is committed to helping people to be better through its mission and operations that foster a healing environment and promote family reintegration in intensive reentry programs and throughout the Department. The VADOC has numerous programs and services that have been developed to assist in the successful reintegration of inmates with their families and particularly, their minor children. The VADOC recognizes that family reintegration enhances the quality of life for inmates prior to release and once the inmate has transitioned to the community. There is also a direct correlation between family reintegration, a decrease in recidivism, and crime victimization.

A primary focus of reentry is to reduce potential barriers to reentry success. Beyond the impact on public safety, the Department acknowledges the positive impact on the lives of the spouses and most particularly, the children of inmates. Reestablishing healthy family relationships, helps prevent the next generation from following in their parent's footsteps into a life of criminal activity. The following describes the programs and curriculum VADOC has implemented for successful family reintegration. Each of these programs offers elements that support healthy family reunification.

## Programs and Activities

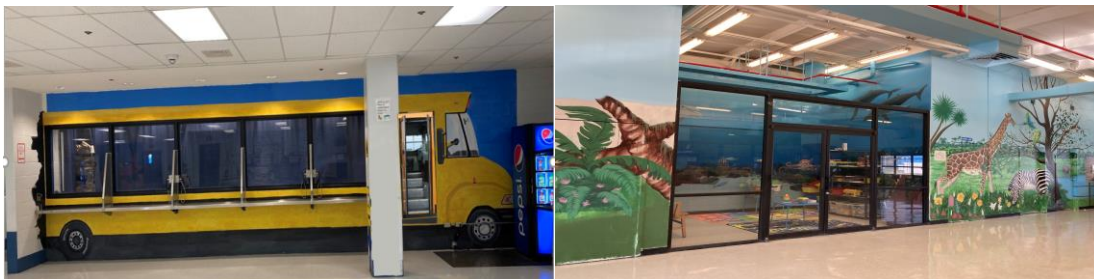
**Parenting Curriculum:** In 2010, a pilot initiative was designed to expand family reintegration services for VADOC inmates and their families prior to reentry through the implementation of parenting curriculums. That initiative has expanded over the years with enhancements to programs and family reintegration activities. Originally, the *Inside Out Dads* curriculum was implemented at facilities with male inmates. After researching various evidence-based parenting curriculums, *Inside Out Dads* remains the parenting curriculum of choice for male inmates. During this report period an Inside Out Dad Train the Trainer session was conducted where ten VADOC staff were certified. This will increase the number of facilitators available to conduct programming in male correctional facilities and in the probation and parole districts. Trainers were chosen from all three regions to ensure statewide coverage. Female facilities have utilized various curriculums over the years including *Moms Inc.* and *Parenting from Within*. However, the VADOC has transitioned to the *Partners in Parenting* curriculum at all locations. Parenting classes are offered on a voluntary basis to the inmate population. These programs are designed to enhance parent-child relationships and strengthen families. The

programs educate and empower those incarcerated with new techniques for interacting with their children. While participating in the program, the inmates learn basic parenting techniques, effective communication skills, realistic expectations of children, alternative methods of discipline and co-parenting skills. Inmates practice providing positive affirmations to their children, stress management skills, and steps to reinforce positive behaviors. During this reporting period, a *Partners in Parenting* Train the Trainer session was conducted that will increase the number of facilitators available to conduct the program in female correctional facilities and in the probation and probation districts. Parenting programs as a result of the Train the Trainer experiences have already been initiated.

**Circle of Parents Peer Groups:** Following completion of a parenting curriculum, inmates are offered an opportunity to participate in a parenting peer support group. Circle of Parents is a national program designed to provide peer-to-peer assistance based on the principles of family support, mutual self-help, and shared ideas. This program offers 92 lesson plans for parents, as well as a separate curriculum for their children. Efforts to expand Circle of Parents peer groups will be explored in the future.

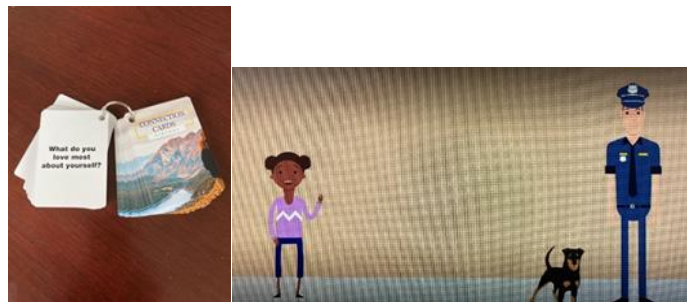
**Building Family Bridges Project:** In 2018, the VADOC was awarded a Second Chance Act Grant from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention for VADOC's Building Family Bridges project. As a result of the grant, an advisory committee was established to enhance community collaboration regarding parenting services with the agency. The advisory committee reviewed and suggested revisions on the protocols, procedures, and practices of VADOC pertaining to family reunification. The committee examined current practices within VADOC that impacts family engagement, facility security, child safety, parenting programs, and reentry planning as it applies to family connectivity. Committee members each brought their unique experiences and expertise to the committee.

The transformation process of creating a child-friendly visitation environment for children is complete at the three designated pilot sites: St. Brides Correctional Center, State Farm Correctional Center, and Fluvanna Correctional Center for Women. Each facility took advantage of the opportunity to revamp their visitation room making it more child-friendly with colorful artwork throughout the space. Working with inmate parents who are also artists, each facility created their own unique vision and have been bringing it to life.



To ensure sustainability, the Building Family Bridges Coordinator position was transitioned to a full-time position within the VADOC due to grant funds ending. The position remains committed to continuing parenting efforts initiated by the grant. Caregiver Guides were created to provide resource assistance to families and caregivers of children with incarcerated parents. This guide is provided to families during visitation but is also available on the VADOC public website.

To address the final grant goal of incorporating trauma informed care training for correctional staff, a national search was conducted to identify an existing training. No such staff training was discovered specific to family visitation in a correctional setting; therefore, the Department conducted a request for proposal process and contracted the training development. As a result, a 1.5-hour virtual training is now required for all staff working visitation within the Virginia Department of Corrections. To supplement the training, one-pager quick tip sheets and pocket size reminder cards were created to help guide staff through the visitation process by using a trauma informed care approach. To advance the visitation process, conversation cards were also created and provided to all correctional facilities. These cards help to build stronger relationships and assist with positive conversations. Additionally, a child-friendly visitation welcome video was developed to be played in front entry at the facilities during visitation to explain the visitation expectations to ensure for a more effective and child-friendly visit.



**Child-Friendly Visitation Experiences Grant:** In 2021, based on the success of the Building Family Bridges Project, the VADOC was awarded the Child-Friendly Visitation Experiences Grant from the Bureau of Justice Assistance. The primary focus of the grant is to enhance and remodel visitation rooms at 15 additional facilities and offer a child-friendly visitation experience. Project proposals have been developed and submitted from all grant locations. In addition, site visits have been conducted to provide technical assistance.

**The Messages Project:** The Messages Project is an award-winning program designed to allow both male and female inmates to prepare a video message for their children while in custody. The DVD, accessible through a television or computer, is sent home for the child to view, and may include the inmate reading a special children's book or delivering a heartfelt message of encouragement to their child. The Messages Project is available throughout VADOC facilities. This program promotes child-parent engagement while allowing inmates to creatively communicate with their kids utilizing innovative forms of communication. DVDs are no longer



used which make the project more cost effective and the videos are now uploaded to a secure site accessible by family members. The video can be seen on a phone, laptop or other digital platforms.

**VADOC Prison Nursery Program:** The VADOC is actively developing a Nursery Program at Virginia Correctional Center for Women (VCCW). Expectant mothers who enter VADOC custody, and meet strict eligibility criteria, may choose to apply for participation in the Nursery Program. This program will give the inmate mother an opportunity to bond with her infant and be an integral part of their early childhood development, including parenting education. The mother and child will release together, and the mother will be more equipped to parent effectively. The program will maintain a strong reentry focus; ensuring resources are made available to expectant mothers prior to release. The prison nursery program is designed to promote healthy parent-child bonding by using an evidence-based early childhood parenting curriculum, coaching/mentorship, and wellness education that will ultimately take aim at breaking the cycle of generational crime and further victimization. With only a handful of such programs operating across the country, the VADOC remains at the forefront of implementing innovative evidence-based practices and programs to improve inmate reentry success and address the needs of the population under its purview.

**Family Reunification Program/House:** During the spring and summer of 2020, renovations were made to a vacant house on the property of the Virginia Correctional Center for Women. In 2022, in partnership with Assisting Families of Inmates (AFOI), the home was remodeled with a trauma informed design. The intent of the program is to educate, build, and maintain the mother and child bond and enhance the relationship. The program launched in early 2023 and is dedicated to guiding incarcerated mothers to a successful parenting experience that occurs in a homelike environment offering extended day visitation. Family members have expressed their appreciation since the launch of the program.





**Wellness Program:** Fluvanna Correctional Center for Women (FCCW) continues to offer a Wellness Program. This program was designed to increase self-awareness and mind-body integration, while utilizing collaborative ways to help inmates develop the skills of self-compassion and self-efficacy. This program focuses on mindfulness based activities to include Yoga, Mindfulness Meditation, Mindful Gardening and Health Education. One of the most prominent components to the program is the “Mothering From Within” Program, which focuses on identifying pregnant inmates upon intake to offer them multiple support and educational services to increase the chances of a healthy pregnancy, delivery, and prevent premature birth. The established services include specialized instruction in lactation and breastfeeding, on-site birth support, preparation for separation, and child custody planning. Partnership with a community-based doula (birth partner) supports these services. These programs will be replicated for those participants residing in the nursery unit.

**Gender-Responsive:** The VADOC continues working towards the goal of using a gender-responsive, trauma-informed approach to the custody and care of all individuals in our women’s facilities. In 2020, Virginia Correctional Enterprises designed and distributed inmate clothing to the women’s institutions specifically designed for females. Correctional Technical Education continues to maintain training opportunities for women inmates in non-traditional and living wage employment fields such as welding, electrical, HVAC, graphic communication and design, and business software applications. Agribusiness opportunities for women expanded to include certifications such as forklift operation and beef quality assurance, allowing women returning to rural communities additional qualifications that potentially create self-support and family sustainability. Keefe Central Commissary Warehouse in Glen Allen, Virginia allocates 75 positions for female inmates of Central Virginia Correctional Unit and Virginia Correctional Center for Women. Women are given the opportunity to learn skills in warehouse distribution that will be highly transferrable in the community once released and have the ability to earn certifications including Forklift and Power Industrial Truck permits. The Transitional Women’s Work Release Program at State Farm Work Center offers employment in community-based settings combined with classroom instruction to increase the likelihood of employment stability upon release from incarceration. The Virginia Correctional Center for Women (VCCW) maintains a computer coding program for women in partnership with the non-profit organization Persevere, which is a year-long opportunity to earn up to six industry certifications in coding. Upon release, VADOC and Persevere work to connect participants with employers in the coding industry. In 2023, VCCW began a Virtual One-Stop pilot program that allows women nearing release from incarceration the ability to search for employment through a portal connected to the Virginia Workforce Connection site, which is the same site used by the Virginia Employment Commission and Workforce Development Centers across the state. The pilot program also includes training in resume-building and internet-based job search skills.



The “Greener Pastures” program, located at State Farm Work Center, teaches women valuable skills in caring for horses, and in this process, learn to care for themselves and others. They also, if chosen, gain teaching skills as trainers, and gain equestrian skills that can be transferred to self-sustaining jobs post-release. The opportunities provided through Correctional Technical Education, Agribusiness, Work-Release, and Equine skills are provided with the long-term goal of fostering financial independence and the ability for women to live with their children and families as the primary wage earner.

VADOC Headquarters is the location for the Almost Home Café, New Beginnings Restaurant, and Fresh Start Bakery, which is staffed by female inmates from Central Virginia Correctional Unit and Chesterfield Women’s CCAP. This unique and complex café/restaurant/bakery focuses on providing training and mentorship opportunities for women in the hospitality industry. They receive food service credentials through the National Restaurant Association’s ServSafe Program and the Foundations Culinary Arts program.

Women have unique pathways to crime and therefore unique program needs, such as increased need for substance abuse, mental health, and trauma services. The Women’s Risk and Needs Assessment is used at all female facilities at intake and throughout incarceration to identify those needs specific to females that reduce the likelihood of recidivism upon release from incarceration. In 2021, Fluvanna Correctional Center (FCCW) began to offer the evidence-based program for women entitled *Beyond Violence*, which helps women who are both victims and perpetrators of violence/trauma understand and learn new ways of coping, healing, and interacting with others. FCCW also began offering an evidence-based, six-session brief intervention for women with trauma histories entitled *Healing Trauma*. FCCW continues to offer *Seeking Safety Seminars* as well for women with histories of trauma and substance abuse. In 2023, FCCW and VCCW trained select staff in the *Trauma in Life* and *Women in Recovery* interactive journals from the Change Companies. These journals are specifically designed for females and address the impact of trauma and substance use on the lives of women. VADOC continues utilizing best practices through the incorporation of *Helping Women Recover and Beyond Trauma* curriculums in female correctional facilities. The Central Virginia Correctional Unit increased gender-specific women’s programming, including planning for the use of the Helping Women Recover curriculum and implementation of Goalfriends program, a curriculum designed for women to work together in a supportive, prosocial environment to set and achieve goals for their future. The goal of the female curriculum expansion is to provide a greater understanding of the unique factors that led to their involvement in the criminal justice system and skills to reduce future recidivism. Female inmates also have opportunities at several locations to become Peer Mentors, or Peer Recovery Specialists in the fields of substance use disorders or mental health.

Mental Health and Wellness Services provides programming to women in areas such as trauma resolution, dialectic behavioral therapy, emotional regulation, and coping and stress. These approaches are designed to create resiliency in women and opportunities for generational





change as many women return home to roles as primary caregivers for children and families with a better understanding of themselves and the impact of their experiences.

VADOC ensures that staff are trained in trauma informed care practices. A four-hour SAMHSA Gains Center Training titled, "Being Trauma Informed" has been incorporated in all Basic Skills for institutional Counselors and Probation and Parole Officers. E-Learning modules in Gender Responsivity and Trauma-Informed Care are available to all employees. In 2023, VADOC held a virtual conference on Evidence-Based practices for staff, and attendees were able to engage with Alyssa Benedict, a nationally known researcher/consultant and co-founder of the Women's Justice Institute on best practices for justice-involved females.

**Family Reunification Information:** Since 2011, Family Reunification Seminars have continued to occur throughout the Commonwealth. VADOC probation and parole districts collaborate with various local stakeholders to educate, engage, and empower families of inmates to be better prepared to support their loved one as they return to the community. Unique approaches have included multi-agency events where partner agencies share resources on topics like pre-employment services and healthcare options. This, along with families learning about supervision expectations from the probation district, better prepares inmates.

On the facility level, pre-release seminars continue to focus on the reentry process and programs that are provided to inmates in preparation for release. Seminars also include information and materials on the transition phases and adjustment to release from incarceration, along with upcoming supervision requirements. The late Dr. Joyce Byron, a renowned Family Therapist, developed the curriculum used for the seminars that engages family members in the reentry process. Overall, the agency is working to incorporate families as a vital part of reentry success.

**On-site Visitation and Video Visitation:** Each intensive reentry site allows for visitation of family members at predetermined days and times. Low-cost transportation is provided by several non-profit organizations and enables families who cannot afford transportation to rural prisons to visit their loved ones. Regular contact between inmates and their families is helpful in maintaining strong family connections. VADOC has also installed video visitation technology allowing inmates to both talk and see family members for a small fee without requiring travel to the prison site. VADOC partners with a non-profit organization, AFOI (Assisting Families of Inmates), to facilitate access to video visitation in the community.

**Special Parenting Events:** Each year the agency continues to work to help families and build stronger communities. Several district offices hold special back to school drives in collaboration with correctional centers, local state agencies and community partners providing backpacks and school supply giveaways for the children of inmates/probationers. These events ensure that children start school with items needed to foster a positive learning experience. Districts have also held special events to serve families of those involved in the criminal justice system by hosting donation drives of food, toys and coats during the holidays and sponsoring summer



camp enrollment for children. These events are consistent with our mission to promote lasting public safety and reduce generational patterns of crime. Also, all correctional facilities are encouraged to be innovative and resourceful, creating special parenting events throughout the year. Such events allow incarcerated parents the opportunity to advance their parenting skills and enhance family engagement.

**Anger Management:** The Department continues to offer an anger management curriculum using additional modules from *Thinking for a Change*, the evidence-based curriculum from the National Institute of Corrections. *Aggression Alternative Skills* is a cognitive based program offering an additional thirteen skills provided at the end of the *Thinking for a Change* curriculum that focus on appropriate ways to deal with aggression. The VADOC also offers *Anger Management* by SAMHSA for inmates/probationers who have identified needs in the areas of negative social cognitions as well as mental health and/or substance abuse needs. *Beyond Violence*, offered at FCCW, uses an integrated approach to work with women who are both perpetrators and victims of aggression.

#### **Substance Use Disorder Treatment Services:**

**Cognitive Behavioral Interventions for Substance Abuse (CBI-SA)** is an evidenced based substance use disorder (SUD) program that provides a structured approach for treating justice-involved individuals with (SUD). The program helps participants look at the impact drugs and alcohol have had on their lives and develop tools to make different future choices. Participants meet in small groups for over 40 sessions. CBI-SA places emphasis on skill-building activities to assist with cognitive, social, emotional, and coping skills development.

The VADOC continues to offer medication assisted treatment (MAT) and medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD). The MAT program has expanded to allow inmates who transfer into VADOC, and who have a verified prescription for MOUD, to continue their MOUD while incarcerated within VADOC. This program is available to inmates within VADOC and probationers assigned to Community Corrections Alternative Programs (CCAPs).

The naloxone take home program is a pilot program that allows inmates and probationers releasing from incarceration and/or Community Corrections Alternative Programs to receive one free two-dose naloxone kit and Rapid REVIVE! education on how to identify and treat an opioid overdose with naloxone.

The VADOC has expanded the Peer Recovery Specialist (PRS) initiative to provide the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) 72-hour PRS training to incarcerated individuals who meet the criteria to become a PRS. Individuals who obtain this 72-hour training are able to provide peer support services to other inmates in both group and individual settings.

Residential cognitive therapeutic community programs are also offered in the VADOC for those inmates with the most intense need for substance use disorder treatment. The programs offer



a structured, supportive environment that address stages of change, refusal skills, relapse prevention and continuum of care planning.

**Making It On Supervision:** Seminars are offered throughout the state by Senior Reentry Probation Officers to ensure that inmates are prepared with the knowledge needed to be successful on probation and parole. These seminars review the conditions of probation and parole. In addition, the inmate is able to gather detailed information on their personal case regarding sentencing orders, fines, special conditions, etc. This collaboration prior to release is contributing to a decrease in anxiety for both the inmate and their family regarding the transition process.

**PREPS (Preventing Recidivism by Educating for Parole Success):** PREPS was developed by a former inmate who experienced first-hand the challenges of reentry. The program is designed to help prepare the inmate in multiple life areas for the reentry experience and stresses that will occur. One goal of the program is to expose inmates to the realities of readjustment and to prepare the inmate for the risks involved in returning to society. Other program goals include increasing the inmate's awareness of areas needing improvement, enhancing the inmate's coping strategies and skills, and assisting the inmate in developing appropriate skills to handle daily stressors and situations. Emphasis is placed on reentry into the household and how family relationships may be affected.

**Ready to Work:** To prepare inmates for the transition back to their communities and to assist them in securing employment, this group is offered prior to release. The group offers skill-building sessions focused on interviewing, professional dress, work ethics, employment legalities, and additional workforce development areas. All participants are afforded an opportunity to develop a resume and cover letter and participate in mock interview sessions. In addition, the Virginia Bonding Program is explained to participants, and they are released from incarceration with a personal Virginia Bonding Program Eligibility Letter. This group emphasizes the importance of workforce development and the financial responsibilities of caring for a family. Participants are eager to attend since it provides them with skills to financially support a family and contribute to their children's needs.

**Reentry Resource and Employment Fairs:** The purpose of a Reentry Resource and Employment Fair is to introduce returning inmates to community organizations and agencies that provide post-release assistance and potential job opportunities. Linkages with critical service providers and employment have been shown to be key components associated with successful reentry. Reentry Fairs also provide an opportunity for service providers and employers to understand reentry programming in corrections and become more amenable to providing inmate with post-release assistance and employment opportunities. Reentry Resource and Employment opportunities are held twice per year at each intensive reentry program. Events have been both virtual and in-person during this reporting period.



**Road to Success:** The goal of Road to Success is to provide reentry and transitional services and programming to inmates who are currently at VADOC minimum security facilities including work centers and field units. The program requires that inmates near release complete reentry programming equipping them for the transition back to society. VADOC uses materials developed by The Change Companies that promote cognitive restructuring, problem solving skills, and job skills preparation. A Senior Reentry Probation Officer and Workforce Development Specialist each provide informational sessions on how to succeed on probation, how to create an effective resume, and how to apply for employment.

**Thinking for a Change:** The *Thinking for a Change* program is designed to teach inmates social skills, problem-solving strategies, and appropriate cognitive restructuring techniques, which subsequently may impact risk factors. The goal is to decrease criminal thinking through cognitive behavioral changes and skill development in the group participation. VADOC also supports *Thinking for a Change* Booster Sessions and Peer Support Groups as additional environments to practice the skills learned during the course. The *Thinking for a Change* (T4C) curriculum is widely used in correctional settings across the country and is supported by the National Institute for Corrections as an evidence-based program.

**Decision Points:** The *Decision Points* program is an open-ended cognitive-behavioral brief intervention curriculum consisting of five modules designed to teach thinking skills necessary for pro-social living.

**Veteran Services:** This programming enables participants to become aware of veteran benefits, ways to access programs, skills to enhancing self-esteem, and steps to improve relationships with family and others and identify available resources upon release. It provides a support system for inmates with unique experiences, perspectives and needs as a result of their service in the U. S. military. Using a peer support group process with staff assistance, this program provides information and access to veteran services and benefits, such as medical and mental health, disability, and housing. VADOC has forged close ties with the Virginia Department of Veteran Services (DVS) as well as other veteran support groups like American Legion, Disabled American Veterans (DAV), U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and U.S. Bureau of Prison. These groups meet quarterly in a Veterans Stakeholders Meeting with staff to address common issues and concerns. Through partnerships, DVS staff and representatives from other veteran agencies provide information to incarcerated veterans throughout the VADOC, including assistance with benefit applications. Currently, there are 13 veteran housing units within our facilities enabling veterans to be housed together allowing them to be with other inmates with similar experiences to assist them in coping with veteran specific issuers. VADOC has a Veteran Programs Manager to oversee VADOC veteran concerns and a Veteran Advocate Position to enhance services for veterans specifically surrounding veteran benefits.

**Drive to Work:** The VADOC partners with a non-profit organization, Drive to Work, to deliver "How to Get Your License Back" seminars to assist inmates in restoring their driving privileges. These seminars address driver's license restoration and offer a review of their personalized



driving compliance summary. The Drive to Work program has expanded to include online driver improvement clinics. This program offers participants a second chance to restore a much-needed privilege. Driving is often critical for work and caring for a family. The “How to Get Your License Back” seminar and clinics affords inmates a new opportunity, which assists them with employment, family reintegration and community involvement.

**Victim Impact Program:** The Victim Impact: Listen and Learn curriculum was piloted nationally in 2006 with Virginia as one of the four pilot states. Since 2006, it has continued to run in Virginia and in the last year, it has been active in 15 prison facilities. In 2018, VADOC expanded the program into Probation and Parole. As of 2023, the program is currently active in 2 Community Corrections Alternative Programs (CCAPs) and 4 probation and parole districts. Since January 1, 2018, 1,425 inmates, 77 probationers, and 18 CCAP participants have completed the program. This 13-week education/awareness curriculum is focused on sensitizing inmates to the impact that crime has on victims, families, and the community. The program is structured to hold inmates accountable for the harm they caused and to help foster a level of empathy toward crime victims and survivors.

**Child Support Changes:** Pursuant to legislation passed during the 2022 General Assembly session, incarceration for 180 or more consecutive days no longer constitutes involuntary employment or underemployment. Inmates who meet the criteria are afforded the opportunity to request a review and adjustment of any active child support orders through the Division of Child Support Enforcement within the Department of Social Services. This information was disseminated through VADOC facilities and is currently provided at initial intake.

**Documents:** To ensure parents released from incarceration are prepared, the VADOC works with each inmate to assist them in securing their birth certificate and social security card. Through a MOU with the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), the VADOC is able to provide DMV IDs for inmates prior to release. In 2020, Real IDs were also made available, along with veteran indication on the ID cards. The DMV provides Compliance Summaries to assist the inmate in securing their driver’s license.

**Reentry Resource Packet:** All inmates releasing from VADOC are provided a Reentry Resource Packet that contains valuable information specific to SNAP benefits, 211, Virginia Workforce Connection and many other resources. The information can also be found on the VADOC public webpage under Reentry Resources.

## Report Summary

The Virginia Department of Corrections remains committed to helping people be better. Through sound security practices, programs, education and reentry services, incarcerated parents are provided opportunities to enhance their lives and strengthen engagement with their family support system. Through trauma informed care practices, a healing environment is created for inmates, probationers and parolees. Through these efforts the generational cycle of incarceration is interrupted, creating safer communities and healthier families.