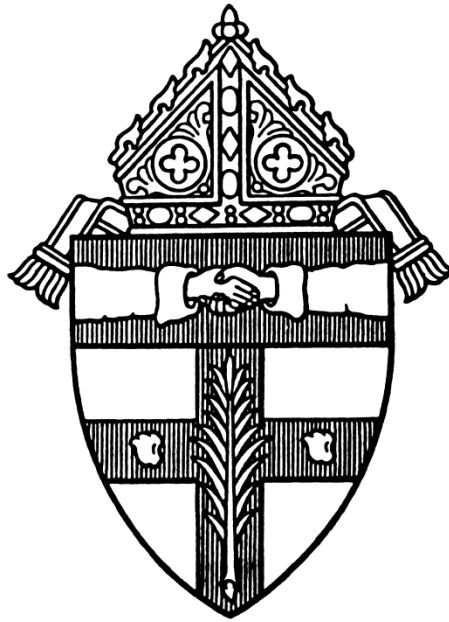


# Prison Ministry Handbook



**Diocese of Owensboro  
Diocesan Office of Social Concerns  
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## Introduction ([back to Table of Contents](#))

This handbook is designed as a resource and support for those who are ministering or who are interested in ministering to inmates in prisons, jails and other correctional facilities. Within the Diocese of Owensboro there are four state prisons, twenty-four county jails/correctional facilities, and one juvenile detention center ([McCracken Regional Juvenile Center](#); *the only mention of this facility in this document*). This translates into thousands of men and women who live in isolation and grief, cut off from their family and community.

While the Catholic Church does not deny a government's right to ensure public safety, our faith teaches that punishment must lead to rehabilitation and restitution. *“We know that faith has a transforming effect on all our lives. Therefore, rehabilitation and restoration must include the spiritual dimension of healing and hope. The Church must stand-ready to help offenders discover the good news of the Gospel and how it can transform their lives. There should be no prisons, jails, or detention centers that do not have a regular and ongoing Catholic ministry and presence.”* (Responsibility, Rehabilitation, and Restoration: A Catholic Perspective on Crime and Criminal Justice, USCCB, 11-2000; [see page 7 for more of this USCCB document](#))

Prison ministry does not seek to devalue the great pain and suffering criminal acts cause innocent people. It does not glorify the inmate. Instead it challenges us to see the face of Christ in people who need encouragement and support to leave behind a life of addiction and/or violence and become the person God intends them to be.

*“We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that.  
This enables us to do something, and to do it very well.  
It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning,  
a step along the way,  
an opportunity for the Lord’s grace to enter and do the rest.”*

Prayer Source: [http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/prayers-and-devotions/prayers/archbishop\\_romero\\_prayer.cfm](http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/prayers-and-devotions/prayers/archbishop_romero_prayer.cfm)

## **COVID-19** ([back to Table of Contents](#))

### **KY Department of Corrections (KYDOC)**

**Update** (as of May 2024)

Almost all the COVID-related information (Updates, numbers, etc.) has been removed from the KYDOC site except for the FAQs at <https://corrections.ky.gov/Facilities/Pages/covid19faq.aspx> (but the link in Answer #1 does not go to any current page).

No historical data of COVID cases was available on the site during the pandemic, only the most recent was available.

**Key Initiatives** (still available on the website as of May 2024; a 1-page document. Document was last updated 1-26-2021.)  
<https://corrections.ky.gov/Facilities/Documents/COVID-19/DOC%20Key%20Initiatives%201-26-21.pdf>

The first two Keys listed below, no longer apply:

- Visitation is suspended at all facilities.
- All outside programming and volunteer activity is suspended to limit the number of people entering a facility.

Kentucky State Penitentiary (KSP) opened back up in late August 2022.

Western Kentucky Correctional Complex (WKCC and Ross-Cash) opened back up in December 2022.

Green River Correctional Complex (GRCC) opened back up in ?

See links at [KY State Prisons](#) (in our Diocese)

For ministry at the County Jails, please check with your local County Jail. See links at [County Jails/Detention Centers Information](#)

## **Volunteer Job Description** ([back to Table of Contents](#))

The Diocesan Office of Social Concerns, Prison Ministry Committee, invites you to respond to the Gospel call to “Love one another as I have loved you.” The men, women, and juveniles incarcerated in these facilities have need of this ministry of presence.

Volunteers serve as companions to offenders, victims, and affected communities. These incarcerated men, women and youth will come back into our communities upon their release. The preparation for release begins while they are still incarcerated, enabling them to learn how to live as peaceful and productive members of society again. Our volunteers are invaluable, providing a loving and committed presence in increasingly multicultural and interfaith settings.

Together, we discover the greater depths of God and are lovingly transformed in the process. We invite you to join us in this life-giving ministry!

### **Accountability**

Volunteers are guests of the correctional facilities. They are accountable to the prison/jail administration and chaplain, to their parish staff—Pastor/Prison Ministry Coordinator, and to the Director of the Diocesan Office of Social Concerns. They are governed by the rules and regulations of the particular institution in which they are volunteering.

### **Qualifications**

An ability to see God in all those they encounter.  
A willingness to follow the rules of each facility.  
An awareness of their own gifts and limitations.

### **Responsibilities May Include**

Eucharistic Ministry, Music Ministry, Prayer Ministry, Bible Study / Scripture Reflection  
Liturgical Presiding  
Sacramental preparation / Researching Sacramental records  
Small group facilitation  
One-on-one visitation or letter writing  
Restricted housing unit visits (e.g. segregation)  
Legislative Advocacy, Victim support  
Parish and Community Outreach  
Transitional support (clothing, housing needs, job development)  
Coaching/Mentoring in the reentry process

### **Training**

Training for volunteers to have access to Kentucky prisons is now available online via KYDOC with PW: 2026CVT

[https://rise.articulate.com/share/rdNFvZL0S4IABA76Lan\\_VFeJsRSbKGAV](https://rise.articulate.com/share/rdNFvZL0S4IABA76Lan_VFeJsRSbKGAV)

**Foundational Training for Ministry** via Catholic Prison Ministries Coalition, by Zoom in English and Spanish at

<https://www.catholicprisonministries.org/foundational-formation-program-2>

## **Prison Ministry: A Ministry of Presence** ([back to Table of Contents](#))

By [Thomas Lawlor](#) (Diocese of Palm Beach, Florida)

The most frequently asked question by prospective prison ministry volunteers and other inquiring minds is, “What exactly do you do?” The answer to this question varies depending on such factors as time allotted, space considerations, the availability of priests and deacons who are part of the volunteer cadre, and the makeup of the inmate population being ministered to.

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, preceded by the Sacrament of Reconciliation, is the greatest gift the ministry brings to inmates, superseded only by the administering of the Sacrament of Baptism. Mass and Reconciliation are offered on a regular basis in some institutions, less frequently in others, depending on some of the factors mentioned above. Baptisms are conducted as required. When priests are unavailable, deacons and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion conduct Eucharistic Services. Bible studies, bible discussions and prayer sessions are generally conducted by deacons and lay volunteers, as are preparation classes for inmates desiring the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation.

It is difficult to conduct organized, ongoing bible study classes in a county jail or juvenile detention center because the inmate populations in these institutions are constantly in a state of flux. The majority of inmates in jail are awaiting trial. After trial they may be remanded back to jail for a limited period of time, are released, or sent off to state prison to serve longer sentences. Basically, they move on pretty quickly. Such is the case with juveniles who, on average, serve even shorter sentences than do adults in jail. So, bible-discussion sessions work best for these inmate populations. With such, the volunteers go in prepared to discuss a given bible passage or set of passages on a related topic, and present the material to the inmates for contemplation and discussion. What scripture tells us about forgiveness, prayer, salvation, faith, the Apostles’ faith journey, etc., are subjects that are generally well-received.

Bible study programs are more appropriate for inmates in state prisons, those serving sentences anywhere from a year to life. While the Florida Department of Corrections does transfer inmates periodically from one

institution to another, their length of stay at any given facility is generally several years. This enables volunteers to utilize longer term bible study programs and go into the word of God in more detail. It is not uncommon for volunteers to hear from inmates that the sessions are the highlight of their week, something they look forward to very much. It is also not uncommon for interested inmates to get together themselves in groups to study the word of God further during their free time.

Matching the interests, abilities, previous pastoral experiences, knowledge of the faith and times of availability of volunteers, with the needs of various inmate populations, is a bit of a challenge. It is, however, a prerequisite to setting the stage for an effective ministry experience for all concerned. At the outset, each new volunteer in the Diocese of Palm Beach is given a Prison Ministry Volunteer Manual designed, among other things, to help them settle into the ministry with greater ease. A significant portion of the manual is devoted to providing prepared “talks” on the subjects mentioned above and more.

Upon reflection, perhaps the best answer to the question, “What exactly do you do?”, is “We show up!” It generally takes volunteers a while before they come to understand that often it is not the agenda they planned, or the bible passage(s) selected, that will impact the inmates on any given day. It will be nothing more than their presence. It is through consistent, faithful presence on the part of volunteers that inmates come to see true followers of Christ committed to living the gospel, and bringing His message of love, mercy and forgiveness to others they do not even know at some sacrifice to themselves. For many inmates, that kind of presence doesn’t go unnoticed and is often overpowering. The presence of volunteers is just one of the many ways the Holy Spirit reaches out and touches the hearts of those who are confined behind prison walls, far out of sight of the general population. But the Holy Spirit is always working, there and everywhere.

## **USCCB Background on Criminal Justice** ([back to Table of Contents](#))

[Below is the USCCB Document - Criminal and Restorative Justice and Sentencing Reform: A Statement of the Catholic Bishops of the United States Issued by USCCB, January 2016. Copyright © 2016, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Inc. All rights reserved. <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/criminal-justice-restorative-justice/background-on-criminal-justice.cfm>]

### **BACKGROUND**

During this Jubilee Year of Mercy, Pope Francis has called us “to make compassion, love, mercy and solidarity a true way of life, a rule of conduct in our relationships with one another” (2016 World Day of Peace Message). A Catholic approach to criminal and restorative justice then recognizes that the dignity of the human person applies to both victims of crime and those who have committed harm. Justice includes more than punishment. It must include mercy and restoration. A simplistic punitive approach to justice can leave victims of crime with feelings of neglect, abandonment and anger making reconciliation and healing difficult. A restorative justice approach is more comprehensive and addresses the needs of victims, the community and those responsible for causing harm through healing, education, rehabilitation and community support.

People ought to be held accountable for their actions but justice and restoration must be the object of punishment which must have a reformatory purpose. In the thirteenth century, Saint Thomas Aquinas wrote, "In this life, however, penalties are not sought for their own sake, because this is not the era of retribution; rather, they are meant to be corrective by being conducive either to the reform of the sinner or the good of society, which becomes more peaceful through the punishment of sinners" (Summa Theologica, II-II, Q. 68 A.1).

Rehabilitation and restoration also include the spiritual dimension of healing and hope. Those who are impacted by crime or commit crime need the healing power that comes from being reconciled with their neighbor and community, as well as with God.

For restorative justice to be effective, it must also address the systemic and structural barriers to healing such as racial and economic disparity, cycles of crime and incarceration and the breakdown of the family. Those returning to the community following incarceration face significant barriers such as homelessness, unemployment, poverty, substance abuse, emotional and psychological stress, and social isolation. Without the proper support to help them succeed, recidivism is more likely placing the person in an almost endless cycle adversely impacting the community and the life and dignity of the returning citizen.

### **USCCB POSITION**

In his talk with prisoners at the Curran-Fromhold Correctional Facility outside Philadelphia in September, Pope Francis stated, “This time in your life can only have one purpose: to give you a hand in getting back on the right road, to give you a hand in helping you rejoin society. All of us are part of that effort, all of us are invited to encourage, help and enable

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your rehabilitation.” The Holy Father highlights the important relationship between incarceration and rehabilitation and suggests that responses other than incarceration may be helpful in certain circumstances.

The U.S. Bishops have also called for a restorative justice approach. In their 2000 pastoral statement, [Responsibility, Rehabilitation, and Restoration: A Catholic Perspective on Crime and Criminal Justice](#), the Bishops stated, “Just as God never abandons us, so too we must be in covenant with one another. We are all sinners, and our response to sin and failure should not be abandonment and despair, but rather justice, contrition, reparation, and return or reintegration of all into the community.”

### **ACTION:**

Congress has the opportunity to advance legislation that will enact meaningful sentencing reform and support for important reentry programs. Urge your Senators and Representative to support policies that lift up human life and dignity, promote civility, community safety, and help reform people’s lives harmed by crime and violence.

### **UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMMISSION:**

The [U.S. Sentencing Commission](#) is an independent agency in the judicial branch of government created by the Sentencing Reform Act of 1984. Congress enacted the SRA in response to widespread disparity in federal sentencing, ushering in a new era of federal sentencing through the creation of the Commission and the promulgation of federal sentencing guidelines.

#### [2024 Federal Sentencing Statistics by Geography](#)

Contains a map of FY 2024 Federal Sentencing by District and you can choose the Western District of Kentucky and view the [Kentucky Western data report in PDF](#).

### **KENTUCKY REVISED STATUTES:**

[KRS Chapter 532](#) links to Commonwealth’s Sentencing Policy, Classification of Offences, Designation of Offences, etc. Home Incarceration, and Postincarceration Supervision.

[KRS Chapter 533](#) links to Criteria for utilizing chapter -- Alternative sentences -- Monitoring by private agency -- Work release, etc. Educational Program, Pretrial Diversion Program, Behavioral Health Conditional Dismissal Program

[KRS Chapter 534](#) links about Fines

## RESOURCES

- Pope Francis, “Message for World Day of Peace: Overcome Indifference and Win Peace,” January 1, 2016.  
[http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/peace/documents/papa-francesco\\_20151208\\_messaggio-xliv-giornata-mondiale-pace-2016.html](http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/peace/documents/papa-francesco_20151208_messaggio-xliv-giornata-mondiale-pace-2016.html)
- “Responsibility, Rehabilitation, and Restoration: A Catholic Perspective on Crime and Criminal Justice”, November 15, 2000, at USCCB Website:  
<http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/criminal-justice-restorative-justice/crime-and-criminal-justice.cfm>
- USCCB Web Page on Criminal and Restorative Justice Issues:  
<http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/criminal-justice-restorative-justice/index.cfm>
- Catholic Prison Ministries Coalition  
<https://www.catholicprisonministries.org/about-cpmc>
- The Catholic Criminal Justice Reform Network at the [Lumen Christi Institute](#)
- [Dismas Ministry](#) (website) - A national, Catholic outreach among prisoners and those affected by crime, begun in 2000.
- [Paulist Evangelization Ministries](#)  
Free Prison Ministry Resources
- [Catholic Mobilization Ministries](#)  
End the death penalty. Advance justice. Begin healing.
- Prison Policy Initiative, “Mass Incarceration: The Whole Pie 2024,” March 14, 2024 at <https://www.prisonpolicy.org/reports/pie2024.html>
- Catholic Perspectives on Criminal Justice Reform (February 10-12, 2022)  
<https://csld.wisc.edu/cpcjr/>

## Other Catholic Social Teaching and Prison Ministry Resources

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USCCB - Criminal and Restorative Justice (webpage)

<https://www.usccb.org/committees/domestic-justice-and-human-development/criminal-justice-restorative-justice>

USCCB - Background on Criminal Justice and Sentencing Reform– January 2016 (pdf)

<https://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/criminal-justice-restorative-justice/upload/backgrounder-criminal-justice-2016-01.pdf>

USCCB - Death Penalty / Capital Punishment (webpage)

<https://www.usccb.org/committees/domestic-justice-and-human-development/death-penalty-capital-punishment>

USCCB – Bishop Chairmen on Justice Department’s Moratorium on Federal Executions

<https://www.usccb.org/news/2021/us-bishop-chairmen-justice-departments-moratorium-federal-executions>

USCCB – Letter to Congress Regarding the Federal Death Penalty Prohibition Act (January 11, 2021)

<https://www.usccb.org/resources/letter-congress-regarding-federal-death-penalty-prohibition-act>

Catholic Conference of KY (CCKY) -

A Catholic Perspective on Crime and Criminal Justice: A Kentucky Call to Responsibility, Rehabilitation, and Restoration - December 2005 (pdf)

[https://files.ecatholic.com/29107/documents/2021/6/KY\\_RRR\\_Initiative\\_Revised\\_2005.pdf?t=1624421656000](https://files.ecatholic.com/29107/documents/2021/6/KY_RRR_Initiative_Revised_2005.pdf?t=1624421656000)

CCKY – Reverence for Life: The Pursuit of Justice – November 1999

<https://files.ecatholic.com/29107/documents/2021/6/Reverence.pdf?t=1624396460000>

[Kentucky Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty](#) (KCADP website) –

Death Penalty and Abolition Facts <https://kcadp.org/facts>

[The Pew Charitable Trusts / Research & Analysis – Public Safety in Kentucky](#) (website) – September 2, 2014 (The page was updated on June 27, 2017, to reflect new data.)

## **Getting Started** ([back to Table of Contents](#))

### **For Volunteering at KY State Prisons:**

1. Contact the priest or deacon who coordinates Catholic ministries at the state prison (see [KY State Prisons Info](#) page, below).
2. Contact the Chaplain at the state prison you would like to visit (see [KY State Prisons Info](#) page, below). The Chaplain at the prison will likely coordinate the entire volunteer approval process.
3. Requirements to be a volunteer vary depending on the facility but may include:
  - a criminal background check which may necessitate going to the local police or sheriff's office for fingerprinting
  - a written statement of why you want to be a volunteer and indicate you will be volunteering as part of the Catholic Prison Ministry program and not a "lone wolf"
  - a statement from your pastor that you are a member of the church in good standing
  - completion of application form
4. The volunteer approval process can take anywhere from 3 months to several months. This can be a lengthy, and sometimes frustrating, process. It mostly depends on the facility at which you are attempting to volunteer. One key to expediting the approval process is consistent and respectful communication with the Chaplain. In many facilities the chain of command is highly regarded, so be sure to always address any issue with your established contact first.

### **For Volunteering at County Jails/Detention Centers:**

1. Contact the pastor or jail ministry coordinator at the parish in the county where the jail/detention center is located (see [County Jails/Detention Centers Information](#) page, below).
2. Contact the jail/detention center (see [County Jails/Detention Centers Information](#) page, below).

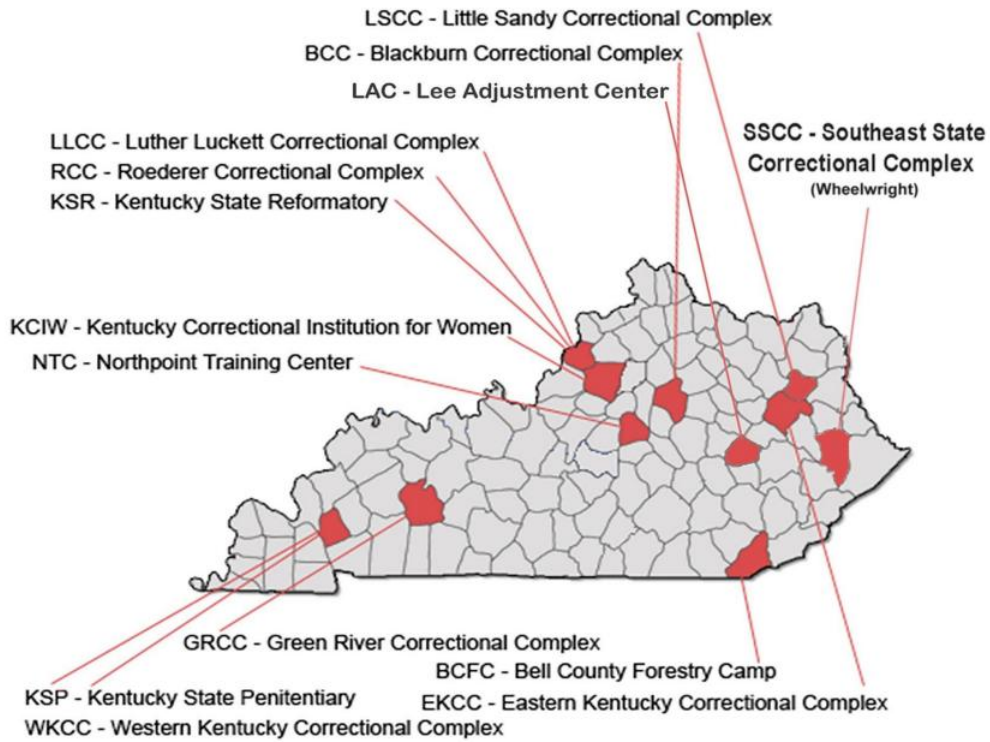
Contact Deacon Paul Bachi at any time with questions or concerns:

Deacon Paul Bachi  
Diocese of Owensboro  
270-206-0512  
Email: [paul.bachi@pastoral.org](mailto:paul.bachi@pastoral.org)

## **Prison Ministry Rules for Volunteers** ([back to Table of Contents](#))

1. Learn the rules and obey the rules.
2. Do not smuggle any article (to include religious) in or out the facility.
3. Unless approved by the Chaplain, you must bring all items through the Chaplain.
4. Never accept anything from an inmate.
5. Do not get involved with an inmate's personal or legal matters.
6. If you find an inmate is concerned about the welfare of his or her family, refer the individual to speak with the Chaplain.
7. Do not pass any message for inmates to other inmates or to people outside the facility.
8. Do not mail books or other items to inmates.
9. Do not give inmates financial assistance at the facility where you minister.
10. Volunteers will not be under the influence of un-prescribed drugs or alcohol while performing volunteer duties in the ministry. Volunteers will not bring drugs, weapons or alcoholic beverages into an institution. This includes such items as pocketknives, nail files, cell phones or other similar items.
11. Do not give an inmate any items such as gifts or money. Nor accept gifts or money.
12. In the event of a disagreement or problem between a volunteer and an inmate, the volunteer should notify the Chaplain. If the event is serious, notify a corrections officer immediately.
13. Do not share your personal business with offenders or discuss personal information.
14. Do not play favorites; be fair and consistent in your relationships and interactions with inmates. Do not take sides.
15. Keep commitments. In the event that a meeting or session has to be canceled, notify the chaplain in advance. Expectations are developed by inmates and maintained by you.
16. Volunteers should dress appropriately when conducting ministry. Tight clothing or revealing apparel is not appropriate. Use common sense.
17. Some types of physical contact (hugging etc.) are often misunderstood. Extreme caution should be taken in this area.
18. Always wear your volunteer ID tag or institutional visitor's tag.
19. Do not take letters or other items out of an institution for a confined offender. Do not bring letters or any other items into an institution and give directly to the offender.
20. Volunteers may not be on any inmates visiting list at a facility where they volunteer. Notify the chaplain if this is an issue for direction.
21. Do not give inmates any personal phone numbers or address or personal information on yourself or another volunteer.
22. Do not agree to make business or personal transactions on the street for inmates.
23. Maintain any confidential information about an inmate to yourself. Do not take personal information regarding an offender outside the facility under any circumstances.
24. While ministering inside the facility as a volunteer, you may not visit with family members, church members or anyone with whom you have a relationship. Notify the Chaplain if you discover someone you know is incarcerated at the facility. Seek the Chaplain's direction.
25. As a volunteer you will not be a character witness for an inmate or write the parole board in behalf of the individual. If you do for one you will have to do for all. When in doubt, do not commit. Notify the Chaplain for direction.
26. Do not have anyone accompany you to the facility who is not authorized to enter. Though they will not be allowed entrance, there could be a case of an unauthorized entry.
27. Under no circumstances will wine be offered to inmates during Church Services. Only the priest and deacon are allowed to consume the wine.

# Kentucky DOC Prisons and County Jails [\(back to Table of Contents\)](#)

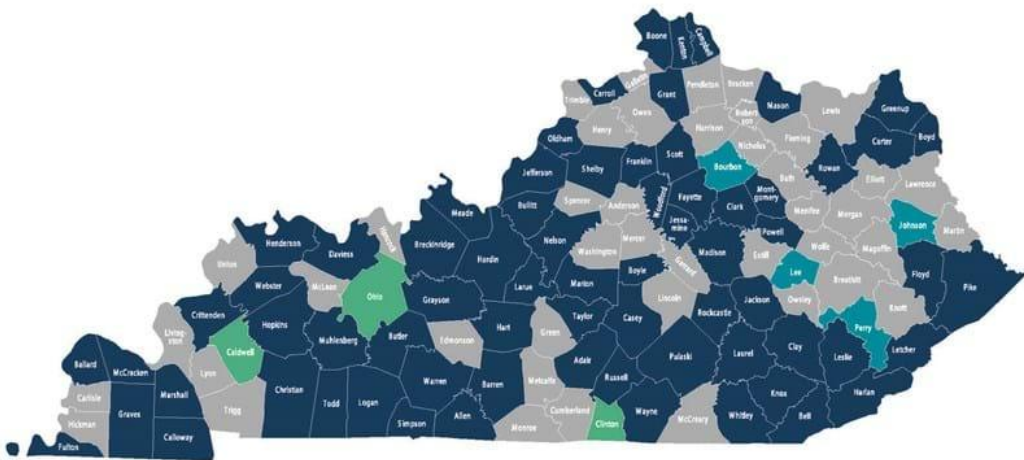


Source: KYDOC 2022 Annual Report, p.87

<https://corrections.ky.gov/About/researchandstats/Documents/Annual%20Reports/FINAL%202022%20Annual%20Report.pdf>

## 2024 Jail Classifications

Full Service: 70
  Regional: 4
  Life Safety: 3
  Closed: 43



Source: Commonwealth of Kentucky Department of Corrections, Division of Local Facilities

<https://kaco.org/articles/2024-kentucky-county-jail-classifications/>

## KY State Prisons Information (in our Diocese) [\(back to Table of Contents\)](#)

KY Prison	City	Parish	Pastor	Ministry Services
<a href="#">Green River Correctional Complex</a> (GRCC) 982-bed, males 888 Medium security; 44 Maximum security segregation unit; 50 Minimal security.	Central City	St. Joseph	Fr. John Ighacho	Fr. John Ighacho 270-754-1164 (not currently active)
<b>Chaplain</b> Steven Wright 1-270-754-5415 ext. 432 <a href="mailto:steven.wright@ky.gov">steven.wright@ky.gov</a>				
<a href="#">Kentucky State Penitentiary</a> (KSP) 856-bed, males Maximum security, death-row	Eddyville	St. Mark	Fr. Brad Whistle	Deacon Paul Bachi 270-206-0512 provides services on Thursdays with Fr. Robert Drury (part-time).
<b>Chaplain</b> Thomas Klatt 1-270-388-2211 ext. 346 <a href="mailto:thomas.klatt@ky.gov">thomas.klatt@ky.gov</a>				
<a href="#">Western Kentucky Correctional Complex</a> (WKCC) 470-bed, males Medium security	Eddyville	St. Mark	Fr. Brad Whistle	Deacon Paul Bachi 270-206-0512 provides services on Thursdays. Fr. Robert Drury (part-time).
<b>Chaplain</b> Kevin Gantt 1-270-388-9781 ext. 2308 <a href="mailto:kevin.gantt@ky.gov">kevin.gantt@ky.gov</a>				
Ross-Cash Center at WKCC 200-bed, females Minimal security	Eddyville	St. Mark	Fr. Brad Whistle	Deacon Paul Bachi 270-206-0512 provides services on Thursdays. Fr. Robert Drury (part-time).
<b>Chaplain</b> Kevin Gantt 1-270-388-9781 ext. 2308 <a href="mailto:kevin.gantt@ky.gov">kevin.gantt@ky.gov</a>				

## KY Department of Corrections Policies and Procedures

[\(back to Table of Contents\)](#)

[KY DOC Policies and Procedures](#) (webpage with links to all CPPs)

[23.1 Religious Programs](#) (effective February 4, 2025)

[Religious Reference Manual](#) (effective April 4, 2023)

[26.1 Citizen Involvement and Volunteer Services Program](#) (effective February 4, 2025)

[2024 KY DOC Annual Report](#) (most current AR as of February 2026; pdf, 425 KB)

## County Jails/Detention Centers Information [\(back to Table of Contents\)](#)

County Jail/ Detention Center	City	Parish	Parish Contact (July 2021)	Ministry Services
<a href="#">Allen County</a>	Scottsville	<a href="#">Christ the King</a>	Fr. Thomas Buckman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pastor will go when called.</li> </ul>
<a href="#">Ballard County</a>	LaCenter	<a href="#">St. Mary</a>	Fr. Jude Okeoma Elaine Wood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parish does offer some service to the inmates there. Elaine Wood heads this up.</li> </ul>
<a href="#">Breckenridge County</a>	Hardinsburg	<a href="#">St. Romuald</a>	Deacon Mike Wiedemer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monthly jail ministry; 1st week of the month, 6 teams of two members each.</li> </ul>
<a href="#">Butler County</a>	Morgantown	<a href="#">Holy Trinity</a>	Fr. Julio Barrera	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pastor will go when called.</li> </ul>
<a href="#">Caldwell County</a>	Princeton	<a href="#">St. Paul</a>	Fr. Brad Whistle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pastor will go when called.</li> </ul>
<a href="#">Calloway County</a>	Murray	<a href="#">St. Leo</a>	Fr. Josh McCarty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pastor will go when called.</li> </ul>
<a href="#">Christian County</a>	Hopkinsville	<a href="#">Sts. Peter &amp; Paul</a>	Fr. Emmanuel Udoh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pastor will go when called. Deacon Tim Barnes tries to visit at least once a week.</li> </ul>
<a href="#">Crittenden County</a>	Marion	<a href="#">St. William</a>	Fr. Jojy Joseph	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When the jail calls and he is needed, he goes.</li> </ul>
<a href="#">Daviness County</a>  (see the <b>Inmate Handbook</b> which available in <a href="#">English</a> and <a href="#">Spanish</a> )	Owensboro  Whitesville  Owensboro  Owensboro	<a href="#">St. Pius X</a>  <a href="#">St. Mary of the Woods</a>  <a href="#">Sts. Joe and Paul</a>  <a href="#">Immaculate</a>	Fr. Larry Hostetter  Bob Cinnamond & Lane Rhodes  Wayne Tipton Carlos Earhart (Hispanic)  Fr. Larry McBride	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fr. Ray Clark is chair of the Jail Visitation Committee for parishes in Owensboro. They meet once every 3 months at St. Pius Tenth to discuss how to serve the needs of inmates and to prepare a calendar for Sunday visitations. Between 12:30 and 2:30 each Sunday, 2 women volunteers visit the women inmates and 2 men volunteers visit the men inmates. The service consists of songs, prayer, and Sunday's Scripture readings followed by discussion and communion to Catholics. Fr. Ray offers Mass when requested.</li> <li>Alan Zambrano visits each Sunday at 8:30am.</li> <li>Ursuline Associates and Sisters</li> </ul>

County Jail/ Detention Center	City	Parish	Parish Contact (July 2021)	Ministry Services
				<p>Jail Ministry: Our group meets quarterly with the female inmates on Saturday mornings from 9:00 to 10:00 am. We pray the Sunday readings and share song and prayer needs. Charlotte Paez and <a href="#">Marian Bennett</a> are the contact persons.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6-member committee, can provide money for inmates when they get out, provides Fresh Start classes on 12-2pm weekly, housing referrals for needs, financial support, transportation arrangements, work with Friends of Sinners, support groups.</li> </ul>
<a href="#">Fulton County</a>	Fulton	<a href="#">St. Edward</a>	Fr. Anthoni Ottagan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pastor will go if called.</li> </ul>
<a href="#">Graves County</a>	Mayfield  Fancy Farm	<a href="#">St. Joseph</a>  <a href="#">St. Jerome</a>	Fr. Eric Riley Sandra Halter  Fr. Darrell Venters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ms. Halter leads Bible study in jail.</li> <li>Pastor will go if called.</li> </ul>
<a href="#">Grayson County</a>	Leitchfield	<a href="#">St. Joseph</a>	Fr. Santhosh Thomas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pastor will go if called.</li> <li>Fr. Ray Clark goes once a month for Liturgy of the Word and a Communion Service and/or Confession.</li> </ul>
<a href="#">Henderson County</a>	Henderson	<a href="#">Holy Name of Jesus</a>	Fr. Richard Meredith	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fr. Richard goes on Monday for a communion service and catechesis for male inmates. He goes back on Friday to visit with Women inmates and any men who want to meet individually. Abraham Brown goes twice a month to meet with the Spanish speaking men for communion, prayer and catechesis. He is also willing to meet with Spanish speaking women as needed.</li> </ul>

County Jail/ Detention Center	City	Parish	Parish Contact (July 2021)	Ministry Services
<a href="#">Hopkins County</a>	Madisonville	<a href="#">Christ the King</a>	Fr. Steve Hohman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pastor will go if called.</li> </ul>
<a href="#">Logan County</a>	Russellville	<a href="#">Sacred Heart</a>	Fr. Ken Mikulcik John Higgins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Group goes in once a month, conducts bible study. The pastor goes when jail calls to do sacramental ministry and confessions.</li> </ul>
<a href="#">Marshall County</a>	Calvert City	<a href="#">St. Pius X</a>	Fr. Brian Johnson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pastor will go if called.</li> <li>"We sent our school to a halfway house, but we don't do outreach."</li> </ul>
<a href="#">McCracken County</a>	Paducah	<a href="#">St. Francis DeSales</a> <a href="#">St. Thomas More</a>	Fr. Gary Clark  Fr. Mike Clark	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pastors will go if called.</li> </ul>
<a href="#">Muhlenberg County</a>	Central City	<a href="#">St. Joseph</a>	Fr. John Ighacho	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pastor will go if called.</li> </ul>
<a href="#">Ohio County</a>	Beaver Dam Morgantown Fordsville	<a href="#">Holy Redeemer.</a> <a href="#">Holy Trinity.</a> <a href="#">St. John the Baptist</a>	Fr. Julio Barrera  Fr. Brian Roby	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pastor will go if called.</li> </ul>
<a href="#">Simpson County</a>	Franklin	<a href="#">St. Mary</a>	Fr. Thomas Buchman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pastor will go if called.</li> </ul>
<a href="#">Todd County</a>	Guthrie	<a href="#">St. Francis</a>	Fr. Ken Mikulcik	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pastor will go if called.</li> </ul>
<a href="#">Union County</a>	Morganfield	<a href="#">St. Ann</a>	Fr. Freddie Byrd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pastor will go if called.</li> </ul>
<a href="#">Warren County</a>	Bowling Green	<a href="#">Holy Spirit</a>  <a href="#">St. Joseph</a>	Shelly Hardcastle  Leon Muller	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bible study offered once per week.</li> <li>Active jail ministry</li> </ul>
<a href="#">Webster County</a>	Sebree	<a href="#">St. Michael</a>	Fr. Carmelo Jimenez Salinas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pastor will go to jail when called.</li> </ul>

## Fresh Start

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**Fresh Start for Life, Inc.** is a Christian Faith-based Program for character transformation and community transition for those who have conflict with criminal and civil law. Fresh Start strives to work together with Christian churches, service organizations, and the legal system to help offenders develop moral character that lines up with ethical values and community standards.

Fresh Start is based on the words of Jesus Christ, “*For I was...in prison and you visited me*” (Matt 25: 35-36). Fresh Start works to bring together Christian churches of various denominations to join hands in the work of restoring offenders. This “community approach” is in line with the Spirit of Christ, who prayed for his followers to be united in reaching the world (cf. John 17:20-21).

Jail and prison ministries are no longer something that occurs just in jails and prisons. Fresh Start ministers to the people during incarceration and after their release to ensure successful transition back into our communities. There are many inmates whose lives have been changed by Christ while they are incarcerated. But, if they don't have the love from a local church and the help of godly mentors, they are just as likely to return to jail or prison as someone who never had that saving experience. We have a responsibility to open our hearts and help them make the transition. The Fresh Start reentry program defines what being a Christian involves: hearing, believing, taking action, and making a commitment.

Fresh Start Friendship Committees work with those who want to change and voluntarily participate in the reentry program. The offender, now called our client, meets with the committee on a frequent and consistent basis, no less than twice a week and more if possible, including worship services, Bible study, and church fellowship activities. This immediately replaces their past circle of friends and activities with godly friends and activities. These committees become the client's lifeline through spiritual uplifting and mentoring.

Fresh Start supports REC retreats (see below), [Friends of Sinners](#), [St. Benedict's Homeless \(Emergency\) Shelter for Men](#), [Celebrate Recovery programs](#), [Cursillo](#), [Emmaus Walk](#), and small support groups in the Owensboro area.

Contact: Bob Cinnamond ([email](#) only; [cinnamondbob@gmail.com](mailto:cinnamondbob@gmail.com))

## **REC (Residents Encounter Christ)** ([back to Table of Contents](#))

**REC (Residents Encounter Christ)** is an experience of Christian living and community. Although Catholic in its roots, REC is an interdenominational Christian ministry to people in jails or prison - residents. It has been designed specifically for those who are serving time in a jail or prison. It is a variation of TEC ([Teens Encounter Christ](#)) and [Cursillo](#) modified for the jail or prison environment.

The program began in the late 1960's in a county jail in Lawrence, MA when 3 Franciscan priests offered a retreat for inmates. The first REC in Kentucky took place at the Kentucky Correctional Institution for Women (KCIW) in Peewee Valley in August 1986. It came to the Owensboro Diocese in 1991 when weekends began for the women at Dismas Charities in Owensboro. It has since spread across our Diocese with weekends currently being held at Blessed Mother and St. Pius X parishes (Owensboro, men), Daviess County Detention Center (men, women), Grayson County Detention Center (men), Green River Correctional Complex (men), and Kentucky State Penitentiary (men).

The word "encounter" describes exactly what happens on a REC weekend. The residents are given an opportunity to truly encounter Jesus Christ as part of their life. Through the meditations and religious celebrations, the residents should gain new insight into their faith and a deeper realization of Christian Community.

The weekend is an intense 3-day experience in Christian living during which the residents are brought into a true encounter with the Lord Jesus Christ. The specific purpose is to bring individuals who are serving time under sentencing of the court system to a greater awareness and sense of God and the presence of the power and grace of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

The weekend is based on the Paschal Mystery – the dying and rising of Jesus Christ. As such, the residents are invited to examine their lives and find those things they need to "die to" in order to "rise to a new life in Christ."

It has been amply demonstrated through past decades that true Christian renewal programs of this nature have brought about an awakened sense of self-worth, recovery of the sense of identity and an emerging sense of hope and rehabilitation among both male and female residents. The goal is to bring the message of salvation and a recovery of the person's worth and value as a child of God and a brother or sister of Jesus Christ. REC seeks to address the individual's need to learn from the past, face the present, and plan for the future.

Contact: Bob Cinnamond ([email](mailto:cinnamondbob@gmail.com) only; [cinnamondbob@gmail.com](mailto:cinnamondbob@gmail.com))

## Division of Reentry Services [\(back to Table of Contents\)](#)

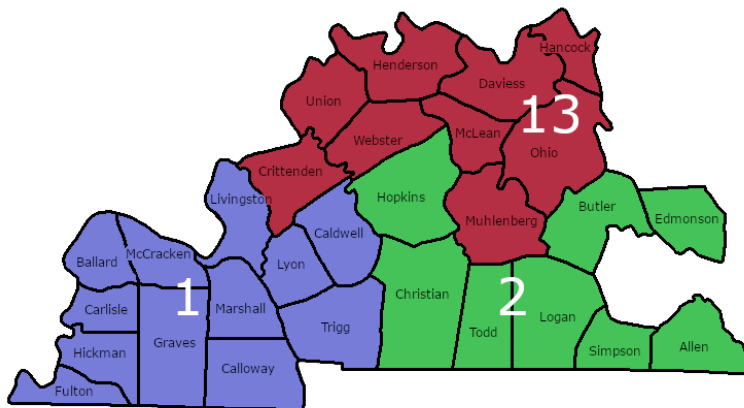
<https://corrections.ky.gov/Reentry/Pages/default.aspx>

The Division of Reentry Services vision is to help all we serve to achieve a successful reintegration into society beginning with the first day of incarceration or supervision. The Division's mission statement addresses three key areas. We focus on forming community partnerships. By formalizing partnerships across Kentucky, we are gaining resources to assist the justice-involved population with barriers. This is also beneficial in educating society about barriers that exist.

### Region 1 <https://corrections.ky.gov/Reentry/Pages/Region1.aspx>

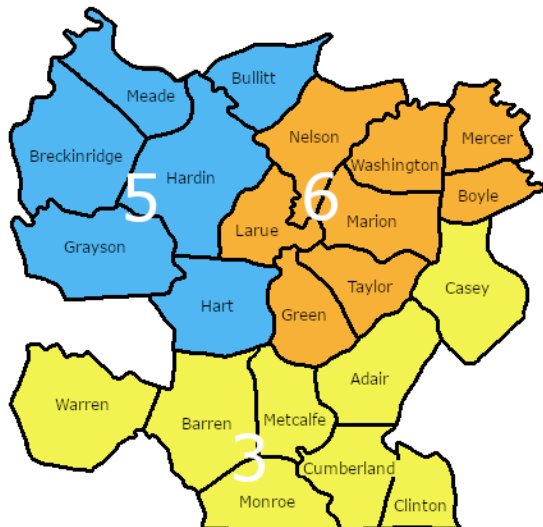
(includes information on Probation & Parole, Adult Institution, County Jail, and Reentry Coordinators and Employment Program Administrators for Districts 1, 2, and 13;

for KSP and WKCC/Ross-Cash)



### Region 2 <https://corrections.ky.gov/Reentry/Pages/region2.aspx>

(includes information on Probation & Parole, Adult Institution, County Jail, and Reentry Coordinators and Employment Program Administrators for Districts 3, 5, and 6; for GRCC)



# Catalogs of Offender Programs – Adult Institutions

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<https://corrections.ky.gov/Divisions/programs/Pages/ai.aspx>

Supporting a successful transition to the community and maintaining stability within the offender population is central to the mission of the Kentucky Department of Corrections. The Department protects public safety by ensuring that offenders receive programming to support their successful return to the community. Programs are standardized across the Department, implemented with dedicated resources, and regularly reviewed for quality assurance.

This practical guide was prepared to highlight the Department's programs. Each program summary in this directory contains key information: a Program Description, Time Frame, Admission Criteria, Program Content, Applicable Policies and locations.

The Department maintains a catalogue of evidence-based, life skills, promising practice, and substance abuse programs to address a wide range of reentry, supervision, and incarceration needs. Program offerings vary based on available resources and the needs of the offender population. The Department of Corrections maintains a list of the programs that are currently available.

## **Course Catalogue of Offender Programs - Adult Institutions (Vol 2-2024)**

<https://corrections.ky.gov/Divisions/programs/Documents/2025/Q3/AI%20Full%20Catalog.pdf>

## **Education Catalogue of Offender Programs - Adult Institutions (Vol 2-2024)**

<https://corrections.ky.gov/Divisions/programs/Documents/2025/Q3/EDU%20Full%20Catalog.pdf>

The Kentucky Department of Corrections (KDOC), Division of Education provides education and technical training opportunities for justice involved individuals.

The Division of Education seeks to provide the best possible learning experience and opportunities to support achievement in obtaining a high school equivalency credential (GED®) or furthering education to earn a degree.

Career and technical education programs in adult institutions are designed to teach students work ready employment skills to meet job and industry demands. The overarching goal is to teach marketable skills that can be used to find and retain employment for successful reentry.

### Catalog Purpose

The purpose of the Education Catalog is to provide information regarding approved educational courses offered to the offender population in accordance with CPP 20.1 Educational Courses and Educational Good Time.

## **Community Reentry Programing** ([back to Table of Contents](#))

### [About – Evidence-Based Programs or Life Skills](#)

House Bill 284 amended KRS 439.268, providing the opportunity for any supervised individual on probation, probation with an alternative sentence, or conditional discharge to receive program credit for the following: Successfully completing a drug treatment program, evidence based program, or any other promising practice or life skills program approved by the department. The Division of Reentry Services shall review and approve completion of an evidence based or any other promising practice or life skills program and enter program credit days awarded.

### [Approved Facilitators](#)

(includes facilitators in Barlow, Benton, Hopkinsville, Murray, Mayfield, Owensboro, Paducah)

Clients won't be eligible to receive Program Good Time Credit unless the program provider has been approved for inclusion on the approved facilitator list.

### [Events](#) by Region

The Division of Reentry Services hosts a variety of events in the community and inside institutional settings to get needed resources and information to the population and the general public. Some of the events hosted include Reentry Simulations (very few listed), Job and Resource Fairs (several listed) and Expungement Events (many listed). For more information or to collaborate in hosting an event please contact Julie York at (502) 782-2347.

### [Reentry Employment Administrators](#)

The Division of Reentry Services has 11 Employment Program Administrators who serve most counties in the state. They help with:

- Employment Application Assistance
- Employment Building Assistance
- Referral to hiring agencies
- Employment Clothing or tools
- Other Employment Related Needs

The process begins with the Probation & Parole Officer making a referral to the Reentry Employment Administrator who will meet with the client at the local Probation & Parole Office.

## **Course Catalog of Offender Programs and Education, Local Facilities – Detention Centers**

[\(back to Table of Contents\)](#)

<https://corrections.ky.gov/Divisions/programs/Pages/localfacilities.aspx>

Supporting a successful transition to the community and maintaining stability within the offender population is central to the mission of the Kentucky Department of Corrections. The Department protects public safety by ensuring that offenders receive programming to support their successful return to the community. Programs are standardized across the Department, implemented with dedicated resources, and regularly reviewed for quality assurance.

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### **Course Catalogue of Offender Programs and Education Local Facilities – County Detention Centers**

<https://corrections.ky.gov/Divisions/programs/Documents/2025/Q3/LF%20Full%20Catalog.pdf>

Contains:

Parenting Programs – MRT

Cognitive Behavioral Programs - MRT

Reentry Programs – PORTAL New Direction

Addiction Services

Education

Local Facilities Matrix

# KYDOC-contracted Reentry Service and Recovery Centers

[\(back to Table of Contents\)](#)

The Contract Management Branch of the KYDOC is responsible for overseeing community service centers that house state probationers, inmates and parolees. Inmates who are classified as community custody and are near their parole eligibility dates are placed in these centers/halfway houses.

This integration program allows inmates to become reacquainted with their families and the community and gives them a head start in seeking employment. This includes those offenders in need of substance abuse care and are located at one of the Kentucky Recovery Centers. In addition, many inmates are enrolled in vocational schools and/or college programs.

<a href="#">Reentry Service Centers</a> (full list link, left) (Below are those in our diocese)	
<p><b>Dismas Charities – Owensboro</b>                      615 Carlton Drive                      Owensboro, KY 42303                      Director: Holly Munoz                      Phone: (270) 685-6054                      Fax: (270) 685-0081</p>	<p><b>Keeton Corrections – Paducah</b>                      621 South Clarence Gaines Street                      Paducah, KY 42003                      Director: Dan L. Sims                      Phone: (270) 442-6251                      Fax: (270) 442-5814</p>

<a href="#">Recovery Centers</a> (full list link, left) (Below are those in our diocese)	
<p><b>Center Point Recovery Center - Paducah</b>                      530 County Park Road                      Paducah, KY 42001                      Director: Max Grantham                      (270) 444-3640</p>	<p><b>Owensboro Regional Recovery Center</b>                      4301 Veech Road                      Owensboro, KY 42303                      Director: Sarah Adkins                      (270) 689-0905                      FAX: (270) 689-0903</p>
<p><b>Trilogy Center for Women - Hopkinsville</b>                      100 Trilogy Avenue                      Hopkinsville, KY 42240                      Director: Jessica Sullivan                      (270) 885-2902                      FAX: (270) 885-2905</p>	<p><b>Women's Addiction Recovery Manor (W.A.R.M.) - Henderson</b>                      56 North McKinley Street                      Henderson, KY 42420                      Director: Nicole Field                      (270) 826-0036 FAX: (270) 826-2696</p> <p><b>Men's Addiction Recovery Center (M.A.R.C.)</b>                      1791 River St.                      Bowling Green, KY 42101                      Director: Nicole Field                      Phone: 270-715-0810</p>

## **Other Reentry Services and Recovery Centers** ([back to Table of Contents](#))

### **Other halfway houses and centers located within our Diocese that not contracted by the KYDOC**

There are other halfway houses and centers located within our Diocese that not contracted by the KYDOC and thus are not listed on the [KYDOC-contracted Reentry Service and Recovery Centers](#) page of this Handbook. Many of these are listed in the County Resource Manuals found on the [Reentry Resources](#) pages of this Handbook but since they are often not listed under one convenient category within these Manuals, the following link is provided: **Shelter Listings.org**

<http://www.shelterlistings.org/state/kentucky.html>

Shelter Listings is dedicated to serving the homeless and low-income.

The Kentucky List of housing resources includes:

Homeless Shelters, Supportive Housing, Halfway Housing, Transitional Housing, Day Shelters, Residential Alcohol and Drug Treatment Centers.

### **State Identification Cards, etc., upon release** ([back to Table of Contents](#))

Before individuals are released from incarceration, Reentry Services staff are already paving the way for a smooth transition. In addition to offering programming that enhances knowledge, skills and pro-social behavior, staff work on addressing the population's practical needs. This includes Medicaid enrollment at the time of release, connecting with a care coordinator in the community to arrange future mental health appointments and providing clothing assistance.

After a successful two-year collaboration between state agencies, DOC is now providing inmates at 14 prisons and several local jails with identification upon release to build a life after incarceration and find meaningful employment.

The state identification program is a partnership between the DOC, Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC), Kentucky Opioid Response Effort and the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce and was launched in Feb. 2021 at three prisons and the Warren County Regional Jail.

The program has now expanded to all 14 prisons and an additional 18 local county jails. As of April 3, 2023, there have been 1,785 ID cards issued.

### **Right to Vote and Right to Hold Public Office**

<https://civilrightsrestoration.ky.gov/Pages/home.aspx>

Via Executive Order 2019-003, if a person was convicted of a non-violent felony, their right to vote and hold a political office is automatically restored when they complete their sentence.

# Reentry Resources [\(back to Table of Contents\)](#)

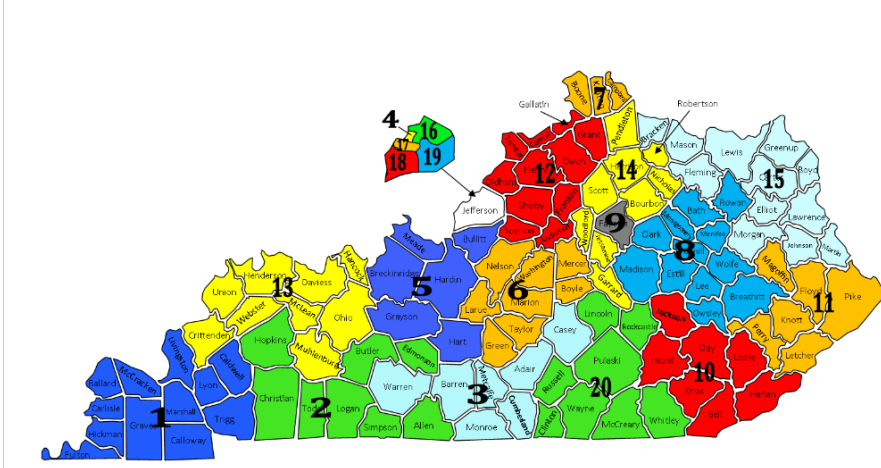
## Local Community Resources by District

### Pre-Release Community Resources

#### Statewide Resources

[Kentucky Labor Cabinet Apprenticeship Program](#)

#### Local Resources By District



#### Local Resources

- District 1 (Paducah Area)
- District 2 (Hopkinsville Area)
- District 3 (Bowling Green Area)
- Districts 4, 16-19 (Louisville Area)
- District 5 (Elizabethtown Area)
- District 6 (Danville Area)
- District 7 (Covington Area)
- District 8 (Mt. Sterling Area)
- District 9 (Lexington Area)
- District 10 (London Area)
- District 11 (Whitesburg Area)
- District 12 (Frankfort Area)
- District 13 (Owensboro Area)
- District 14 (Versailles Area)
- District 15 (Ashland Area)
- District 20 (Somerset Area)

Source: <https://corrections.ky.gov/Reentry/resources/Pages/default.aspx>

### District 1 - Community Resources

[District 1 Manual](#) (last update = October 2025)

(NOTE: On page 2, the following statement is inaccurate. “You can also use <https://metrounitedway.org/get-help-now/> for a wide range of services in and around the Paducah area for community providers that are always.” It only is for the Louisville area as the District 13 Manual states correctly.)

Resources are listed in the District 1 Manual for the counties below:

Ballard	Carlisle	Hickman	Marshall
Caldwell	Fulton	Livingston	McCracken
Calloway	Graves	Lyon	Trigg

## **District 2 - Community Resources**

[District 2 Manual](#) (last update = October 2025)

Resources are listed in the District 2 Manual for the counties below:

Allen	Christian	Hopkins	Simpson
Butler	Edmonson	Logan	Todd

## **District 13 - Community Resources**

[District 13 Manual](#) (last update = October 2025)

Resources are listed in the District 13 Manual for the counties below:

Crittenden	Hancock	McLean	Ohio	Webster
Daviess	Henderson	Muhlenberg	Union	

## **District 3 - Community Resources**

[District 3 Manual](#) (last update = October 2025)

Resources are listed in the District 3 Manual for the counties below:

Adair	Casey	Metcalfe	Warren
Barren	Cumberland	Monroe	

## **District 5 - Community Resources**

[District 5 Manual](#) (last update = October 2025)

Resources are listed in the District 5 Manual for the counties below:

Breckinridge	Grayson	Hart
Bullitt	Hardin	Meade

## **Victim Services** ([back to Table of Contents](#))

### **KY Department of Corrections Victim Services Branch**

<https://corrections.ky.gov/Victim-Services/Pages/default.aspx>

The Victim Services Branch (VSB) is committed to assisting victims and survivors throughout the duration of their offender's incarceration and supervision. We are dedicated to ensuring that crime victims are treated with dignity and respect.

A victim's need for assistance does not stop once an offender has been sentenced. In fact, it continues throughout an offender's incarceration, and VSB is the arm of Corrections which handles those requests for assistance.

Victim advocates from VSB work with victims daily as they attempt to locate information about their offender. We also travel the state to educate those involved in the criminal justice system about the VINE service - with the goal that all victims are aware of the protection the service offers.

**VINE** = [Victim Information and Notification Everyday](#) (website home page)

VINE [Brochure \(English\)](#) (pdf)

VINE Kentucky (register, 1-800-511-1670)

<https://vinelink.com/state/KY>

### **KY Crime Victims Compensation Fund Program**

[https://kycc.ky.gov/newstatic\\_info.aspx?static\\_id=158](https://kycc.ky.gov/newstatic_info.aspx?static_id=158)

The board decides compensation claims from victims of violent crime who have no other resources to pay for the medical, funeral, mental health counseling, and dental or corrective lens expenses resulting from the crime. Assistance can also include lost wages of the victim or loss of support for someone dependent on the victim. When awarded, payments are made directly to service providers or can be reimbursements to victims or claimants. The board's goal is to provide not only the above-mentioned assistance, but also to show empathy to crime victims during a particularly traumatic time.

### **KY Attorney General, Resources for Victims and Advocates**

<https://www.ag.ky.gov/Resources/Victim-Resources/Pages/resources.aspx>

### **More Victim Resources** (helpful links)

<https://corrections.ky.gov/Victim-Services/Pages/Helpful-Links.aspx>