

## Correctional Industries

Correctional Industries (CI) is a division of the Department of Corrections (DOC). CI is a unique blend of business and government, using private industry tools and techniques to operate work programs in prisons and provide offenders with marketable job skills. The value of CI is to foster successful offender development and reentry, enhance prison and public safety, and reduce taxpayer burden.

### Fosters Successful Offender Development and Reentry

CI offender work programs are modeled after the real world. Employability and technical skills are developed and applied daily. By linking basic skills, vocational skills, and on-the-job training, offenders are prepared for employment upon release.

CI's Trades Related Apprenticeship Coaching (TRAC) program provides education and job training for female offenders.

- 16-week session - offenders receive 460 hours of theoretical and practical instruction preparing them for competitive eligibility with a variety of union trade apprenticeship programs.
- With successful completion of the pre-apprenticeship program, offenders upon release have direct union apprenticeship entry, developed in cooperation with the Carpenters, Laborers, Ironworkers, and Lathers, Acoustical and Drywall Systems (LADS) trade unions.

#### Offender testimonial:

*“When I first left prison, after 12 years, I left as a Teacher's Aide (T.A.) to Steve Petermann of the Trade Related Apprenticeship Coaching (TRAC) program. I had been a participant and TA for close to a year. It had become a piece of my life and part of who I was. I loved hard work and labor and I loved helping other women realized their capability to do the same. I wanted to pursue my career in the carpentry trade, immediately.” There were bumps along the way, but through her persistence and positive attitude, Tristan Frye is currently a member of the Carpenters Union, Local 59, and working full time. “I wake up every night to my hands numb and hurting, but I am told that goes away and when I see those \$700 weekly pay checks...it is worth it.”*



#### Enabling RCWs:

72.09.070, 72.09.080, 72.09.090,  
72.09.095, 72.09.100, 72.09.111,  
72.09.115, 72.09.460, & 72.09.480

*“Our dedication and commitment to provide quality products and services is matched by our dedication to provide quality work experiences, training, and skills development for successful reentry of our offender workforce.”*

— Danielle Armbruster

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[www.washingtonci.com](http://www.washingtonci.com)

## Fosters Successful Offender Development and Reentry *(continued)*

CI has long held an important role in offender reentry. CI provides additional offender workforce development through community partnerships to help provide job readiness, job placement, and vocational education. In partnership with Goodwill of the Olympics and Rainier Regions (GORR), CI offender workforce development specialists and GORR case manager provide a 12-week program providing education in:

- Employment readiness
- Resume and application preparation
- Secondary educational options
- Conflict resolution
- Communication skills
- Professionalism
- Life in balance
- Financial preparedness
- Interview techniques

Another community partner, FareStart, provides culinary job training, placement and retention services to disadvantaged individuals. Through the partnership, 20 offenders were admitted to the program and there is currently a 100 percent employment rate for all CI graduates.

Most recently, CI has enhanced the link between offender jobs on the inside and post-release employment through Community Employment Specialists. These newly created positions will help CI offenders transition into the workforce upon release.

Offender testimonial:

Timothy Hager was the first graduate from FareStart, a Correctional Industries community partner.

*“On a personal note it has been very exhilarating being able to feel positively assured that someone is actually really sincere about doing something that helps me. Make no doubt, each student must do the footwork, and the support is there! For Real. The only way a person can fail this program is because they choose to.”*

Additional offender workforce development services include:

- Certificates of Proficiency to document skills acquisition;
- *Makin' It Work* training — employment based cognitive behavioral classes to enhance job performance and retention;
- *Straight A Guide* — prepares participants to overcome the challenges they face through imprisonment;
- *Roots of Success* training — an environment literacy, academic, and job readiness curriculum for offenders employed with CI in cooperation with the Sustainability in Prisons through The Evergreen State College; and
- Pre-release employment preparation, to include a comprehensive offender workforce development packet with work readiness documents. An established reference process to assist offenders in positively representing their work experience while incarcerated.

## Employment Based Certifications

- Association for Linen Management (ALM) Certification — Certified Washroom Technician and Certified Linen Technician
- Fork lift Certification
- Flagger Certification
- Food Handlers Certification
- ServSafe® Certification — food safety certification
- National Federation of the Blind — Braille Literacy Certification, Braille Nemeth Certification, Music Certification and Literacy Proofreading
- National Braille Association — Textbook Formatting Certification
- Welding — offenders earn certification through Correctional Education Programs - Community and Technical Colleges and transition to CI jobs to maintain certification.

## Enhances Prison and Public Safety

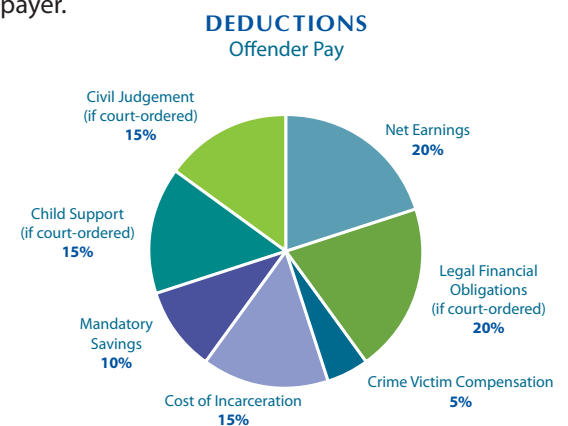
CI training programs support and enhance prison safety by reducing idleness and increases public safety by providing offenders with much needed job skills.

- Participation in CI programming gives offenders an incentive for good behavior and to remain free of violent infractions and actively engage in other programming opportunities. A report presented by the Reentry Policy Council (a national project coordinated by the Council of State Government, a non-profit organization) states reduced idleness leads to reduced tension which results in reduced violence within correctional facilities.
- As reported to Results Washington as part of Goal 4-2.3.d, offenders who release with vocational education or CI work program certificates are employed post-release at a rate of 49.3%. The rate is nearly 14% higher than those offenders who do not have the same experiences. Finding meaningful post-release employment, results in a reduced likelihood of committing new crimes after release which ultimately makes communities safer.

## Reduces Taxpayer Burden

Investing in CI has proven to reduce criminal justice costs for the Washington taxpayer.

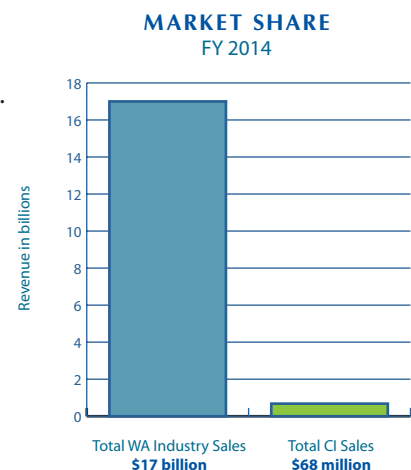
- In December 2014, the **Washington State Institute for Public Policy (WSIPP)** released an update on a study examining evidence-based public policy options to reduce crime and criminal justice costs. The benefit/cost estimate concludes that correctional industries programs generates about \$4.77 in benefits per dollar of cost.
- The money offenders earn while working for CI serves many purposes. Per RCW 72.09.111, deductions from wages go toward crime victims' compensation, mandatory savings, cost of incarceration, child support, court-ordered financial obligations and civil judgements.



## Improves the Economy

CI is a Washington business. During FY15, CI contributed \$38.8 million to the Washington economy through purchases from local suppliers and payment of staff salaries. CI is restricted from selling to for-profit organizations and the general public.

- Revenue from the sale of goods and services is placed in a revolving fund which pays all offender wages, staff salaries and benefits, and materials and supplies used to produce products.
- In Fiscal Year (FY) 2015, CI spent \$17.3 million with in-state vendors.
- CI consumes only a fraction of the market share and does not compete with the private sector. Of CI's 19 operations, 16 have a market share of less than 2%, three have a market share of less than 3%, and CI is the only in-state manufacturer for two operations (license plates and validation tabs).
- CI is committed to balancing the growth of offender jobs without adversely affecting the private sector.



## Producing Quality Products and Services for Tax Supported Entities

- CI has been producing license plates for Washington since 1923. CI is the lowest cost manufacturer in the nation for embossed plates.
- CI prepares 400,000 meals on wheels to Senior Services in King County alone.
- CI optical provides quality, low cost prescription eyewear to DSHS, Medicaid, and DOC recipients. On average, CI produces 125,000 pairs of glasses per year.
- CI's Braille Services Team is a collaborative partnership with the Washington State School for the Blind/Ogden Resource Center. As of August 2015, offender braille transcribers have transcribed over 1,196,056 braille pages since the program's start in 1992.
- CI joined the Northwest Food Processors Association and became certified by the Food Alliance — northwest farmers dedicated to sustainable agriculture. CI partners with Shepherd's Grain, and works in conjunction with them for a grain-to-baker-to-prison food supply chain.

## Who Works for CI?

- CI employs approximately 442 staff statewide, including approximately 292 union employees.
- CI staff work with over 2,300 offenders.
- In FY2015, offenders worked a total of 2,932,378 hours in CI programs.

## Statewide Programs and Number of Offender Workers by Location

