



# PRESS RELEASE

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## **State Receives \$10.9 Million in Free Inmate Labor Region IV (Harrison, Jefferson, Jackson, Pike, Forrest, George & Wilkinson Counties)**

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**Jackson** — Mississippi Department of Corrections (MDOC) community work center inmates completed a total of 2,132,702 hours of labor during fiscal year 2000, which is an estimated value of \$10.9 million. MDOC has 17 community work centers throughout the state. Types of labor community center inmates perform vary from janitorial and mechanic work to turf management of baseball fields and beautification of roadsides.

Last year, inmates at community work centers in Harrison, Jefferson, Jackson, Pike, Forrest, George and Wilkinson counties performed 806,132 hours of labor, valued at \$4,151,579. Examples of labor provided in these counties include janitorial work, picking up trash, grass management, cleaning culverts, setting up for events such as ice hockey games, light carpentry work, light body work on vehicles, maintenance at public ball fields, etc.

The MDOC community work center program provides inmates the opportunity to learn valuable work skills they can use once released. In addition, inmates in community work centers perform services to cities, counties and state agencies that are valuable sources of free labor.

MDOC defines a community work center as “a community-based minimum security facility designed to provide a gradual, systematic reintroduction of an offender into community life and to provide an alternative source of labor for other state agencies and local governments.” In order for an inmate to serve time at a community work center, several criteria must be met.

First, inmates have to be within seven years of their earliest release date in order to be considered for a community work center. However, inmates serving sentences for sale of controlled substances may be considered for a community work center within two years of their earliest release date. Inmates must pass a drug and alcohol test and be able to physically perform required work.

Disqualifications include inmates who have an escape attempt in the last five years, convictions of sex crimes, child abuse or crime convictions involving a minor or handicapped person. Inmates convicted of arson, carrying a concealed weapon, or inmates charged with violent or sexual offenses which received a plea bargain to a non-violent crime cannot be assigned to a community work center.

**MORE**

## **Community Work Center Inmates Performed Work at the Following Locations in Region IV:**

### **Harrison County CWC:**

Beats 1 – 3  
Long Beach Police Dept.  
Harrison County Occupational Training Center  
Gulfport Police Dept.  
Miss. Coast Coliseum  
Pass Christian Police Dept.  
Pass Christian Public Works  
Gulfport Police Dept Garage  
Harrison County Courthouse  
Gulfport Fire Dept.  
Gulfport Public Works Administration  
Miss. Highway Dept.

### **Wilkinson County CWC:**

Wilkinson County Sheriff's Office  
Woodville Police Dept.  
Districts 1, 4 and 5  
Natchez Public Works  
Wilkinson Public Works  
Mississippi Forestry Commission  
Town of Woodville  
Town of Crosby  
Miss. Dept. of Transportation  
Wilkinson County Road Crews  
Wilkinson County Wide Garbage Pick Up  
Wilkinson County Christian Academy

### **Forrest County CWC:**

County Beats 1 – 5  
City of Hattiesburg  
Miss. Dept. of Transportation  
Paul B. Johnson State Park  
Vocational Rehabilitation Services  
City of Petal  
Camp Shelby

### **Pike County CWC:**

Pike County Highway Dept.  
Walthall County Highway Dept.  
Percy Quin State Park  
Friendship Highway Barn  
Magnolia Police Dept.  
McComb Schools  
Summit Police Dept.  
Southwest Junior College  
City of McComb

### **George County CWC:**

George County Library  
George County Courthouse  
Senior Citizen's Center  
Mental Health Center  
Lucedale Police Dept.  
City of Lucedale  
County Beats 1 – 5  
Superintendent of Education  
Gulf Coast Community College  
City Hall  
National Guard Office  
Mississippi Fisheries & Wildlife  
George County School Bus Barn

### **Jackson County CWC:**

Districts 1, 3 & 5  
Beat 4  
City of Gautier  
City of Pascagoula  
Jackson County Youth Court  
Jackson County Dog Pound  
City of Ocean Springs  
Jackson County Parks & Recreation  
Jackson County Landfill  
Jackson County Courthouse  
Jackson County Soup Kitchen  
St. Martin Schools

### **Jefferson County CWC:**

Alcorn State University  
Jefferson County School Bus Barn  
Fayette Police Dept.  
Medgar Evers Home Health Agency  
Jefferson County Hospital  
Jefferson County District Barn  
Jefferson County Courthouse  
City of Fayette  
Franklin County District Barn  
Southwest Miss. Senior Citizens Center  
Jefferson County Comprehensive Health Center  
Jefferson County District #3  
Claiborne County Recreation & Parks  
McNair Stampley Waterworks