

# scgovFact Sheet

## Community Corrections Center

### What's a community-based correctional center?

It's a non-secure facility that reduces chronic criminal behavior that leads to numerous arrests and re-imprisonment – by offering residential housing, treatment, case management services and supportive programs for people who are finishing a local jail sentence or are on community supervision. The facility may be called a Community Corrections Center, a Day Reporting Center or a Work Release Center.

### How does a corrections center operate?

There often are three components to the facility.

- Residential housing for residents participating in substance abuse treatment.
- Residents who get treatment and support services are employed while they complete jail sentences. They reimburse their housing costs and must pay for victim restitution, child support, fines, etc.
- Recently released residents can visit the center for support in living a positive social lifestyle. They can participate in treatment programs or meet with their mentor.

Programs offered by the correction center include substance abuse treatment, mental health counseling, cognitive training skills, education, job training, anger management, life skills classes, housing, family reunification, mentors and support to transition into the community. Residents who need additional supervision will have regular drug testing.

### What's the status of the Sarasota County center?

The project is in an early stage. Although the Criminal Justice Commission has decided how it wants this type of facility to operate, decisions have to be finalized about the location, funding and facility management. These decisions will be the primary work of the Criminal Justice Commission with the final recommendations presented to the Sarasota County Commission.

### When people are assigned to the facility, what kind of crimes did they commit?

Only people who have been given a county jail sentence will be sent to the center. Those who receive a state prison sentence for violent crimes or serious felonies won't be eligible for admission to the facility. Facility residents will complete their sentence within 120 days and will be living in the community. The center will provide services to people returning to the community so they have no reason to re-offend. This will increase public safety and reduces the number of future crime victims.

### How are residents selected to participate?

Everyone who receives a county jail sentence will be evaluated for their eligibility to participate in the program. The evaluation uses a validated national risk and needs assessment. The process incorporates the candidates' records, openness to treatment and individual tendencies that may lead to further crime if they aren't offered supervision and treatment.

# scgovFact Sheet

## Community Corrections Center

### What kind of security does the facility have?

Interaction with jobs and community services helps people transition from custody back into the community. The program uses security with a focus on a system of rules. It uses rewards and negative discipline rather than the steel and concrete of a traditional jail.

The facility is designed to be non-secure, with a living environment focused on treatment and rehabilitation. Residents' activities are closely monitored by trained staff 24 hours a day. Resident's trips outside the facility are for specific purposes and are verified and approved in advance. The facility is constantly monitored for any unauthorized opening of doors and windows. Anyone leaving the facility without authorization is subject to a new criminal charge of escape.

### What kind of results have these centers had in other communities?

Nationally, these facilities have lower rates of re-arrests than any other correctional model. Sarasota County is basing its program on a center in Washington County, Oregon, where the arrest rate has dropped to 10 percent, compared to a national average of about 44 percent.

### How can citizens support the facility and its residents?

There are a number of ways citizens can help support the rehabilitative efforts to transition residents back into the community. Volunteers provide mentoring, support groups, education, career training and assist with many other programs.