

Title 34-A: CORRECTIONS
Chapter 3: CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES
Subchapter 1: GENERAL PROVISIONS
Article 2: COMMITTED OFFENDERS GENERALLY

§3035. Rehabilitative programs

The commissioner may adopt, implement and establish rules for rehabilitative programs, including work release, furlough and restitution, as authorized by [Title 17-A, chapter 69](#), within the facilities under the commissioner's control. [PL 2019, c. 113, Pt. C, §88 (AMD).]

Recommend renumbering paragraphs, making this new paragraph number 1

1. All residents of Maine's Department of Corrections facilities regardless of housing location, housing status or security level shall participate in intensive re-entry preparation for the six months prior to their statutory or mandatory release date. Residents on work release in the community or who are employed full time in remote employment may be exempted from the provisions of this statute.

a. In addition to the 2 hours daily provided by the MDOC for recreation and showers, four additional mandatory hours out of cell will be provided for classes, workshops, counseling, job training, and socialization for a total of six hours out of cell daily Monday through Friday.

b. In conjunction with other government entities, such as the Department of Labor; nonprofits and private entities offering peer specialists programs in the areas of SUD rehabilitation, mental health peer support, reentry peer specialists, money management, peer workforce navigators, anger management/violence reduction/healthy relationships, model parenting, navigating technology, navigating the health system and others; MDOC will provide the following menu of preparation opportunities -

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

finding and engaging a primary care provider,
locating and securing housing,
maintaining mental health,
maintaining physical health,
basics of nutrition on a limited budget,
what is 211 and how can it assist me,
who can be called when things are overwhelming,
reestablishing ties with family and friends,
the essentials of mutual relationships,
conflict resolution,
how to maintain a positive attitude when faced with rejection,
resources for substance use disorder,

PERSONAL FINANCE

what are my Mainecare/VA benefits,
budgeting on a limited income,
setting up a bank account,

IDENTIFICATION AND EMPLOYMENT

resume writing,
job search resources,
regaining my driver's license,

Obtaining other forms of ID
how to regain certification or licensure,
how to register to vote,
TECHNOLOGY
smartphone operation,
computer/technology use,
how to avoid scams,
and other topics related to successful reentry.

b.. Reentry programming that fulfills the mandate of this section shall be in place within six months of its passage.

c. Data - MDOC will be responsible for collecting data on the areas of preparation completed by each individual as of the date of release; the address to which they are released (regardless of probation or SCCP status); the name of their primary care physician; status of - health insurance, driver's license, voter registration, employment, completed resume, personal phone, and certification or licensure. Each releasing individual shall be provided with Narcan, condoms, healthy snacks and a list of emergency phone numbers.

MDOC will follow up with each released individual at 6 months and 12 months to ascertain the same information.

A Partial list of Resources:

1. NAMI Maine - peer counseling program
2. Maine Department of Labor and Maine Equal Justice - Maine Peer Workforce Navigator
Peer Workforce Navigators help people get unemployment benefits *and* find better jobs faster and more easily.

These are the big takeaways from a new report by the Center for American Progress, a nonpartisan policy institute based in Washington, D.C. [Read all about the research in our latest blog post!](#) MEJ is a proud member of the pilot [Peer Workforce Navigator](#) Project, a coalition of six community organizations in partnership with the Maine Department of Labor. **MEJ and PWN staff see the impact and value of the Navigators' work each day.** We are excited to now have data that supports what we know and to share this success story with a national audience.

State and federal investments in the Navigator program have clearly paid off, according to the report's findings. PWN is funded in part by Governor Janet Mills' Maine Jobs & Recovery plan, which supports a vital element of PWN's work, training and re-employment navigation services. According to the research, Maine's pilot program has made huge strides with workers. **When compared to similar workers in the region, PWN clients:**

1. Got back to work more quickly;
2. Enrolled in unemployment benefits more easily; and
3. Were more likely to advocate for better wages and working conditions.

The report also found that collaboration with Navigators helped the state to better serve diverse populations, especially immigrants and people with limited English or digital skills. **Researchers urged policy makers to make continued investments in innovative community programs like PWN.**

[Read the report and see more photos of PWN in action on our blog.](#)

If you have questions, please email me at kate@workforcenavigator.org and let's talk!
Kate Fahey, *Project Director*, Maine Equal Justice and Maine Peer Workforce Navigator Project

3. Santanu Basu et. al. - capstone project on the need for technology training for reentry success.

4. Maine Reentry Network(MERN) - The Maine Reentry Network exists to liaison between Maine's communities and those who have been separated from them for any reason, most commonly incarceration or substance use disorder.

5. Financial Literacy

New Ventures Maine <https://newventuresmaine.org/>

Mainstream finance <https://www.mainstreamfinance.org> (at Bolduc) Dave Simpson likes

[Maine Office of the State Treasurer](#). Check out the TeachME Financial Literacy page of the Maine Treasurer's site for a list of some resources and links about personal money management, saving and investing, and budget and debt management.

[Finance Authority of Maine](#). Provides students and teachers with a variety of web-based resources on topics such as budgeting, credit, money management and savings along with Maine-based financial education resources. Resources include **[Financial Education Services tools](#)** to find local financial education resources, including course information, programs, and speakers. FAME provides access to [iGrad](#) for Maine high school students. iGrad is an online program which includes interactive money management lessons, a scholarship search tool, and resources to assist in college planning. [Claim Your Future](#) is a web and classroom game for middle school students to explore future careers and money management.

For more resources on financial literacy -

<https://www.maine.gov/doe/learning/content/socialstudies/resources/financialliteracy>

6. Other organizations -Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault (MECASA), Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence (MCDEV), Restorative Justice (RJ) organizations