



PRESS RELEASE

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State Receives \$10.9 Million in Free Inmate Labor Region II (LeFlore, Noxubee, Washington & Yazoo Counties)

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 LeFlore, Noxubee, Washington and Yazoo counties performed 584,598 hours of labor, valued at \$3,010,679. Examples of labor provided in these counties include janitorial work, picking up trash, grass management, trash pick-up, mechanic work, plumbing repairs, painting, delivering meals to the elderly, cemetery maintenance, light carpentry work, 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

Type of work performed at community work centers in Region II:

LeFlore County CWC:

City of Greenwood Public Works
City Schools
Town of Itta Bena
Miss. Highway Patrol
Miss. Dept. of Transportation
Miss. Valley State University
National Guard
LeFlore County Schools
LeFlore County Districts 2, 4 & 5
MDOC Parole/Probation Offices
Greenwood Balloon Classic
High Cotton Cooking

Noxubee County CWC:

Noxubee County Barn
Noxubee County Solid Waste Dept.
Noxubee County General Hospital
Noxubee County School District
Noxubee County Courthouse
Noxubee County Communications
Noxubee County Sheriff Dept.
Light and Water Dept.
City of Macon
City of Shuqualak
City of Brooksville
Districts I – IV
Miss. Forestry Dept.
Miss. Health Dept.
Miss. Highway Dept.

Washington County CWC:

City of Greenville
Fire Museum
Greenville Police Dept.
Port Commission
Rounds Park
Washington County School District
Washington County Health Dept.
City of Leland
Town of Metcalfe
National Guard Armory
Town of Arcola
Convention Center
Miss. Highway Dept.

Yazoo County CWC:

Town of Bentonia
City of Yazoo City
Yazoo County Schools
Town of Bentonia
City Barn
City School Bus Shop
Yazoo County Community Action Center
Yazoo City Housing Authority
Parks & Recreation Dept.
Public Service Commission
Triangle Cultural Center
County of Yazoo Road Crew
Yazoo County Sheriff Dept.
Miss. National Guard Armory
Miss. Highway Dept.