



# PRESS RELEASE

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Date: April 10, 2001  
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## **State Receives \$10.9 Million in Free Inmate Labor** Region I (Alcorn, Bolivar & Quitman 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 Alcorn, Bolivar and Quitman counties performed 370,143 hours of labor, valued at \$1,906,236. Examples of labor provided in these counties include county road repair, painting, railroad repairs, cleaning parks, gardening, planting, harvesting vegetables, lawn maintenance, janitorial work, picking up trash, water leak repairs, maintenance work on school buses, 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 I:**

**Alcorn County CWC:**

City of Corinth Street Dept.  
City Park  
City Hall  
Sanitation Dept.  
Corinth Housing Authority  
Alcorn County Road Crew  
Alcorn County Courthouse  
Northeast Miss. Community College  
Extension Center  
Miss. State Highway Dept.  
National Cemetery  
Salvation Army

**Bolivar County CWC:**

City of Rosedale  
Rosedale City Park  
Rosedale Courthouse  
Rosedale Schools  
Bolivar County Road Repair  
Pace Bus Shop  
Lake Bolivar  
Miss. State Highway Dept.  
Bolivar County Headstart Center  
City of Shelby & Shelby Schools  
Mound Bayou Schools  
Town of Winstonville  
Rosedale State Park  
Town of Pace  
Town of Shaw and Shaw Schools  
City wide cleanup project

**Quitman County CWC:**

City of Clarksdale Auditorium  
Clarksdale Police Department  
Town of Jonestown  
Town of Lambert  
City of Marks  
Town of Sledge  
Town of Crowder  
Town of Tutwiler  
West Tallahatchie School  
Coahoma Community College  
Miss. Highway Dept.  
Coahoma County 911  
Clarksdale/Coahoma Animal Shelter