



NEWS RELEASE

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State Receives \$12.6 Million in Free Labor from MDOC Community Work Center Inmates Region 1 (Alcorn, Bolivar, LeFlore, Quitman and Washington Counties)

Jackson — Mississippi Department of Corrections (MDOC) community work center inmates completed a total of 2,447,847 hours of labor during fiscal year 2002, which is an estimated value of \$12.6 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, LeFlore, Quitman and Washington counties performed 703,373 hours of labor, valued at \$3,622,370. 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 1:**

Alcorn County CWC

City of Corinth
City of Corinth City Hall
City of Corinth City Park
City of Corinth Sanitation Dept.
Alcorn County Human Dept.
Alcorn County Road Crew
Alcorn County Airport
Allied Enterprises
Miss. One Stop Partnership Center
Miss. State Highway Dept.
The Salvation Army

Bolivar County CWC

City of Rosedale
Rosedale Schools
Town of Gunnison
City of Shelby
Town of Pace
Town of Benoit
Rosedale Sheriff's Dept.
Miss. State Highway Dept.
Rosedale Public Library
Port Commission
Town of Winstonville
Town of Mound Bayou
Town of Shaw
Bolivar County Maintenance
Great River Road State Park

LeFlore County CWC

City of Greenwood Public Works
Greenwood City Schools
Town of Itta Bena
Miss. Highway Patrol
Miss. Dept. of Transportation
Miss. Valley State University
Miss. National Guard
LeFlore County Schools
LeFlore County Civic Center
LeFlore County Health Dept.
LeFlore County Agriculture
LeFlore County Unit System
WIC
Greenwood Balloon Classic
East LeFlore Water Treatment Plant
Florewood State Park
Greenwood Convention & Visitor's Bureau

Quitman County CWC

Clarksdale Auditorium
Clarksdale Police Dept.
Clarksdale Human Society
Clarksdale 911
City of Clarksdale
Coahoma Community College
City of Crowder
City of Friars Point
Miss. Dept. of Transportation
City of Jonestown
City of Lambert
City of Marks
Quitman County Road Crew
City of Sledge
City of Tutwiler
West Tallahatchie Schools
Tallahatchie County Road Crew

Washington County CWC

City of Greenville
Greenville Police Dept.
Greenville Port Commission
Greenville School Systems
Washington County Asphalt Crew
Washington County Chamber of Commerce
Washington County Convention Center
Washington County Health Dept.
Washington County Dept. of Human Services
City of Leland
Town of Metcalfe
Town of Arcola
Miss. Highway Dept.
Miss. National Guard