

ISP FACTSHEET

Intensive Supervision Program
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SERVING THE COMMUNITY: THE IMPACT OF THE INTENSIVE SUPERVISION PROGRAM'S COMMUNITY SERVICE STANDARDS

The New Jersey Intensive Supervision Program (ISP) was established to reduce prison overcrowding while providing a cost-effective alternative to incarceration. ISP permits carefully selected state prison sentenced offenders to serve the remainder of their sentences in the community rather than prison. All participants must maintain full-time employment, abide by a strict curfew, remain drug and alcohol free, pay court-ordered fines, follow a strict budget and perform 16 hours of supervised community service each month.

Community service is frequently viewed as punitive; however it can also be rehabilitative. Projects are often extensive in nature and ISP participants exhibit immense pride when the projects are completed. During the course of these activities, new skills are acquired which may increase employability. Community Service also provides offenders with an opportunity to learn the value of helping others in need. Participants improve their communication skills, learn how to offer support to one another and gain experience in working as part of a team.

Community service serves as a form of restitution, as it is a way for the offender to make a significant contribution to the community. Many ISP participants are skilled laborers, contributing their expertise for free. Since 1983, ISP participants have performed over 4.4 million hours of community service. The contribution would amount to

over \$30 million if participants were paid minimum wage for these services.

Long-term and one-time community service projects are a standard for ISP. ISP participants perform community service at many annual events throughout the year. In October 2014, ISP participants helped with the annual Walk to Cure Diabetes that took place in Avon, NJ by setting up equipment and distributing supplies for the support of those participating in the Walk.



Another annual event is the Giving Tree at the Church of the Most Blessed Sacrament in Franklin Lakes; ISP participants help by collecting, wrapping, tagging, and delivering holiday gifts donated through this program to over 175 disadvantaged families.

ISP community service groups work at food banks across the state, *Meals on Wheels* and homeless shelters. An ISP group from North Brunswick can be found at the local *Feed the Children* organization. Participants distribute food and assist the community service

coordinator in training volunteers in the line operation process. An ISP participant with the help of his Officer recently organized an on-going group community service project at local parish food pantries. ISP participants pick-up and distribute food items to shelters and transitional housing locations. These efforts provide basic living provisions needed to ensure successful reentry into society and positive outcomes in ISP. For the past several years an annual project in northern NJ has entailed the collection of donated

clothing and toys and the distribution of these items to the families of ISP participants. ISP also conducts community service for the *SPCA*, *Humane Society*, and other local animal shelters.

Faith Based Institutions are often recipients of ISP's community service. ISP participants assist with tasks such as general clean ups, landscaping, and painting church classrooms. An ISP community service group works weekly at the *Bethel Baptist Church* in Cherry Hill. In addition to performing routine maintenance, ISP participants move stage sets for the church's annual play. The church shows its appreciation of the hard work performed by ISP participants by throwing them an annual "Thank You Feast".

Local government agencies have learned to rely on ISP's strong work ethic and persistent assistance. In *Washington Township*, the local police and fire departments have vehicles, grounds and offices cleaned by the ISP participants two days a week. ISP participants work at the *Holland Township Recycling Center* every Saturday separating recyclables, unloading tons of household debris and moving truckloads of mulch. Community service helped Holland Township cut the cost of cleaning and maintenance services. ISP participants can also be found throughout the state at township parks, town halls and road maintenance departments assisting with everyday duties.

In addition to local agencies, state organizations also receive assistance through ISP. Working with the Urban Airshed Reforestation Program, ISP Officers and participants from the Camden office have planted over 3250 trees in the Camden community over the past four years. ISP has been commended for their outstanding contribution to raise awareness and increase their community's forestry development.

Long-term community service recipients include *the Goodwill Foundation*, the *New Hope Foundation* in Marlboro, *Volunteers of America* in Camden, the *Mattie House* in Long Branch, The *Trenton Area Soup Kitchen*, the *American Diabetes Association*, the *Washington Township Park* in Camden County, the *Salvation Army*, the *Popcorn Park Zoo* in Forked River, *Catholic Charities*, the *Police Athletic League* in Atlantic City, the *March of Dimes*, *Sister Jean's Soup Kitchen*, and several *American Legion* and *Veterans of Foreign Wars* posts.

Gratitude for the service performed by ISP participants is voiced regularly by agencies benefiting from these services. Appreciation is expressed through letters, plaques, dinners and awards.

ISP is proud of its contributions to the State of New Jersey including cost effectiveness, low recidivism and continued excellence on the part of participants in regards to community service.

The New Jersey Intensive Supervision Program was established in 1983 as an intermediate form of punishment between incarceration and probation. As a division of the Administrative Office of the Courts, ISP provides offenders with an opportunity to work their way back into the community, while learning the skills and attitudes necessary to avoid future criminal activity. Currently, there are six regional offices, 86 officers and over 1,180 participants.

ISP is a cost effective alternative to incarceration. In fiscal year 2014, the participant cost of ISP was approximately **\$11,073** as compared to roughly **\$39,000** for incarceration. When court ordered financial obligations, ISP cost of supervision fees, child support, federal and state taxes, and the benefits of community service are all considered, participants contribute at least **\$3,229** to the economy, reducing the net cost of ISP to **\$7,844**.

New Jersey Judiciary
The Administrative Office of the Courts

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