

North Carolina Department of Correction
INMATE CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM
Central Engineering

North Carolina Department of Correction
Theodis Beck, Secretary

April 1, 2008

SESSION LAW 2007-323 (H1473)

INMATE CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM

SECTION 17.4. Funding authorized in this act is intended to increase participation in the Inmate Construction Program in order to improve inmate job skills and reduce recidivism. By April 1, 2008, the Department of Correction shall report to the Joint Legislative Corrections, Crime Control, and Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee and the House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees on Justice and Public Safety on the Inmate Construction Program. The report shall summarize the 2007-2008 Inmate Construction Program projects, including a description of each project, the number of inmate workers, and the estimated total cost of the project compared to the cost if the project was conducted without inmate workers. The report shall also estimate the number of inmate workers that will be used in the program during the 2008-2009 fiscal year.

INTRODUCTION

Beginning with the construction of Central Prison in the late nineteenth century, North Carolina has a long history of using inmate labor to complete public construction projects. Inmate labor built the Governor's Mansion and contributed to the construction of North Carolina's railroads and highways. Through the use of the Inmate Construction Program, the Department of Correction continues the proud tradition of putting inmates to work, teaching valuable skills and saving the state millions of dollars.

The Inmate Construction Program employs inmates in construction trades to help build capital projects for the Department of Correction. During FY 2007-08, approximately 343 inmates have participated in the Inmate Construction Program; they are paid up to \$3 per day. The inmates work in all aspects of the construction process, including carpentry, masonry, electrical, HVAC, plumbing, pipefitting, concrete finish, drywall and painting. Inmates in the program can work toward journeyman certificates in various construction trades by participating in apprenticeships certified by the North Carolina Department of Labor. Approximately 72 inmates currently are enrolled in the apprenticeship program.

The Inmate Construction Program (ICP) as it is known today began in 1994 with the construction of Dan River and Tyrrell Prison Work Farms. Since then, the Inmate Construction Program has completed a variety of construction projects for the Department of Correction, including the Apex Office of Staff Development and Training Center, the 208-bed dormitory at the North Carolina Correctional Institution for Women, Correction Enterprises' Columbus Tailoring Plant and the 168-cell maximum-security addition at Warren Correctional Institution. The program provides on-the-job training for inmates, while providing valuable services for the citizens of North Carolina at a significant savings to the state of North Carolina.

INMATE CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

The Inmate Construction Program has contributed inmate labor to eight construction projects during FY 2007-2008 and expects to add an additional eight projects during FY 2008-09. ICP will require an inmate work force of 730 inmates to complete the projects scheduled through FY 2008-2009. As a general rule, the use of inmate labor saves the Department approximately 20 percent on projects when compared to the cost of using private contractors.

The attached table summarizes the FY 2007-2008 and FY 2008-09 ICP projects, including a description of each project, the number of inmate workers, the cost of the project using private contractors, the cost of the project using inmate labor, and the estimated savings. Projected costs indicate that ICP will save the state an estimated \$20 million during the biennium.

SUMMARY

Through the use of the Inmate Construction Program, the Department of Correction continues a long-standing tradition of using inmate labor on public construction projects. During the FY 2007-09 biennium, approximately 730 inmates will participate in 16 construction projects. During the course of these projects, the Inmate Construction Program will put inmates to work, teach valuable skills and save the state an estimated \$20 million.

North Carolina Department of Correction Inmate Construction Program

PROJECT	# INMATES		COST AT MARKET VALUE	COST USING INMATE LABOR	ESTIMATED SAVINGS
	2007-2008	2008-2009			
Caldwell Correctional Center - 40-bed segregation building added to the existing minimum custody facility	70	70	\$4,333,000	\$3,611,000	\$722,000
Orange Correctional Center - 40-bed segregation building added to the existing minimum custody facility	70	70	\$4,357,000	\$3,631,000	\$726,000
Scotland Correctional Institution - 504-bed medium dormitory addition to the existing 1,000-bed close custody facility	40	150	\$19,817,000	\$14,500,000	\$5,317,000
Lanesboro Correctional Institution - Correction Enterprise's Furniture Plant industry upfit of the industry shell constructed as part of the existing 1,000-cell facility	46	0	\$2,886,000	\$2,405,000	\$481,000
DWI Treatment Facility - Goldsboro - 13 bathroom renovations within existing buildings at the facility	19	0	\$520,000	\$400,000	\$120,000
Caledonia Correctional Institution - Electronic intrusion detection system addition to perimeter fence inclusive of chase road and utilities at the existing facility	40	0	\$3,082,000	2,371,000	\$711,000

North Carolina Department of Correction Inmate Construction Program

PROJECT	# INMATES		COST AT MARKET VALUE	COST USING INMATE LABOR	ESTIMATED SAVINGS
	2007-2008	2008-2009			
Tabor Correctional Institution					
- Taut-wire electronic intrusion detection system perimeter fence and the "L" wing exercise area as part of the 1,000-cell facility	40	20	\$2,400,000	\$1,750,000	\$650,000
Alexander Correctional Institution					
- 252-bed minimum dormitory addition to the existing 1,000-bed close custody facility	0	100	\$13,191,000	\$10,553,000	\$2,638,000
Bertie Correctional Institution					
- 504-bed medium dorm addition to the existing 1,000-bed close custody facility	0	150	\$19,817,000	\$15,000,000	\$4,817,000
Tabor Correctional Institution					
- 252-bed minimum dorm addition to the existing 1,000-bed close custody facility	0	40	\$13,882,000	\$11,100,000	\$2,782,000
Western Youth Institution					
- Electronic intrusion detection system addition to perimeter fence inclusive of chase road and utilities at the existing facility	0	40	\$2,292,000	\$1,763,000	\$529,000
Odom Correctional Institution					
- Electronic intrusion detection system addition to perimeter fence inclusive of chase road and utilities at the existing facility	0	40	\$2,055,000	\$1,581,000	\$474,000

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PROJECT	# INMATES		COST AT MARKET VALUE	COST USING INMATE LABOR	ESTIMATED SAVINGS
	2007-2008	2008-2009			
Multiple Locations (5 locations) - Repair posts to correct a corrosion problem at the point of ground contact on perimeter security fence	0	12	\$700,000	\$500,000	\$200,000
Multiple Locations (10 Locations) - Install/replace fire alarms at existing facilities to meet present Life Safety Code requirements	6	6	\$350,000	\$175,000	\$175,000
Multiple Locations (5 locations) - Water and wastewater improvements at existing facilities to comply with enviromental regulations	0	10	\$1,250,000	\$1,000,000	\$250,000
ICP Warehouse and Fabrication Shop - Warehousing/staging operations and fabrication shop to support all activities of the program	12	12	N/A	N/A	N/A
TOTALS	343	730	\$91,465,000	\$70,784,000	\$20,681,000