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# Wisconsin Legislative Council

## STUDY COMMITTEE MEMO

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**Memo No. 4**

**TO:** MEMBERS OF THE STUDY COMMITTEE ON INCREASING OFFENDER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

**FROM:** Katie Bender-Olson, Principal Attorney, and Peggy Hurley, Senior Staff Attorney

**RE:** Information Requested at the November 10, 2022 Study Committee Meeting

**DATE:** January 4, 2023

This memo provides information requested by members of the Study Committee on Increasing Offender Employment Opportunities during the November 10, 2022 meeting. The information addresses the following topics: (1) criminal justice coordinating councils; (2) release locations; (3) information required to obtain a State of Wisconsin identification (ID) card; and (4) use of a Department of Corrections (DOC) ID card to open a bank account.

### CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCILS

Committee members requested additional information relating to the work performed by the statewide and local criminal justice coordinating councils (CJCCs).

The Statewide Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (SCJCC) was established by Executive Order in 2012, and continued through multiple additional executive orders. Governor Tony Evers recreated the SCJCC through [Executive Order #41](#), which sets forth the chairs and [membership](#) of the SCJCC, its authority and responsibilities, and its collaborative partnerships. The stated mission of the SCJCC is to “promote and facilitate the implementation of effective criminal justice policies and practices that maximize justice and the safety of the public.”

The SCJCC, co-chaired by Attorney General Josh Kaul and DOC Secretary Kevin Carr, administers the following subcommittees to conduct research, coordinate information, and make recommendations: Data Sharing/Outcomes, Trends, and Indicators (OTIs) Subcommittee; Evidence-Based Decision Making Subcommittee; Race Equity, Inclusion, and Access Subcommittee; and the Treatment Alternatives and Diversion Subcommittee.

Additionally, the SCJCC supports county-based CJCCs. These local CJCCs coordinate and administer justice initiatives such as treatment alternatives and diversion, specialized courts such as drug treatment or veterans’ courts, and coordination of services and resources for justice-involved persons and for victims of crime. Local CJCCs are intended to be responsive to local needs and available resources. According to its [informational web page](#), the SCJCC provides support by doing the following:

- Working to expand and enhance resources for local CJCCs and programs under the Evidence-Based Decision Making Initiative.

- Providing support and guidance regarding the implementation and efficacy of the Treatment Alternatives and Diversion program, as well as other evidence-based program models.
- Supporting and identifying statewide data sharing tools and resources to build criminal justice resource capacity.
- Addressing racial and ethnic disparities in the criminal justice system.
- Providing strategic planning for system-wide federal formula and discretionary grant programs in support of its mission.

Local SCJCCs provide a variety of programming and specialty court options. Most counties support a local CJCC; many offer at least one type of specialty court, such as a drug treatment court, veterans' court, or mental health court. Some counties support an evidence-based decision making initiative, and some provide diversion options at the pre-arrest, pre-conviction, and post-conviction stages of involvement with the criminal justice system. A list of the types of programs supported by the SCJCC and the counties participating in each can be [found here](#).

## STATISTICS ON RELEASE LOCATIONS

Committee members inquired about the locations in Wisconsin to which the largest number of individuals are released from prison. The DOC collects data regarding releases by county, which is available on its [DAI Prison Releases Dashboard](#). The data categorizes an individual's county of release based on the county in which his or her supervising Division of Community Corrections (DCC) agent is located. Certain DCC units supervise individuals in multiple counties, so the data is reported for a combined set of counties.

According to the Dashboard, there were 6,978 total prison releases statewide in 2021. The top 10 counties with the highest release numbers in 2021 are listed below<sup>1</sup>:

2021 Prison Releases by County			
County	Individuals Released	County	Individuals Released
1. Milwaukee	2,201	6. Waukesha	221
2. Brown/Outagamie	543	7. Rock	217
3. Racine	354	8. Winnebago	205
4. Dane	338	9. Marathon	184
5. Kenosha	313	10. Sheboygan	141

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<sup>1</sup> These figures can be obtained by selecting the "Release County" tab on the DAI Prisoner Release Dashboard and scrolling over each county or combined counties.

## DOCUMENTS NEEDED TO OBTAIN A STATE ID CARD

Committee members requested information on the documentation an incarcerated individual may need to obtain a state ID card. State ID cards are issued by the Department of Transportation (DOT). A person may obtain an ID card by providing documentation of his or her name, date of birth, identity, residence, and citizenship or legal status within the state, and paying the required fee.

A person may be able to apply for an ID card online or may be required to visit a DMV office in person, depending on factors including whether the person is seeking an original or a replacement ID card, whether the person's ID card is expired, whether the person is a U.S. citizen, and whether the person has all of the required documentation. Many recently released individuals are unable to apply for an ID card online and must apply in person, due to their current IDs being canceled or expired for more than two years, or their photos missing from DMV records or not meeting current DMV standards.

Generally, a person who seeks an ID card must provide proof of his or her name, date of birth, residency, and U.S. citizenship or legal presence in the state. The following is a list of requirements, with links to the types of documentation that may be used to satisfy each one:

- [Proof of name and date of birth.](#)
- [Proof of identity](#) (usually a document with a signature or photo).
- [Proof of Wisconsin residency.](#)
- [Proof of U.S. citizenship, legal permanent resident status, legal conditional resident status or legal temporary visitor status.](#)
- Social Security number.

## USE OF DOC ID CARD TO OPEN BANK ACCOUNT

Committee members heard testimony about the difficulty newly released individuals face in opening bank accounts. These individuals may lack necessary identification documents and banks may not accept DOC ID cards as qualifying identification. Members inquired whether federal or state law prevents banks from accepting DOC ID cards for purposes of opening an account, or whether banks choose not to accept such identification.

There is no federal or state law preventing banks from accepting DOC ID cards for individuals opening bank accounts. Banks that refuse to accept such cards do so under their own discretionary policies.

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