

# The Chief

Civil Service **LEADER**  
**THE CIVIL EMPLOYEES' WEEKLY**

## 'Ex' Marks the Spot For City Anti-Recidivism Bid KEEP THEM OUT OF JAIL

Department of Correction Photo

KEEP THEM OUT OF JAIL: Correction Commissioner Dora B. Schriro, with Fortune Society President JoAnne Page to her right, at a press conference announcing the I-CAN program aimed at reducing the rate of new offenses by released jail inmates.

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By **MARK TOOR**



The Bloomberg administration last week announced a program aimed at reducing recidivism by 10 percent among jail inmates at the highest risk of committing new offenses after their release.

The program, called the Individualized Correction Achievement Network, or I-CAN, will pay nonprofit service providers based on their success in helping offenders get jobs, earn GEDs and stay sober. The current system pays providers on the basis of the number of offenders who show up for appointments.

### 'End Vicious Cycle'

"For too long, leaving jail has been followed by returning to jail," said Deputy Mayor Linda I. Gibbs at a Feb. 21 press conference announcing I-CAN. "Providing New Yorkers with measurable tools for success, such as access to education, is critical to ending that vicious cycle."

The program is aimed at further reducing the city's drop in the incarceration rate, which is down 32 percent since 2001, even while the rest of the country went up by 5 percent.

Even so, the Department of Correction has its work cut out for it: 42 percent of males age 19 or older released from jail in fiscal year 2012 returned within a year, as did 69 percent of high-risk adult inmates.

DOC will use an assessment tool that gauges inmates' risk of re-offending based on eight primary factors: alcohol and drug use, education and employment, pro-criminal orientation or attitude, anti-social pattern, family or marital situation, leisure/recreation, companions and criminal history. The tool will be used to develop an Individualized Correction Plan for each inmate participating in I-CAN.

### Target Likely Recidivists

"We're targeting the inmates who are most likely to be re-arrested early in their incarceration for discharge planning and preparation," said Correction Commissioner Dora B. Schriro.

The nonprofits running the program, the Fortune Society and the Osborne Association, will be paid only when clients reach such milestones as acquiring a state identification card, earning a GED, preparing a resume, getting and keeping a job, completing a culinary-arts certification program, and abstaining from substance abuse. The two agencies both have long histories of working with New York City inmates.

The program will serve 2,270 inmates annually during their time of incarceration and up to six months after their release. The budget for fiscal year 2013 is \$3.6 million.

"This is the first jail-based re-entry program to combine best practices with a nationally-validated, evidence-based assessment tool and pay-for-success program delivery," Mayor Bloomberg said.