

New York City Department of Correction Discharge Planning Report Calendar Year 2025

Pursuant to NYC Administrative Code 9-129, the Department must produce an annual report regarding implementation of NYC Administrative Code sections 9-127 and 9-128, as well as recidivism among individuals who receive discharge planning services.

Implementation of NYC Administrative Code 9-127

The Department of Correction ("DOC" or "the Department") and the Department of Homeless Services ("DHS") developed a data match process by which DOC sends its discharge files on a monthly basis to DHS and DHS then computes the percentage of shelter entrants with DOC stays in the six months preceding shelter entry. The results are used to inform various components of the discharge planning effort.

Additionally, DOC partners with the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice ("MOCJ") and its contracted social service organizations to assist sentenced individuals with discharge planning and post-release services. These organizations meet with interested individuals to complete a discharge plan that identifies each person's housing, employment, and sobriety needs. Based on the information provided in these discharge plans, the social service organizations assist individuals in addressing their unique needs. This includes providing housing support, vocational training, job readiness workshops, job placement, and case management, among other services.

Throughout 2025, the Department has continued to coordinate services to ensure that sentenced individuals have an opportunity to meet with a social services organization to complete a transition plan, receive information about community-based services, and get connected with safe, stable housing. DOC staff in partnership with the social service organizations ensure that sentenced individuals with upcoming release dates receive vital discharge planning services. As a result, the Department has seen a significant increase in the number of successful transition plans and housing placements. In addition, earlier this year, the Department issued a solicitation for additional transition planning services, which we hope will further enhance our ability to support sentenced individuals during their release.

Implementation of NYC Administrative Code 9-128

DOC continues to make resources for government benefits available across its facilities through the use of benefit boards, Programs staff, and reentry partners. Available resources include applications and descriptions of benefits for programs at all levels of government, including the Social Security Administration ("SSA") at the federal level, the New York State Office of Children and Family Services ("OCFS") at the state level, and New York City 311 Jail Release Services at the local level, to name a few.

The Department is in the process of procuring a new vendor to assist sentenced individuals with application preparation for public benefits, in the hopes of enabling activation or reactivation of benefits as soon as possible upon their release from custody. One exciting new initiative that DOC staff are assisting with, in partnership with Department of Social Services (DSS) staff, is the pilot program designed to ease the reintegration of people in custody back into the community by helping them enroll in IDNYC, the country's largest municipal ID program. IDNYC is overseen by DSS and provides New Yorkers with a government-issued photo ID broadly accepted across the city.

Recidivism

The primary goal of discharge planning services is to support successful community reintegration and subsequently reduce recidivism. The Department works closely with MOCJ and contracted reentry providers to ensure that people in custody have a continuity of care from their time in custody to their reintegration into the community. The Department has established a tool to score people in custody on their potential to recidivate, as well as launched a new data management system that enables tracking for all individuals receiving discharge planning services.