

# Dept. of Corrections Legislative Wins

- Thanks to member action, our DOC contract was fully funded by the Legislature. It includes raises of 23% per DOC job class on average.
- Our union also passed significant legislation and budget items that will improve DOC staffing levels and workload
- WMS DOC staff gain union rights with passage of HB 1122

## Contract Funding

WFSE DOC members negotiated a significant arbitration award for our 2023-2025 contract, which includes an average raise of 23% per job class. DOC members then lobbied their elected officials during the 2023 Legislative Session to ensure funding.

## Staffing Support

The operating budget provides an additional \$10.2 million in new programs/support and 59.7 full-time employees (FTEs) for DOC community corrections.

SB Bill 5134 provides new funding for reentry services & supports, including dedicated reentry corrections specialist staff for discharge plans, and includes gate money at \$300 per releasing individual.

WFSE secured \$2.9 million for supervision staffing to convert the Bellingham Reentry Center from a contractor-run facility to a state-run facility.

\$2.7 million was also dedicated for supervision staffing to convert the Helen B. Ratcliff Reentry Center from a contractor-run facility to a state-run facility. The previous contract was terminated in the fall of 2021 and DOC took on operations and began accepting incarcerated individuals again in November 2022.

WFSE's advocacy resulted in \$1.3 million and 10.5 FTEs to expand training resources for the agency's community corrections program.

## Criminal Justice Training

HB 1132 adds limited authority peace officers to the law enforcement personnel subject to Criminal Justice Training Commission requirements. WFSE DOC members are exempted from this requirement.

\$150K is provided for the CJTC to develop a plan and recommendations to further increase CJTC training capacity to include meeting the needs of limited law enforcement personnel. A preliminary report is due November 15, 2023 and a final report is due September 30, 2024.

\$9.5 million is provided for an additional four basic law enforcement academy classes per year at two new proposed regional training academy (RTAs) locations. This includes one RTA in Pasco and one new RTA in Skagit County, and the four additional classes per year will be split between the two new RTA locations. This will expand the CJTC staffing by 8 FTEs.

An additional \$4.7 million and 4 FTEs is provided for another two basic law enforcement academy classes per year at one new proposed regional training academy in Clark County.

\$960K is provided for additional administrative staffing to support operational needs at the CJTC.

## Union Rights for DOC WMS Employees

WFSE has a long history of advocacy and success negotiating pay increases and improvements for DOC workers. Many WMS staff at DOC have made it clear that they too need a path to advocate for themselves.

While the pay for the staff WMS supervise continues to rise, WMS pay has stayed stagnant and compression in pay hasn't been addressed by DOC or the state legislature.

That's why our union passed House Bill 1122 this Legislative Session. It gives union rights to staff in WMS bands 1 and 2. WMS employees will finally be able to address pay inequities from a position of power as a union.



Scan here for info on our contract, upcoming meetings, and more.

