

OCE Response to

Benefit-Cost Analysis Report on Department of Corrections

Oregon Criminal Justice Commission, Ann Shirley Leymon, Ph.D.

February 2018

In 2012, the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) began a project to evaluate the return on investment of Oregon's adult criminal and juvenile justice programs through a partnership with the Pew-MacArthur Results First Initiative. The report's author asked the Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC) for program data to assess. As part of the assessment, DOC asked CJC to evaluate the effectiveness of Oregon Corrections Enterprises (OCE) programs as well.

OCE submitted to the CJC copies of the following research reports (the reports and corresponding OCE response are found in *Through a Public Lens*, a resource book assembled by OCE) as examples of analyses of corrections industries programs:

- 2012 Update Washington State Institute for Public Policy – ROI Evidence-Based Options
- 2012 Iowa ROI Offender Programs
- 2016 OCE – Program Effectiveness and Identifying the Best Offenders for the Program

Basing the cost on OCE financial data and the benefit on the associated costs of recidivism, and utilizing an Oregon-specific study, the report concludes that the Oregon taxpayers (and reduction in victims) save \$5.20 for every dollar spent with OCE. The report does not detail recidivism of those participating in OCE programs, the adults in custody best served by OCE, nor the details of the economic impact. *In 2016, OCE commissioned a report by ECONorthwest to assess variables of economic impact in a more detailed format. Please see the report in *Through a Public Lens* for details.*

The report states, "Conversations with representatives from both OCE and DOC indicate that it can be a challenge to find suitable candidates for some of the jobs provided through OCE." The report then proceeds to recommend the following:

- "DOC should explore programs that provide employment mentors to OCE participants to improve job retention."
- "DOC should also consider an employment readiness program to increase the number of participants who are prepared to successfully work at OCE."

OCE has a 2018 task list item to work with DOC to better align programs offered by both entities to create a career-path-type system for adults in custody.