

# Issue Brief

## OREGON CORRECTIONS ENTERPRISES



# Print and Mail - Fulfillment Services

## Overview

Established in 1999 through the passage of Ballot Measure 68, Oregon Corrections Enterprises (OCE) is a semi-independent organization, whose administrator reports to the director of the Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC). OCE plays an important role in carrying out Ballot Measure 17, the constitutional mandate to engage male and female adults in custody (AICs) in meaningful work. ***By statute, OCE is funded solely through the sales of its products and services.***

The mission of OCE, in partnership with DOC, is to promote public safety by providing AICs with meaningful work experience in a self-sustaining organization. OCE plays an important role in implementing DOC's Oregon Accountability Model (OAM). The OAM is a cohesive strategy to reduce recidivism and influence AICs to make effective changes, leading to better outcomes. Through the development of positive work ethics and job skills, OCE assists AICs in their transition to realizing their potential as productive citizens, creating positive outcomes, while contributing to society and their families.

## Printing

OCE provides customers with assistance from project concept to the finished product. Services include digital printing and traditional offset printing including business cards, letterheads, envelopes, carbonless forms, multi-color publications, and any other printed job. Most program participants have opportunities to learn technical skills at each phase of the process using both traditional and more current technology. This helps participants develop a more versatile skill set. In addition, each person in the production line is taught to check the quality of the work from the previous station. This bolsters the idea of teamwork and enhances soft skills, such as communication, necessary to be successful when re-entering the job market.

## Graphic Design

Training for a fast-growing and innovative industry, the AICs in the Graphic Design program create materials for in-house use and outside customers. As a key element of the OCE Marketing cohort, they are essential in producing high-quality imagery and layouts for our marketing materials. AICs in this program develop a wide skillset using Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign, Premiere Pro, Autodesk 3ds Max, and Microsoft office programs among others. Their work is seen across the state of Oregon and at the national level.

## Mailing

As a full service provider, OCE offers mailing services of its printed products, including surveys. Participants in the Mail Fulfillment program learn current United States Postal Service and other courier standards. Skills learned include sorting, collating, distribution, direct envelope printing, certified postage metering, and packaging.

## Document Scanning

In the Document Scanning program, participants learn the importance of quality control as they scan paper documents, convert them into a variety of formats (.pdf, .tiff, .jpeg, etc.), and save them to the customer's choice of media. They also learn how to set up file naming conventions and bookmarking formats per project specifications. This program is particularly valuable to State agencies looking to reduce the cost of warehousing archived documents and increase the efficiency of fulfilling public records requests. When finished with a project, the customer has the option of having the originals returned or securely shredded and sent to recycling operations, reducing waste at Oregon landfills.

## OCE's Contributions

### Contributing to Public Safety

When adults in custody (AIC) have productive activities to occupy their time, Oregon's prisons are safer. OCE holds

AIC accountable for their actions and they understand that a basic prerequisite for participating in OCE programs is to maintain good conduct. OCE staff members help program participants by role modeling, redirecting AIC behavior and reinforcing positive performance.

### **Work Skills Certification and Re-entry**

Similar to the Federal Job Corps model, participating AICs gain entry-level experience with technical and industry-specific skills as well as develop pro-social skills and work ethic. They learn decision-making, social interaction, teamwork, reliability, and accountability. The programs strive to duplicate a real-world experience to prepare AICs for job readiness on the outside.

OCE administers industry-recognized Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI) training programs. Through these programs, qualified AICs develop the skills and attitudes needed to enhance their opportunities to secure employment upon release.

### **Benefiting the Citizens of Oregon**

OCE purchases as much as possible of its raw material needs from Oregon companies, contributing to the success of local business. A 2018 study by ECONorthwest shows, for every million dollars produced by OCE, \$690,800 is re-spent along the supply chains in the state, compared to \$346,500 for private sector counterparts. OCE direct employees are primarily high-skill level jobs, while the private sector includes low- and high-skill jobs. In total, OCE pays more in total wages, which has a net positive induced effect on Oregon's economy.

OCE regularly evaluates its programs to discover additional ways to operate in a more environmentally-friendly manner. OCE works to align its business practices with state initiative by utilizing environmentally friendly practices to include chemicals, soy based inks, and water reclamation. Throughout our facilities we have reduced the use of harmful chemicals. We use environmentally friendly custodial cleaning products, water-based finishing stains, and vibrant soy-based printing inks. Our water reclamation system saves an estimated 10 million gallons of water per year. We also work with local recyclers to process the scrap metal, allowing it to be melted back down and made into usable products.

OCE also makes every effort to keep as many AICs working as financially possible. AICs contribute part of their earnings toward meeting obligations for child support, state and federal taxes, court-imposed fines, and victims' assistance fund. Each year OCE reimburses

DOC millions for performance recognition awards and wages for the AICs for the successful completion of their assignments. The costs of OCE programs are not funded by taxpayer dollars, yet the program still benefits the state by avoiding criminal justice system costs. A 2017 report by the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission concluded for every dollar invested with OCE, the citizens of Oregon avoid \$5.20 in recidivism costs.



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