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## State of Wisconsin Department of Corrections

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### **DOC Awarded \$450,000 Federal Grant to Bolster Racine Reentry Efforts**

RACINE – Department of Corrections (DOC) Secretary Rick Raemisch announced today that the DOC has been awarded a \$450,000 grant by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) to enhance supervision strategies for high-risk offenders returning to the Racine community.

“This grant is an important addition to our agency’s comprehensive agenda to increase public safety and reduce recidivism in Wisconsin communities, including the Racine area, by improving prisoner reentry,” Secretary Raemisch said. “We are building partnerships with law enforcement, the faith-based community and other groups to improve offender reintegration and to promote offender accountability, and this grant will help us build upon these efforts in Racine County.”

Under the Prisoner Reentry Initiative (PRI) grant, which was awarded by the DOJ’s Office of Justice Programs, the DOC will work with these partners to coordinate and implement pre-release and community transition services, including comprehensive risk and needs assessments, individualized transition plans, pre and post-release services, employment training, mentoring, and additional supervision to high risk offenders.

The \$450,000, two-year grant will target a minimum of 200 offenders who are released from DOC institutions and the Racine County Jail to communities within Racine County, following completion of their court-ordered sentences.

In developing the PRI’s design, management structure, budget and evaluation strategy, the DOC consulted and worked closely with the Racine County Sheriff’s Department, the Racine County Administration, the Racine County Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee, the Racine County Workforce Development Center, and faith- and community-based organizations. The DOC has had a longstanding partnership with many of these organizations.

The PRI grant in Racine marks the second grant of its kind being awarded to the Wisconsin DOC. In 2006, the DOJ awarded the agency a \$450,000, two-year grant to implement a similar program for non-violent offenders being released into Milwaukee County from DOC facilities and the county’s House of Correction.

“Wisconsin maintains a national reputation for innovation and effective correctional practices, and the DOC has established a solid multi-agency, cross-disciplinary infrastructure to support system-wide efforts aimed at reentry best practices,” Secretary Raemisch said. “This new grant will move these efforts to a new level in Racine County, resulting in reduced recidivism and greater public safety in the long run.”

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