VISION: Transform lives and increase successful reentry through training and mentoring.
MISSION: Correctional Industries is committed to maintain and expand work training programs which develop marketable job skills, instill and promote positive work ethics, and reduce the tax burden of corrections.

OUR COMMITMENT

Training for Reentry

As part of the Reentry Division within the Washington State Department of Corrections, Correctional Industries (CI) provides work training opportunities to incarcerated individuals. Correctional Industries training programs enhance prison safety by reducing idleness and increase public safety by providing them with much needed job skills. The goal is simple, prepare incarcerated individuals for successful reentry and post-release employment through on-the-job and essential skills training.

What is Class I?

Correctional Industries is certified by the Federal Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) to administer Prison Industry Enhancement (PIE) Certification Programs, which provide exemptions from interstate commerce restrictions of prisoner-made goods. The Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 72.09.100 defines PIE programs as Class I: Free Venture Industries.

Simply put, Class I operations are an opportunity for private businesses to partner with CI in the production of goods and services for sale to both the public and private sector.

Employer Model

This Class I model is operated and managed in total or in part by any profit or nonprofit organization in accordance with an agreement between the organization and Correctional Industries.

Partnership Opportunity

Whether your business is seeking growth opportunities or looking to bring back offshore manufacturing, a Class I partnership may be the workforce solution you need. As a Class I partner, your business will benefit from a skilled and dependable workforce while maintaining the high level of quality your customers expect. CI’s skilled workforce can provide manufacturing support in any one of our existing trades or we can adapt production to meet your specific business demand.

When you partner with CI, not only does your business receive a valuable product or service, you are also helping to reduce recidivism. When inmates release from prison as well-trained and employment ready individuals they have a higher chance of successful reentry within their community.

JUST THE FACTS:

Approximate number of inmates returning to Washington State counties each year: 7,800

▲ The number of CI workers working three years after release is four times higher than the number of inmates who did not participate in CI programs.

▲ Percentage of inmates that are released to their community.

▲ Percentage* of individuals with CI or vocational education experience who are employed post release. This is 13.8% higher than the overall offender post release employment percentage.


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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: WHAT WAGE IS THE INMATE WORKER PAID?
A: The wage paid to the Class I inmate worker is comparable to the wage paid for similar work in the private sector within that same geographic region as determined by a wage review conducted by the Washington State Employment Security Department (ESD).

Q: HOW MANY INMATES AVAILABLE TO WORK?
A: There are several factors that determine worker availability, including the facility population and the type of business operations. CI will work with you to find a solution to best fit your goals.

Q: WHERE CAN WE ESTABLISH A CLASS I PARTNERSHIP?
A: Facility selection is based on numerous factors to include, but not limited to; the Class I model, physical space required, facility inmate population, and geographic availability to any current operations.

Q: WHAT TYPES OF BUSINESS ARE MOST PRODUCTIVE FOR CLASS I PARTNERSHIP?
A: Our Class I models strive to provide the best and most applicable training available for the inmate workforce with the ultimate goal to reduce recidivism and give these incarcerated individuals a chance to succeed as law-abiding citizens. Any variety of skills found in the private sector arena are a possible fit for Class I partnership.

Q: WHAT PARTNERSHIPS CURRENTLY EXIST?
A: There are no active Class I partnerships in the state of Washington. Nationally, 46 states offer the Prison Industry Enhancement (PIE) programs administered by the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA). Your own tax advisor can advise on any benefits of hiring incarcerated workers.

Q: WHAT TYPES OF BUSINESS ARE MOST PRODUCTIVE FOR CLASS I PARTNERSHIP?
A: Class I operations will employ inmates currently incarcerated in Department of Corrections’ prisons and not individuals on work release.

Q: ARE THE INMATES CONSIDERED EMPLOYEES OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR PARTNER?
A: No, the inmates are not considered employees of the private enterprise.

Q: ARE THERE ANY TAX BREAKS FOR HIRING INMATES UNDER CLASS I PARTNERSHIP?
A: Tax breaks or incentives are not authorized under the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) regulated PIE programs. Your own tax advisor can advise on any benefits of hiring incarcerated workers.

Q: CAN WE HIRE THE SAME INMATES ONCE THEY HAVE RELEASED?
A: Yes! We strongly encourage our private sector Class I partners to extend employment opportunities beyond the gates. Additionally, the Washington State ESD provides fidelity support, and mandatory savings account.

Skilled Workforce

Correctional Industries provides incarcerated individuals with relevant job training opportunities and a diverse set of work development experiences. From classroom training to on-the-job training, they learn skills ranging from basic social skills to highly technical computer skills.

In addition to learning technical skills, these individuals are expected to successfully complete a 20-hour cognitive behavioral training. Focused on workplace behaviors and expectations, they learn how to deal with change, self-control, choices and consequences, and dealing with criticism. These skills help ensure success while they are working for Correctional Industries, as well as in their transition into the community.

TECHNICAL SKILLS
• Assembly
• Fabrication
• Carpentry
• Food packaging
• Paint and powder coating
• Upholstery
• Sewing machine operation
• Welding

SOFT SKILLS
• Positive attitude
• Critical thinking
• Problem solving
• Good communication
• Teamwork
• Accept criticism
• Work ethic
• Flexible/adjustable

Everyone Benefits

Benefits go beyond the skills incarcerated individuals learn and the products and services provided. Your Class I partnership also offers economic benefits to the public. While working for Class I operations, workers earn at least minimum wage. Not only do they pay state and federal taxes, they also contribute to a crime victims fund, cost of incarceration, child support, and mandatory savings account.

MANDATORY WAGE DEDUCTIONS
• 20% Cost of incarceration
• 5% Crime victims compensation
• 10% Mandatory savings

ADDITIONAL DEDUCTIONS as court ordered
• 15% Child support
• 15% Civil judgement
• 20% Legal financial obligations

Contact Information

Correctional Industries is currently seeking private sector companies to operate within state correctional facilities. The Department of Corrections provides industrial space, vocational training, a Correctional Industries representative to coordinate the program, and custody supervision according to the needs of the institution and the employer. If you are interested in learning more about our private partnership opportunities, please contact:

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