

Short Sentence Parole

Short Sentence Parole (SSP) may apply to persons committed to the Department of Corrections with an aggregate minimum sentence of confinement of two years or less or a recidivism risk reduction (RRRI) incentive minimum sentence of two years or less, whichever is shorter.

SSP does not apply to:

- persons committed with various offenses listed under 61 Pa C.S. 6137.1
- individuals awaiting trial or sentencing for additional criminal charges, if a conviction or sentence on the additional charges would cause the person to become ineligible;
- individuals who are currently serving a sentence to State prison and have been denied parole on that sentence;
- individuals convicted of any criminal offense committed while incarcerated

Individuals meeting the established criteria are able to be paroled without requiring a Board Interview, providing public safety is not jeopardized or the rehabilitative needs of the offender are not adversely affected.

For more information about each program and criteria, go to

<https://www.pa.gov/agencies/cor.html>

Statistics

Boot Camp (2016 DOC Performance Report)

- The three-year re-arrest rate is 6.1 percentage points lower for Boot Camp participants.
- The three-year reincarceration rate is 5.5 percentage points lower for Boot Camp participants.
- The three-year overall recidivism rate is 6.3 percentage points lower for Boot Camp participants than the comparison group.
- Graduation Rate of 84%
- Since December 1992, the PA DOC has saved approximately \$104.8 million dollars by operating the Quehanna Motivational Boot Camp.

SDTP (based on 2017 DOC SIP Performance Report) (SDTP has the same program structure)

- 1-yr Recidivism Rate: 22.6% (vs. 32.9%)
- 3-yr Recidivism Rate: 42.9% (vs. 55.7%)

Short Sentence Parole (Pa Sentencing Commission November 2023 SSP Report)

- Fewer misconducts than similar inmates who did not participate in SSP (7.6 per 100 inmates vs 52.5 per 100 inmates)
- Recidivistic outcomes for SSP are 15.2% for any new felony or misdemeanor within the first 18 months, compared to 16% for a similar group of non-SSP participants.
- Participation has led to a median reduction of 98 days to confinement.
- \$2.75 million in savings SSP has been effective in reducing costs while minimizing impacts to public safety.

The Pennsylvania Department of Corrections



Justice

Reinvestment

Initiative 2 (JRI2)

Overview

2025

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JRI2 Philosophy

JRI2 legislation provides alternative programs that are evidence-based and often more effective for certain individuals than standard incarceration. It also provides simplified processes for program admissions and releases to allow the Department of Corrections and the PA Parole Board to work efficiently to assist incarcerated individuals in reentering society. Ultimately, the goal of JRI2 is to offer a more cost-effective method of incarceration for those who are most likely to benefit from it. JRI2 consists of three program tracks specific to individuals incarcerated in a State Correctional Institution: Short Sentence Parole (SSP), the State Drug Treatment Program (SDTP), and the Boot Camp Program (BC).

The Boot Camp Program

In 1991, Department of Corrections began operating *the Quehanna Boot Camp Program*. If individuals successfully complete the six-month program, they are automatically paroled without requiring a Board interview. The Boot Camp Program accepts both men and women. Participants focus on discipline, work ethic, education, and therapy. There are four phases of the Boot Camp Program. Each Phase requires an increased level of personal effort and personal responsibility. Participants that do not successfully complete the Boot Camp Program will return to an SCI to continue to serve their original sentence.

Boot Camp teammates (participants) are required to wake up daily at 0515 hours. They spend the day working, attending education classes, completing physical training, developing discipline through military-like activities, working through cognitive treatment

techniques, and preparing themselves to reenter society as productive, law abiding citizens. At 2130 hours, they prepare for “lights out” and retire to sleep.

All teammates, that do not have a high school diploma or GED, are placed in education courses. If they do have a diploma/GED, they are assigned to a work detail. Quehanna is one of the top facilities in the Department for GEDs awarded and Vocational Certifications earned.

The Boot Camp Program has been studied extensively by the PA Sentencing Commission and the Department of Corrections. Both agencies have agreed that the program is highly effective and provides a great alternative to standardized incarceration. To view a short video on the Boot Camp Program, go to the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B9W9RnXSz1c>.

State Drug Treatment Program

On December 18, 2019, Governor Wolf passed Act 115 of 2019, which replaced the SIP program with the State Drug Treatment Program (SDTP). The SDTP is designed for individuals convicted of drug-related offenses and offers a step-down approach to their addiction. The SDTP is 24 months in length. It is comprised of four levels of treatment that the participant must work through and successfully complete in the 24-month time frame.

Level 1 – participants must serve a minimum of 7 months in state prison. During this Level, the individual will be required to complete a

minimum of 4 months in a Therapeutic Community.

Level 2 – participants must complete a minimum of 2 months in a community-based rehab.

Level 3 – participants must spend a minimum of 6 months in an outpatient substance use treatment facility.

Level 4 – participants will spend the remainder of time supervised in the community.

*See 61 Pa.C.S. Ch. 41 for all criteria.

Participants in the SDTP will have individualized treatment plans. Progress through the program is based on the assessed needs and attainment of goals established for each individual. If a person successfully completes the SDTP, the remainder of the sentence is considered to be satisfied. The only exception is any consecutive term of probation assigned at the time of sentencing.

A participant may be expelled from the SDTP at any time in accordance with guidelines established by the Department, including failure to comply with administrative and disciplinary procedures or requirements set forth by the Department. An expelled participant shall be housed in a State Correctional Institution to serve the remainder of the participant’s original sentence. If a participant is unable to complete the program within twenty-four (24) months and is otherwise compliant with the program, subject to the discretion of the Department, the program duration may be extended up to thirty (30) months total in order for the participant to successfully complete the program.