Wednesday, January 14, 2026

Department of Corrections & Department of Labor Partnership Testimony

“Employment Options for Newly Released People”

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Introductions & Background

Department of Corrections
Kristin Calver, Deputy Commissioner
Randy Coble, Risk Intervention Services Division Director

Department of Labor
Kendal Smith, Commissioner
Jay Ramsey, Director of Workforce Development
Cindy Robillard, Assistant Director, Workforce Development
Jennifer Palmieri, Northeast Regional Manager
Dean Matweecha, Southeast Regional Manager
Kristina Kordelski, Employment and Training Consultant

VDOL -DOC Collaborative Goals

01

Prepare Vermonters exiting incarceration for successful return to work and community life

02

Provide early access to career guidance, labor market information, and job, and training options

03

Connect workforce services with education opportunities, including post-release college coursework

04

Strengthen employment outcomes and reduce recidivism through coordinated supports

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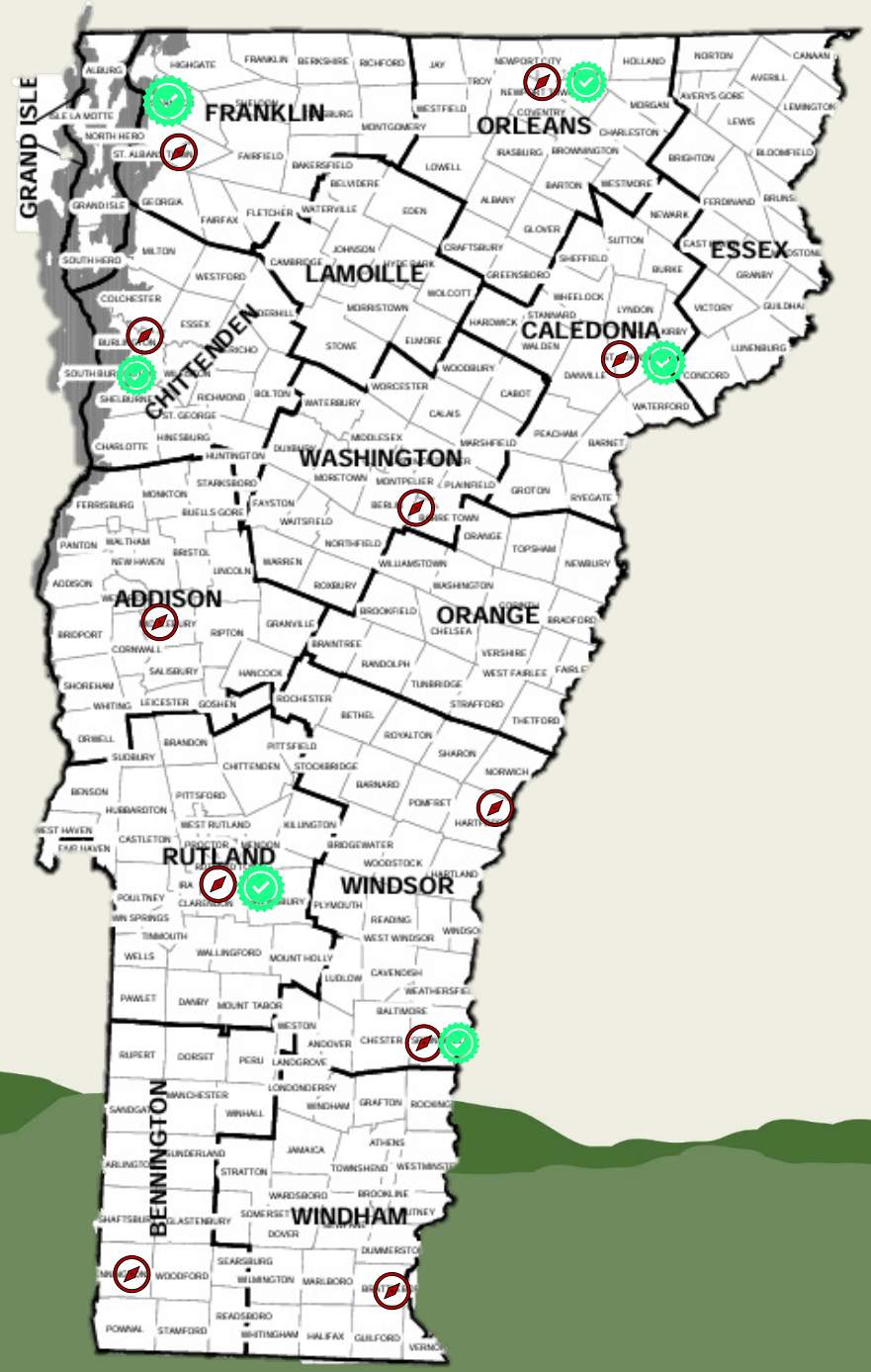

Facility Map

American Job Centers/VDOL (11)

Correctional Facilities (6)

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DOC

- Housed within Vermont **Agency of Human Services**
- **Unified System**
  - Pretrial supervision → detained → sentenced → community supervision
- **Facilities:**
  - 6 in-state facilities
    - 5 men's facilities
    - 1 women's facility
- Oversees Probation, Parole, and Pretrial Supervision

Vocational & Educational Programs

- Technical skills training
  - Vocational assessments, career counseling, workforce readiness, release planning
- Plate shop
- Vocational training with industry-recognized credentials (OSHA, ServSafe, flagging, construction)
- Education
  - Fully-accredited high school through Community High School Vermont
  - Free post-secondary education through Community College Vermont (CCV)
- Barriers to programming: Lack of space and Wi-Fi

VDOL – Employment & Training

- Primarily Federal Funding
  - Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA)
- Dual Customers
- Workforce System Access Points
  - 11 Regional Job Centers
  - www.VermontJobLink.com
  - Adult Education Providers (e.g. Vermont Adult Learning)
  - HireAbility & DBVI

VDOL – Employment & Training

- Outreach & Promotion
  - "Labor on Location"
  - Job Fairs & Hiring Events
  - Success Through Referrals
- Access to Training
  - Registered Apprenticeship
    - Pre-apprenticeship
  - Short-Term Credentials
- Services
  - Labor Market Information
  - Career Service Workshops
    - Virtual & In-person
  - Intensive & Coordinated Case Management
  - Work-Based Employment Supports

Southern State & Springfield AJC

- DOC priorities:
  - Accessing Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) grant funding for individuals for CDL, Paralegal, and Electrical training/certification
  - Establishing apprenticeships, coordinating interviews with employers and lining up employment

- Service Overview
  - Quarterly enrichment workshops with partner agencies
  - Labor on Location- Focus on building relationships with monthly job development activities
  - Labor market information- Interest inventory surveys
  - Resume creation/review
  - Interview Skills/Mock interviews
  - Job fair/Hiring event
  - Training Options – subsidized support through Federal grants
- Warm hand-off to our regional job centers

Northeast & St. J/Newport AJCs

- DOC Priorities
  - Vermont Job Link accounts during re-entry planning
  - Scheduling resume writing, cover letter development, and interviewing workshops
- Service Overview
  - Quarterly enrichment workshops| Rapid Engagement
  - Resume Development
- Re-entry simulation insights

Northwest & Burlington AJC

- DOC Priorities
  - VermontJobLink accounts during reentry planning
  - Scheduling resume writing, cover letter development, and interviewing workshops
- Service Overview
  - Host workshops (resume, interview, re-employment)
- Elevator speech writing
- VermontJobLink
- Training/re-training

QUESTIONS?

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