

§2
C.30:1B-6.2a
§§6-8,10
C.30:8-16.14 to
30:8-16.17
§9
C.30:8-16.18
§§11-15
C.30:8-16.19 to
30:8-16.23
§16
C.30:1B-6.18

(CORRECTED COPY)

P.L. 2021, CHAPTER 312, *approved December 21, 2021*
Senate, No. 2953 (*Third Reprint*)

- 1 **AN ACT** concerning services for certain inmates and amending and
2 supplementing various parts of the statutory law.
3
4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*
6
7 1. Section 2 of P.L.2009, c.329 (C.30:1B-6.2) is amended to read
8 as follows:
9 2. The Commissioner of Corrections shall provide to each
10 inmate at least 10 days prior to release from a State correctional
11 facility:
12 a. A copy of the inmate's criminal history record and written
13 information on the inmate's right to have his criminal records
14 expunged under chapter 52 of Title 2C of the New Jersey Statutes;
15 b. General written information on the inmate's right to vote
16 under R.S.19:4-1;
17 c. General written information on the availability of programs,
18 including faith-based and secular programs, that would assist in
19 removing barriers to the inmate's employment or participation in
20 vocational or educational rehabilitative programs, including but not
21 limited to, information concerning the "Rehabilitated Convicted
22 Offenders Act," P.L.1968, c.282 (C.2A:168A-1 et seq.) and the
23 certificate of rehabilitation under P.L.2007, c.327 (C.2A:168A-
24 7 et seq.);
25 d. A detailed written record of the inmate's participation in
26 educational, training, employment, and medical or other treatment
27 programs while the inmate was incarcerated;

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Senate SLP committee amendments adopted March 11, 2021.

²Senate floor amendments adopted June 3, 2021.

³Senate amendments adopted in accordance with Governor's recommendations December 2, 2021.

- 1 e. A written accounting of the fines, assessments, surcharges,
2 restitution, penalties, child support arrearages, and any other
3 obligations due and payable by the inmate upon release;
- 4 f. (Deleted by amendment, P.L.2020, c.45)
- 5 g. ¹[A copy of the inmate's birth certificate if the inmate was
6 born in New Jersey;] ³[(Deleted by amendment, P.L. _____, c. _____)
7 (pending before the Legislature as this bill)] ¹A copy of the inmate's
8 birth certificate, as issued by the Department of Health, Office of Vital
9 Statistics, if the inmate was born in New Jersey;³
- 10 h. Assistance in obtaining a Social Security card;
- 11 i. A one-day New Jersey bus or rail pass;
- 12 j. A ~~[two-week]~~ ²~~[three-month]~~ ³~~[30-day]~~ ²~~two-week~~ ³ supply
13 of prescription medication ³², a three-month supply of long-acting
14 injectables. ²³ and ², ² to the extent consistent with clinical
15 guidelines, ³a two-week prescription order with ³ ²[an additional 30
16 day prescription order and] ² two additional refills ²¹or long-acting
17 injectables ¹²;
- 18 k. General written information concerning child support,
19 including child support payments owed by the inmate, information
20 on how to seek child support payments and information on where to
21 seek services regarding child support, child custody, and establishing
22 parentage; and
- 23 l. (1) A medical discharge summary, which shall include
24 instructions on how to obtain from the commissioner a copy of the
25 inmate's full medical record. Upon request from the inmate, the
26 commissioner shall provide a copy of the inmate's full medical record
27 in a safe and secure manner, at no charge to the inmate.
- 28 (2) Within 90 days of the effective date of this act, the
29 commissioner, in consultation with the State Board of Medical
30 Examiners, shall adopt rules and regulations, pursuant to the
31 "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et
32 seq.), to ensure that these records are expeditiously and securely
33 provided, in a manner consistent with the provision of medical
34 records by other providers.
- 35 ³[m. _____ A benefits card approved for the purpose of obtaining
36 benefits under the:
- 37 (1) Medicaid program, established pursuant to P.L.1968, c.413
38 (C.30:4D-1 et seq.);
- 39 (2) Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, established
40 pursuant to the federal "Food and Nutrition Act of 2008," Pub.L.88-
41 525 (7 U.S.C.s.2011 et seq.); and
- 42 (3) Work First New Jersey program, established pursuant to
43 P.L.1997, c.38 (C.44:10-55 et seq.), which shall include, for inmates
44 who are unable to identify a residence at the time of release,
45 emergency assistance benefits issued to Work First New Jersey
46 recipients pursuant to section 8 of P.L.1997, c.14 (C.44:10-51).] ³
47 (cf: P.L.2020, c.45, s.1)

1 ¹2. (New section) The Commissioner of Corrections shall
2 ³~~provide to~~ ³offer³ each inmate ³, ~~upon request,~~³ at least ³~~60~~³
3 ~~180~~³ days prior to release from a State correctional facility ³,
4 ~~assistance with obtaining~~³ a copy of the inmate's birth certificate ³,
5 ~~as issued by the Department of Health, Office of Vital Statistics,~~³ if the
6 inmate was born in New Jersey.¹ ³~~The commissioner shall ensure~~
7 ~~that all inmates who were born in New Jersey are notified of their~~
8 ~~ability to obtain the commissioner's assistance in accessing their~~
9 ~~birth certificates pursuant to this section.~~³

10
11 ¹~~[2.] 3.~~¹ Section 2 of P.L.2020, c.45 (C.30:1B-6.15) is amended
12 to read as follows:

13 2. a. The Commissioner of Corrections shall provide a non-
14 driver identification card issued by the New Jersey Motor Vehicle
15 Commission to each inmate, free of charge, as soon as practicable,
16 but not less than 10 days prior to the inmate's release from a State
17 correctional facility. The New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission
18 shall issue the identification card and accept a former inmate's
19 Department of Corrections identification card as two points for the
20 purposes of applying for the identification card.

21 b. An inmate's Department of Corrections identification card
22 shall be accepted by all State, county, and municipal agencies and
23 New Jersey nonprofit organizations for six months following the date
24 of release from incarceration to allow the released inmate to gain
25 access to services for which the inmate is deemed eligible including,
26 but not limited to, establishing the inmate's identity.

27 ~~Whenever the~~ c. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection
28 b. of this section, whenever Motor Vehicle Commission agencies are
29 closed during a declared public health emergency, pursuant to the
30 "Emergency Health Powers Act," P.L.2005, c.222 (C.26:13-
31 1 et seq.), a state of emergency, pursuant to P.L.1942, c.251
32 (C.App.A:9-33 et seq.), or both, the inmate's Department of
33 Corrections identification card shall be accepted by all State, county,
34 and municipal agencies and New Jersey ~~nonprofits~~ nonprofit
35 organizations in a manner as to allow the ~~releasee~~ released inmate
36 to gain access to services for which ~~they are~~ the inmate is deemed
37 eligible for the duration of the public health emergency.

38 (cf: P.L.2020, c.45, s.2)

39
40 ¹~~[3.] 4.~~¹ Section 4 of P.L.2020, c.45 (C.30:1B-6.16) is amended
41 to read as follows:

42 4. a. The Commissioner of Corrections shall ensure that an
43 inmate is assisted with completing, obtaining any required signatures
44 or authorizations for, and forwarding for processing to the
45 Department of Human Services as soon as practicable but not less
46 than 30 days prior to an inmate's release from incarceration, an online

1 application for enrollment in the Medicaid program, established
2 pursuant to P.L.1968, c.413 (C.30:4D-1 et seq.).

3 b. In addition to the requirements of subsection a. of this section,
4 the Commissioner of Corrections shall also ensure that the inmate is
5 assisted in completing, obtaining any required signatures or
6 authorizations for, and forwarding for processing to the appropriate
7 county welfare agency or board of social services, as soon as
8 practicable but not less than 30 days prior to an inmate's release from
9 incarceration, online applications for enrollment in the following
10 programs:

11 (1) the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, established
12 pursuant to the federal "Food and Nutrition Act of 2008," Pub.L.88-
13 525 (7 U.S.C.s.2011 et seq.); and

14 (2) the Work First New Jersey program, established pursuant to
15 P.L.1997, c.38 (C.44:10-55 et seq.), which shall include , for inmates
16 who are unable to identify a residence at the time of release, the
17 application for emergency assistance benefits issued to Work First
18 New Jersey recipients pursuant to section 8 of P.L.1997, c.14
19 (C.44:10-51).

20 c. The Department of Human Services shall be required to
21 accept and process the online applications for Medicaid received
22 from the Department of Corrections pursuant to subsection a. of this
23 section.

24 d. If an inmate is unable to identify a residence at the time of
25 application for benefits pursuant to this section, the Commissioner of
26 Corrections shall ³, with the inmate's consent,³ ensure that the
27 address of ³[the] a³ ²[appropriate] ³[applicable Department of
28 Community Affairs² regional non-profit inmate]³ reentry
29 organization is used for the purposes of establishing proof of
30 residence to meet any applicable eligibility requirements. ³The
31 commissioner shall ensure that all inmates who are unable to identify a
32 residence at the time of application for benefits are educated on their
33 ability to select the address of the reentry organization as a residential
34 address pursuant to this subsection.³

35 e. All State, county, and municipal agencies, for the purposes of
36 establishing applicable eligibility requirements, shall:

37 (1) accept the address of the ²[appropriate] ³[applicable
38 Department of Community Affairs² regional non-profit inmate]³
39 reentry organization for an inmate who is unable to identify a
40 residence at the time of application for benefits ³in accordance with
41 subsection d. of this section³ ; and

42 (2) accept an inmate's Department of Corrections identification
43 card to establish the inmate's identity.

44 f. An inmate who appears to be eligible for ³[benefits under
45 the Work First New Jersey program based on the inmate's
46 certification of income, resources, and family composition, and based
47 on other information immediately available at the time of application,

1 shall be deemed presumptively eligible for³ Work First New Jersey
 2 assistance ³[and] shall be screened for³ immediate need assistance
 3 ³[and shall receive this assistance for a period of not less than 45
 4 days following the inmate's release from incarceration]³.

5 (cf: P.L.2020, c.45, s.4)

6
 7 ¹[4.] 5.¹ Section 5 of P.L.2020, c.45 (C.30:1B-6.17) is amended
 8 to read as follows:

9 5. a. The Commissioner of Corrections shall provide to the
 10 appropriate county welfare agency or board of social services, in
 11 advance of an inmate's release, the inmate's name, release date, and
 12 contact information, which shall include, but not be limited to, a
 13 telephone number or an email address.

14 b. The commissioner shall provide to ¹[the applicable regional]
 15 ²[each¹] ³[the applicable Department of Community Affairs
 16 regional² non-profit inmate]³ reentry organization ³selected as a
 17 residential address pursuant to subsection d. of section 4 of this bill³
 18 ²[¹approved by the Department of Community Affairs¹]², in
 19 advance of an inmate's release, the information required in
 20 subsection a. of this section ¹unless the inmate requests that the
 21 information not be forwarded¹.

22 (cf: P.L.2020, c.45, s.5)

23
 24 ¹[5.] 6.¹ (New section) ²[a.]² The chief executive officer,
 25 warden, or keeper of each county correctional facility shall provide
 26 to each inmate ²incarcerated for 90 days or longer² at least 30 days
 27 prior to release from a facility:

28 ²[(1)] a.² a copy of the inmate's criminal history record and
 29 written information on the inmate's right to have the inmate's
 30 criminal records expunged under chapter 52 of Title 2C of the New
 31 Jersey Statutes;

32 ²[(2)] b.² general written information on the inmate's right to
 33 vote under R.S.19:4-1;

34 ²[(3)] c.² general written information on the availability of
 35 programs, including faith-based and secular programs, that would
 36 assist in removing barriers to the inmate's employment or
 37 participation in vocational or educational rehabilitative programs,
 38 including but not limited to, information concerning the
 39 "Rehabilitated Convicted Offenders Act," P.L.1968, c.282
 40 (C.2A:168A-1 et seq.) and the certificate of rehabilitation under
 41 P.L.2007, c.327 (C.2A:168A-7 et seq.);

42 ²[(4)] d.² a detailed written record of the inmate's participation
 43 in educational, training, employment, and medical or other treatment
 44 programs while the inmate was incarcerated;

1 ²[(5)] e.² a written accounting of the fines, assessments,
2 surcharges, restitution, penalties, child support arrearages, and any
3 other obligations due and payable by the inmate upon release;
4 ²[(6)] f.² a copy of the inmate's birth certificate if the inmate
5 was born in New Jersey;
6 ²[(7)] g.² assistance in obtaining a Social Security card;
7 ²[(8)] h.² a one-day New Jersey bus or rail pass;
8 ²[(9)] i.² a ²[three-month] ³[30-day²] two-week³ supply of
9 prescription medication ³[², a three-month supply of long-acting
10 injectables.]³ ² and, to the extent consistent with clinical guidelines,
11 ³a two-week prescription order with³ ²[an additional 30 day
12 prescription order and]² two additional refills ²[¹or long-acting
13 injectables¹]²;
14 ²[(10)] j.² general written information concerning child support,
15 including child support payments owed by the inmate, information
16 on how to seek child support payments and information on where to
17 seek services regarding child support, child custody, and establishing
18 parentage; ³and³
19 ²[(11)] k.² a medical discharge summary, which shall include
20 instructions on how to obtain from the superintendent a copy of the
21 inmate's full medical record; upon request from the inmate, the
22 superintendent shall provide a copy of the inmate's full medical
23 record in a safe and secure manner, at no charge to the inmate; the
24 superintendent shall comply with rules and regulations, adopted
25 pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410
26 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), that ensure that these records are expeditiously
27 and securely provided in a manner consistent with the provision of
28 medical records by other providers ³[; and
29 ²[(12)] l.² a benefits card approved for the purpose of obtaining
30 benefits under the:
31 ²[(a)] (1)² Medicaid program, established pursuant to P.L.1968,
32 c.413 (C.30:4D-1 et seq.);
33 ²[(b)] (2)² Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program,
34 established pursuant to the federal "Food and Nutrition Act of 2008,"
35 Pub.L.88-525 (7 U.S.C.s.2011 et seq.); and
36 ²[(c)] (3)² Work First New Jersey program, established pursuant
37 to P.L.1997, c.38 (C.44:10-55 et seq.), which shall include, for
38 inmates who are unable to identify a residence at the time of release,
39 emergency assistance benefits issued to Work First New Jersey
40 recipients pursuant to section 8 of P.L.1997, c.14 (C.44:10-51)]³.
41 ²[b. If an inmate is at any time scheduled for release from a
42 county correctional facility in less than 30 days, the superintendent
43 shall comply with the provisions of subsection a. of this section at
44 least 48 hours prior to the inmate's release.]²

1 ²7. (New section) There shall be annually appropriated to the
 2 counties through the annual appropriations act such amounts as shall
 3 be deemed necessary to cover the cost of the prescription medicine
 4 required pursuant to the provisions of subsection i. of section 6 of
 5 P.L. . c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).²

6
 7 ²8. (New section) a. The chief executive officer, warden, or
 8 keeper of each county correctional facility shall provide to the
 9 appropriate county welfare agency or board of social services, in
 10 advance of the release of an inmate who has been incarcerated for 90
 11 days or longer, the inmate's name, release date, and contact
 12 information, which shall include, but not be limited to, a telephone
 13 number or an email address.

14 b. The chief executive officer, warden, or keeper of each county
 15 correctional facility shall ³, with the inmate's consent,³ provide to
 16 the ³[applicable Department of Community Affairs regional non-
 17 profit inmate]³ reentry organization ³selected as a residential address
 18 pursuant to subsection d. of section 4 of this bill³, in advance of the
 19 release of an inmate who has been incarcerated for 90 days or longer,
 20 the information required in subsection a. of this section unless the
 21 inmate requests that the information not be forwarded.²

22
 23 ¹[^{6.}] ²[^{7.}¹] ^{9.}² (New section) a. ³[The chief executive officer,
 24 warden, or keeper of each county correctional facility shall provide a
 25 non-driver identification card issued by the New Jersey Motor
 26 Vehicle Commission to each county inmate ²incarcerated for 90 days
 27 or longer², free of charge, as soon as practicable, but not less than 10
 28 days prior to the inmate's release from the county correctional
 29 facility.]³ The New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission shall ³[issue
 30 the identification card and]³ accept a former inmate's county
 31 correctional facility identification card as two points for the purposes
 32 of applying for ³[the] a non-driver³ identification card.

33 b. An inmate's county correctional facility identification card
 34 shall be accepted by all State, county, and municipal agencies and
 35 New Jersey nonprofit organizations for six months following the date
 36 of release from incarceration to allow the released inmate to gain
 37 access to services for which the inmate is deemed eligible including,
 38 but not limited to, establishing the inmate's identity.

39 c. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection b. of this
 40 section, whenever the Motor Vehicle Commission agencies are
 41 closed during a declared public health emergency, pursuant to the
 42 "Emergency Health Powers Act," P.L.2005, c.222 (C.26:13-1 et
 43 seq.), a state of emergency, pursuant to P.L.1942, c.251 (C.App.A:9-
 44 33 et seq.), or both, the inmate's Department of Corrections
 45 identification card shall be accepted by all State, county, and
 46 municipal agencies and New Jersey nonprofit organizations in a
 47 manner as to allow the released inmate to gain access to services for

1 which they are deemed eligible for the duration of the public health
2 emergency.

3
4 ¹[7.] ²[8.1] 10.² (New section) a. As soon as practicable but not
5 less than 30 days prior to ²[an inmate's] the² release ²[from
6 incarceration] of an inmate incarcerated for 90 days or longer², the
7 chief executive officer, warden, or keeper of each county correctional
8 facility shall ensure that an inmate is assisted with completing,
9 obtaining any required signatures or authorizations for, and
10 forwarding for processing to the Department of Human Services an
11 online application for enrollment in the Medicaid program,
12 established pursuant to P.L.1968, c.413 (C.30:4D-1 et seq.).

13 b. In addition to the requirements of subsection a. of this section,
14 the chief executive officer, warden, or keeper also shall ensure that
15 ³[the] such³ inmate is assisted in completing, obtaining any required
16 signatures or authorizations for, and forwarding for processing to the
17 appropriate county welfare agency or board of social services, as
18 soon as practicable but not less than 30 days prior to an inmate's
19 release from incarceration, online applications for enrollment in the
20 following programs:

21 (1) the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, established
22 pursuant to the federal "Food and Nutrition Act of 2008," Pub.L.88-
23 525 (7 U.S.C.s.2011 et seq.); and

24 (2) the Work First New Jersey program, established pursuant to
25 P.L.1997, c.38 (C.44:10-55 et seq.), which shall include , for inmates
26 who are unable to identify a residence at the time of release, the
27 application for emergency assistance benefits issued to Work First
28 New Jersey recipients pursuant to section 8 of P.L.1997, c.14
29 (C.44:10-51).

30 c. The Department of Human Services shall be required to
31 accept and process the online applications for Medicaid received
32 from the ³[Department of Corrections] county correctional
33 facilities³ pursuant to subsection a. of this section.

34 d. If an inmate is unable to identify a residence at the time of
35 application for benefits pursuant to this section, the chief executive
36 officer, warden, or keeper of each county correctional facility ³, with
37 the inmate's consent,³ shall ensure that the address of the
38 ³[appropriate regional non-profit inmate]³ reentry organization is
39 used for the purposes of establishing proof of residence to meet any
40 applicable eligibility requirements. ³The chief executive officer,
41 warden, or keeper of each county correctional facility shall ensure that
42 all inmates incarcerated for 90 days or longer are educated on their
43 ability to select a reentry organization as a residential address pursuant
44 to this subsection.³

45 e. All State, county, and municipal agencies, for the purposes of
46 establishing applicable eligibility requirements, shall:

(1) accept the address of the ³appropriate regional non-profit inmate³ reentry organization for an inmate who is unable to identify a residence at the time of application for benefits; and

(2) accept an inmate's county correctional facility identification card to establish the inmate's identity.

f. An inmate who appears to be eligible for ³benefits under the Work First New Jersey program based on the inmate's certification of income, resources, and family composition, and based on other information immediately available at the time of application, shall be deemed presumptively eligible for³ Work First New Jersey assistance ³and shall be screened for³ immediate need assistance ³and shall receive this assistance for a period of not less than 45 days following the inmate's release from incarceration³.

²11. (New section) a. The governing body of each county in this State may, by duly adopted ordinance or resolution, appoint a county reentry coordinator who shall be responsible for evaluating the needs of, and navigating the appropriate treatment and services for, each inmate in a county correctional facility in this State.

b. The county reentry coordinator shall evaluate each inmate in a county correctional facility who has been sentenced to a term of incarceration or ordered detained pending trial following a pretrial detention hearing. The purpose of the evaluation shall be to:

(1) identify which social services and reentry and rehabilitative programs would benefit the inmate including, but not limited to, the WorkFirst NJ Substance Abuse Initiative;

(2) determine whether the inmate is eligible to apply for federal, State, and county public assistance program benefits including, but not limited to, State and federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits, Medicaid, and housing assistance program benefits;

(3) determine whether the inmate would benefit from substance use disorder treatment including, but not limited to, medication-assisted treatment; and

(4) identify other appropriate treatment, services, and programs which would benefit the inmate.

c. The evaluation required pursuant to subsection b. of this section shall be conducted in conjunction with the clinical screening of inmates as part of the initial classification process.

d. The county reentry coordinator shall offer assistance to the inmate in accessing any services deemed appropriate for the inmate, based on the evaluation conducted pursuant to subsection b. of this section, by:

(1) assisting the inmate with scheduling and otherwise accessing appropriate treatment, services, and programming upon the inmate's release from the facility;

1 (2) providing information concerning, and assistance in
2 completing, applications for appropriate State and county public
3 assistance program benefits which shall include, but not be limited
4 to, State and federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
5 benefits, Medicaid, and housing assistance program benefits. The
6 county reentry coordinator shall make every effort to ensure that the
7 inmate is actively enrolled in appropriate programming upon or as
8 soon as practicable following the inmate's release from the facility;

9 (3) providing information concerning available substance use
10 disorder treatment and services including, but not limited to,
11 medication-assisted treatment. The county reentry coordinator shall
12 assist the inmate with scheduling and otherwise accessing
13 appropriate treatment and services upon the inmate's release from the
14 facility;

15 (4) providing information concerning relevant social services and
16 reentry and rehabilitative programs including, but not limited to, the
17 WorkFirst NJ Substance Abuse Initiative. The county reentry
18 coordinator shall assist the inmate with completing applications for
19 and otherwise accessing appropriate services and programming upon
20 the inmate's release from the facility;

21 (5) providing information concerning services provided by the
22 State's One-Stop Career Centers. The county reentry coordinator
23 shall schedule appointments for the inmate to meet with
24 representatives from the career center and shall register the inmate
25 for participation in any mandatory programming upon the inmate's
26 release from the facility;

27 (6) providing information concerning insurance eligibility and
28 assistance in completing applications for insurance coverage; the
29 county reentry coordinator shall make every effort to ensure that
30 coverage for the inmate is active upon or as soon as practicable
31 following the inmate's release from the facility; and

32 (7) providing information concerning any other treatment,
33 services, and programming deemed appropriate based on the
34 evaluation required pursuant to this section.

35 e. The county reentry coordinator also shall:

36 (1) provide assistance to each inmate, upon release from a county
37 correctional facility, with obtaining a non-driver identification card;

38 (2) ensure, to the best of the coordinator's ability, and
39 conditioned on discharge information provided by the Administrative
40 Office of the Courts, that each inmate is released from custody during
41 regular business hours so that the inmate may access appropriate
42 treatment and services immediately upon release; and

43 (3) ensure each inmate at the time of discharge is provided with
44 the prescription medication required pursuant to paragraph (9) of
45 subsection a. of section 6 of P.L. c. (pending before the
46 Legislature as this bill).²

47 ³f. The county reentry coordinator shall consult and coordinate
48 with the county board of social services or welfare agency, as

1 appropriate, when providing information or assistance with respect
2 to a benefit or service administered by the board or welfare agency.³

3
4 ²12. (New section) a. The county reentry coordinator shall record
5 data regarding: the number of inmates who are offered services
6 pursuant to section 10 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
7 Legislature as this bill); the number of inmates who accept the
8 services offered; the types of services provided to each inmate who
9 accepts the services offered; the race, gender, ethnicity, and age of
10 each inmate; a record of any crimes committed by inmates who are
11 released from the facility and the types of crimes committed for a
12 period of three years following the inmate's release; and the number
13 of inmates who were not released, and the reasons why they were not
14 released, from a county correctional facility during regular business
15 hours.

16 b. The data shall be analyzed to determine whether the rates and
17 nature of rearrests and convictions differ according to whether an
18 inmate received services in accordance with section 10 of P.L. ,
19 c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill). The
20 county reentry coordinator shall annually prepare and transmit the
21 findings to the chief executive officer, warden, or keeper of each
22 county correctional facility, as appropriate; the superintendent,
23 director, or other chief administrative officer of the County Board of
24 Social Services or welfare agency, as appropriate; the governing
25 body of the county in which the correctional facility is located; and
26 the Commissioner of Corrections.²

27
28 ²13. (New section) The county reentry coordinator shall, in
29 collaboration with the chief executive officer, warden, or keeper of a
30 county correctional facility, develop peer counseling programs in the
31 county correctional facility that support the treatment of county
32 inmates with substance use disorders. The warden, director, or
33 administrator may additionally develop initiatives to provide inmates
34 in the custody of the county correctional facility with access to
35 professional substance use disorder counseling.²

36
37 ²14. (New section) a. The county reentry coordinator shall meet
38 ³regularly annually³ with community stakeholders who may offer
39 guidance for evaluating the needs of and providing services to
40 inmates in county correctional facilities including, but not limited to:

- 41 (1) the Commissioner of Corrections, or a designee;
42 (2) the Commissioner of Human Services, or a designee;
43 (3) the chief executive officer, warden, or keeper of the county
44 correctional facility;
45 (4) the superintendent, director, or other chief administrative
46 officer of the County Board of Social Services or welfare agency, as
47 appropriate;

- 1 (5) the county human services director, or a designee;
- 2 (6) the county mental health administrator, or a designee;
- 3 (7) the president of a county community college, or a designee;
- 4 (8) reentry services providers in the county;
- 5 (9) substance use disorder treatment providers in the county; and
- 6 (10) a person who previously has received substance use disorder
- 7 services in the county.

8 b. Based on the guidance received during the meetings
 9 conducted pursuant to subsection a. of this section, the county reentry
 10 coordinator shall:

11 (1) establish best practices for preparing county inmates for
 12 release;

13 (2) identify services available in the county that may be needed
 14 by inmates upon release from a county correctional facility including,
 15 but not limited to, housing, food, medical care, clothing, substance
 16 use disorder treatment; mental health services, employment
 17 assistance, and education assistance;

18 (3) make appropriate recommendations to the county correctional
 19 facility and County Board of Social Services or welfare agency with
 20 respect to preparing county inmates for successful reentry into the
 21 community and reducing recidivism.²

22
 23 ²15. There shall be annually appropriated through the annual
 24 appropriations act such amounts as shall be deemed necessary to
 25 implement the provisions of sections 11 through 14 of P.L. ____.

26 c. (C. ____ through C. ____) (pending before the Legislature as this bill)
 27 concerning the county reentry coordinator.²

28
 29 ¹~~[8.]~~ ²~~[9.1]~~ 16.² (New section) An inmate released from a State
 30 or county correctional facility shall be authorized to use the address
 31 of a ³~~[nonprofit inmate]~~³ reentry organization ³~~[approved by the~~
 32 ~~Department of Community Affairs]~~³ as a mailing address in an
 33 application for benefits under the:

34 a. Medicaid program, established pursuant to P.L.1968, c.413
 35 (C.30:4D-1 et seq.);

36 b. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, established
 37 pursuant to the federal "Food and Nutrition Act of 2008," Pub.L.88-
 38 525 (7 U.S.C.s.2011 et seq.); and

39 c. Work First New Jersey program, established pursuant to
 40 P.L.1997, c.38 (C.44:10-55 et seq.) ³, provided the inmate consents to
 41 the use of the reentry organization's address as their mailing address³.

42
 43 ¹~~[9.]~~ ²~~[10.1]~~ 17.² Section 5 of P.L.1997, c.14 (C.44:10-48) is
 44 amended to read as follows:

45 5. a. Only those persons who are United States citizens or
 46 eligible aliens shall be eligible for benefits under the Work First New
 47 Jersey program. Single adults or couples without dependent children

1 who are legal aliens who meet federal requirements and have applied
2 for citizenship, shall not receive benefits for more than six months
3 unless (1) they attain citizenship, or (2) they have passed the English
4 language and civics components for citizenship, and are awaiting
5 final determination of citizenship by the federal Immigration and
6 Naturalization Service.

7 b. The following persons shall not be eligible for assistance and
8 shall not be considered to be members of an assistance unit:

9 (1) non-needy caretakers, except that the eligibility of a
10 dependent child shall not be affected by the income or resources of a
11 non-needy caretaker;

12 (2) Supplemental Security Income recipients, except for the
13 purposes of receiving emergency assistance benefits pursuant to
14 section 8 of P.L.1997, c.14 (C.44:10-51);

15 (3) illegal aliens;

16 (4) other aliens who are not eligible aliens;

17 (5) a person absent from the home who is incarcerated in a
18 federal, State, county or local corrective facility or under the custody
19 of correctional authorities, except as provided by regulation of the
20 commissioner;

21 (6) a person who: is fleeing to avoid prosecution, custody or
22 confinement after conviction, under the laws of the jurisdiction from
23 which the person has fled, for a crime or an attempt to commit a crime
24 which is a felony or a high misdemeanor under the laws of the
25 jurisdiction from which the person has fled; or is violating a condition
26 of probation or parole imposed under federal or state law;

27 (7) [a person convicted on or after August 22, 1996 under federal
28 or state law of any offense which is classified as a felony or crime,
29 as appropriate, under the laws of the jurisdiction involved and which
30 has as an element the possession, use, or distribution of a controlled
31 substance as defined in section 102(6) of the federal "Controlled
32 Substances Act" (21 U.S.C. s.802 (6)), who would otherwise be
33 eligible for general public assistance pursuant to P.L.1947, c.156
34 (C.44:8-107 et seq.); except that such a person who is convicted of
35 any such offense which has as an element the possession or use only
36 of such a controlled substance may be eligible for Work First New
37 Jersey general public assistance benefits if the person enrolls in or
38 has completed a licensed residential or outpatient drug treatment
39 program. An otherwise eligible individual who has a past drug
40 conviction shall be eligible for general public assistance without
41 enrolling in or completing a drug treatment program if either: (1) an
42 appropriate treatment program is not available; or (2) the person is
43 excused from enrolling in a treatment program for good cause
44 pursuant to regulation.

45 Eligibility for benefits for a person entering a licensed drug
46 treatment program which does not operate in a State correctional
47 facility or county jail shall commence upon the person's enrollment
48 in the drug treatment program, and shall continue during the person's

1 active participation in, and upon completion of, the drug treatment
2 program, except that during the person's active participation in a drug
3 treatment program and the first 60 days after completion of a drug
4 treatment program, the commissioner shall provide for testing of the
5 person to determine if the person is free of any controlled substance.
6 If the person is determined to not be free of any controlled substance
7 during the 60-day period, the person's eligibility for benefits pursuant
8 to this paragraph shall be terminated; except that this provision shall
9 not apply to the use of prescription drugs by a person who is actively
10 participating in a drug treatment program, as prescribed by the drug
11 treatment program. The commissioner shall adopt regulations to
12 carry out the provisions of this paragraph, which shall include the
13 criteria for determining active participation in and completion of a
14 drug treatment program.

15 Eligibility for benefits for a person who completes a licensed
16 residential drug treatment program which operates in a State
17 correctional facility or county jail, in accordance with section 1 of
18 P.L.2014, c.1 (C.26:2B-40), shall commence upon release from
19 incarceration.

20 Cash benefits, less a personal needs allowance, for a person
21 receiving general public assistance benefits under the Work First
22 New Jersey program who is enrolled in and actively participating in
23 a licensed drug treatment program shall be issued directly to the drug
24 treatment provider to offset the cost of treatment. Upon completion
25 of the drug treatment program, the cash benefits shall be then issued
26 to the person. In the case of a delay in issuing cash benefits to a
27 person receiving Work First New Jersey general public assistance
28 benefits who has completed the drug treatment program, the drug
29 treatment provider shall transmit to the person those funds received
30 on behalf of that person after completion of the drug treatment
31 program; 1 (Deleted by amendment, (P.L. , c.) (pending before
32 the Legislature as this bill

33 (8) a person found to have fraudulently misrepresented his
34 residence in order to obtain means-tested, public benefits in two or
35 more states or jurisdictions, who shall be ineligible for benefits for a
36 period of 10 years from the date of conviction in a federal or state
37 court; or

38 (9) a person who intentionally makes a false or misleading
39 statement or misrepresents, conceals or withholds facts for the
40 purpose of receiving benefits, who shall be ineligible for benefits for
41 a period of six months for the first violation, 12 months for the second
42 violation, and permanently for the third violation.

43 c. A person who makes a false statement with the intent to
44 qualify for benefits and by reason thereof receives benefits for which
45 the person is not eligible is guilty of a crime of the fourth degree.

46 d. Pursuant to the authorization provided to the states under 21
47 U.S.C. s.862a(d)(1), this State elects to exempt from the application
48 of 21 U.S.C. s.862a(a):

1 (1) needy persons and their dependent children domiciled in New
2 Jersey for the purposes of receiving benefits under the Work First
3 New Jersey program and food assistance under the federal "Food and
4 Nutrition Act of 2008," Pub.L.110-234 (7 U.S.C. s.2011 et seq.); and

5 (2) single persons and married couples without dependent
6 children domiciled in New Jersey for the purposes of receiving food
7 assistance under Pub.L.110-234.

8 (cf: P.L.2016, c.69, s.1)

9
10 ³**[²11]** ¹⁸². (New section) The Governor shall appoint an
11 independent investigator to evaluate the Commissioner of
12 Correction's compliance with the provisions of ²P.L.2019, c.282;
13 P.L.2019, c.288; P.L.2019, c.364;² P.L.2020, c.45²; ²and ²**[this act]**
14 P.L. c. ² (pending before the Legislature as this bill). Within
15 six months of the effective date of this act, the independent
16 investigator shall report findings and conclusions to the Governor
17 and the Legislature, pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164
18 (C.52:14-19.1).¹³

19
20 ¹**[10.]** ²**[12.¹]** ³**[19.²]** ¹⁸³ This act shall take effect
21 immediately.

22
23
24
25
26 Expands scope of inmate reentry assistance and benefits.