



Snohomish County Public Safety Program

HOME-BASED DETENTION Corrections Department Alternative Housing Program



Briefing Paper, June 2002

1. What are 'Home-Based Detention Programs'?

Home-Based Detention Programs are a special type of detention program that allow qualified non-violent, minimum-security offenders to serve their sentence while remaining at home, rather than going to jail or another County detention facility.

Offenders assigned to these partial confinement programs are regularly monitored by Corrections staff, who administer the programs from the Work Release Facility, located at 3001 Oakes Avenue. Participants in Home-Based Detention Programs are considered a part of the County's overall detention population. However, since they are not housed in County facilities, they are not counted in the daily count of inmates.

Offenders are charged \$10-\$50 per day, based on income, to participate in these programs.

2. What type of Home-Based Detention Programs does the County currently have?

- Home Detention: In this most widely recognized program, an electronic monitoring system is attached to the offender's leg by Corrections staff. Separate monitoring equipment is placed in the offender's home, to enable their arrivals and departures to be noted and recorded by Corrections staff at the Work Release Facility in Everett. The offender is allowed to live at home, commute to and from established work or school programs, and keep approved appointments (such as medical, counseling, drug treatment, etc.) Corrections Field Check Officers make weekly (or more frequent) visits to the offender's home or place of employment.
- Work Crew: Offenders assigned to Work Crew live at home and report to the Work Release Facility five days a week, where they are redirected to supervised work projects on County property (roadside cleanup, parks, etc). Work Crew participants are restricted to their home when they are not at a County work site, unless they have authorization from Corrections staff.
- Community Service: The least-restrictive of the home-based programs, Community Service is a program of compulsory service without compensation, performed by the offender for the benefit of the community. Offenders live at home, and report directly to supervised County and community work project locations, as assigned. Community Service workers are monitored by the

Corrections Department Community Service Coordinator, who arranges placements and participation.

In each of these programs, assigned offenders:

- Pay a daily fee or monitoring fee, unless the court has excused (waived) that fee.
- Are required to participate in drug and alcohol treatment programs as needed.
- Are required to undergo random drug testing.

3. What are the qualifications for these three programs?

Home Detention Program:

Both convicted offenders and pre-trial detainees may be in this program. Convicted offenders need the approval of their sentencing court and the Director of Corrections or the Director's designee. Pre-trial detainees need approval by court order and the approval of the Director of Corrections or the Director's designee. Offenders are also screened in regard to conduct and security risk. Home Detention may not be imposed for offenders convicted of a violent offense, any sex offense, any drug offense, or other crimes such as assault, unlawful imprisonment, and harassment, as provided by RCW 9.94A.734.

This program is generally for those who:

- Have no domestic violence history with their current cohabitants.
- Are employed or attending school and their presence is needed at home.
- Have medical conditions that can be monitored best at home.
- Sign a Drug/Alcohol Acknowledgement in which they agree to enter the program in a clean and sober state and remain so during the duration of the program.
- Are in the last stage of a Jail or Work Release sentence.
- Live and work within a geographical area bounded by Puget Sound on the west, the Skagit River to the north, Highway 18 to the south, and no further east than the town of Index. Locations that are accessible by ferry are ineligible because of access issues for Corrections Officers.

Community Service Program:

This program is for sentenced non-violent male or female misdemeanants only. Felony offenders are referred to the State Department of Corrections. Community Service Program participants may live anywhere in the County, as long as they are able to commute to their work assignments.

Work Crew Program:

This program is intended for sentenced male or female non-violent offenders. Felons sentenced to nine months or more must serve a minimum of 30 days of total confinement before being eligible for the Work Crew Program. Participants must live within the same boundaries outlined in the Home Detention Program above.

4. Since Home-Based Detention Programs are not limited by facility size, are there other limitations?

Limitations within Home-Based Detention programs are based on:

- The willingness of the courts to recommend sentenced offenders for the programs.
- The number of County Corrections staff available to administer these programs, a duty that includes monitoring the offender's whereabouts, work progress and drug testing.
- Access to appropriate supervised work projects.

5. When did the County adopt Home-Based Detention Programs? Why?

The County adopted the first Home Detention Program in Washington state in fall 1988.

The intent of home-based detention programs is to reduce the number of people in total confinement, which reduces the cost to taxpayers and can better serve the needs of non-violent offenders who have ongoing medical issues or need to remain at home to provide child-care.

6. How widely used are the Home-Based Detention Programs?

- The County has up to 200 home detention units available. In 2001, 74 individuals served their sentences through home detention.
- The Community Service Program can accept up to 100 individuals at a time. In 2001, 43 convicted offenders served their sentences through the Community Service Program. Of those 43, 23 completed their sentences on that program.
- The Work Crew Program can accept up to 70 participants. In 2001, 12 convicted offenders served their sentences through the Work Crew Program.

7. How does the County benefit from Home-Based Detention Programs?

Home-Based Detention Programs benefit Snohomish County taxpayers by:

- Reducing County detention system housing and program expenses: All detention programs that house carefully screened offenders in facilities other than the medium/maximum security Main Jail save county taxpayers money. Home-based Detention Programs, which involve only low administrative costs that are partially offset by inmate fees, are the least costly. Participants in these programs pay the County between \$10 and \$50 per day to be in the program, defraying a good portion of the program costs.
- Defraying costs of unemployment to the larger community: Home-based Detention Programs give minor offenders the opportunity to remain integrated in the community. They can continue to work, keep their jobs and support their families or maintain employable skills.
- Providing an inexpensive labor pool for civic improvement tasks: Offender Work Crew and Community Service are two Home-based Detention Programs that establish a pool of free labor available for maintenance of County property, (or that of other government or non-profit organizations).

- Maintaining the ability to pay restitution to crime victims: Offenders assigned to the Home Detention Program remain employed, which assists them in paying restitution to victims when required.
- Providing drug and alcohol treatment for offenders with dependency problems with the intent of reducing recidivism: Home Detention Program participants are required to participate in drug and alcohol treatment programs, as assigned by Corrections supervisors in accordance with the participant's offense. The Home Detention Program, Community Service Program, and Work Crew include regular and random drug testing.

For more information,

Contact Susan Neely, Executive Director and Public Safety Program Manager, (425) 388-3297, or e-mail: susan.neely@co.snohomish.wa.us

Or, visit the Public Safety Program Website at <http://www.co.snohomish.wa.us>