

Women Exiting the Criminal Legal System Deserve Better



SUPPORT
HB 608/SB 682, HB 801/SB 684, and HB 828/SB 683



WHAT IS PRE-RELEASE?

Pre-release is the lowest possible security level, assigned to individuals with good behavior and who present the least risk.

WHAT ARE PRE-RELEASE SERVICES?

Pre-release units give individuals who are incarcerated an opportunity to live outside of correctional settings, build their occupational skills, and prepare for their release.

Maryland women have ZERO minimum security and pre-release facilities. Men have several.

Maryland women deserve supports:

- Women are more than twice as likely as men to be incarcerated for non-violent offenses (37% compared to 16%).
- Since 1980, the number of women in jail has increased 462%, and the number of women in prison has increased 264%.

75% of women who are incarcerated are the primary or sole caretakers of children.

Children need their parents.

SUPPORT pre-release services for women that offer:

- Job opportunities
- Housing assistance
- An opportunity to adjust back into their communities

IN THEIR OWN WORDS:

Women at MCI-Win Jessup



I thought I was the only person struggling to find a place to rent when I am released, until I began talking to other women on work release... I would say that 70% of the work release women need help finding housing. No help here though!



When I'm released I have no job, no car, no license, no clue how to get around, no money, management training...I have never taken a bus...thrown into society with no sense of navigation...the bottom line is that transitioning is really impossible in this setting.



I live on a housing unit with maximum and medium security...this can be scary sometimes mainly since jealousy resides in this institution...they antagonize you. I would really like to be housed in a properly equipped facility. It would really help a lot of residents that have been here conform to living in society once again.

