

# STATE OF INDIANA

## EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT INDIANAPOLIS

EXECUTIVE ORDER 25-46

**FOR: IMPROVING OPPORTUNITY AND REDUCING RECIDIVISM BY IMPROVING THE PATH FOR REENTRY WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS**

TO ALL WHOM THESE PRESENTS MAY COME, GREETINGS.

**WHEREAS,** the Indiana Department of Correction (“IDOC”) plays a critical role in ensuring public safety and rehabilitating individuals involved in the criminal justice system;

**WHEREAS,** the path to successful reentry is not the same for every incarcerated individual, requiring different interventions to address a multitude of barriers. Some of the most common and challenging barriers formerly incarcerated individuals face include housing instability and unemployment;

**WHEREAS,** access to stable housing is vital to ensure a successful transition as incarcerated individuals who are released as homeless or into shelters are 50% more likely to re-offend;

**WHEREAS,** according to a recent publication from the United States Chamber of Commerce, formerly incarcerated individuals who are unable to maintain employment experience a recidivism rate of 52% over three years, whereas their peers who maintain employment for one year post-release experience a recidivism rate of just 16%;

**WHEREAS,** direct client services for employment readiness are critical in equipping incarcerated individuals with the skills, resources, and confidence necessary to secure stable employment as formerly incarcerated individuals must gain employment immediately upon release to have the greatest chance of success;

**WHEREAS,** establishing partnerships with Indiana businesses is important for creating robust employment opportunities and providing tailored work readiness assistance for the formerly incarcerated; and

**WHEREAS,** addressing these challenges requires collaborative efforts from IDOC, other state agencies, and community partners;

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, MIKE BRAUN,** by virtue of the authority vested in me as the Governor of the State of Indiana, do hereby order that:

1. The Commissioner of IDOC shall immediately conduct a comprehensive review of factors which may contribute to the issues of housing instability and unemployment faced by incarcerated individuals who are incarcerated or who have been recently released.
2. The Commissioner of IDOC shall establish benchmarks related to the following:
  - a. Total number of incarcerated individuals released to a homeless shelter during the preceding year this Executive Order as the baseline for comparison; and
  - b. Total number of pre-release and post-release job placements for incarcerated individuals during the year preceding this Executive Order as the baseline for comparison.



3. The Commissioner of IDOC shall identify those incarcerated individuals deemed as being at high risk of becoming homeless or residing in a shelter and:
  - a. provide family reunification skills to these individuals; and
  - b. work with community partners to provide safe and stable housing for these individuals upon release.
  
4. The Commissioner of IDOC shall direct the Hoosier Initiative for Re-Entry (“HIRE”) and Parole Divisions to strive toward:
  - a. establishing accessible employment pathways;
  - b. supporting individuals in overcoming the challenges they face in their transition back into the community; and
  - c. increasing the number of individuals employed at the time of release and shortly thereafter.
  
5. The Commissioner of IDOC shall provide a written report to the Governor by June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026, that:
  - a. Details the findings of the agency’s review of factors that contribute to housing instability and unemployment;
  - b. outlines the steps the agency is taking to improve re-entry efforts in these areas; and
  - c. provides measurable benchmarks for progress.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I,  
Mike Braun, have hereunto set my hand  
and caused to be affixed the Great Seal  
of the State of Indiana on this 9th day of  
April, 2025.

  
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Mike Braun  
Governor of Indiana

**DIEGO MORALES**

ATTEST: Diego Morales  
Secretary of State