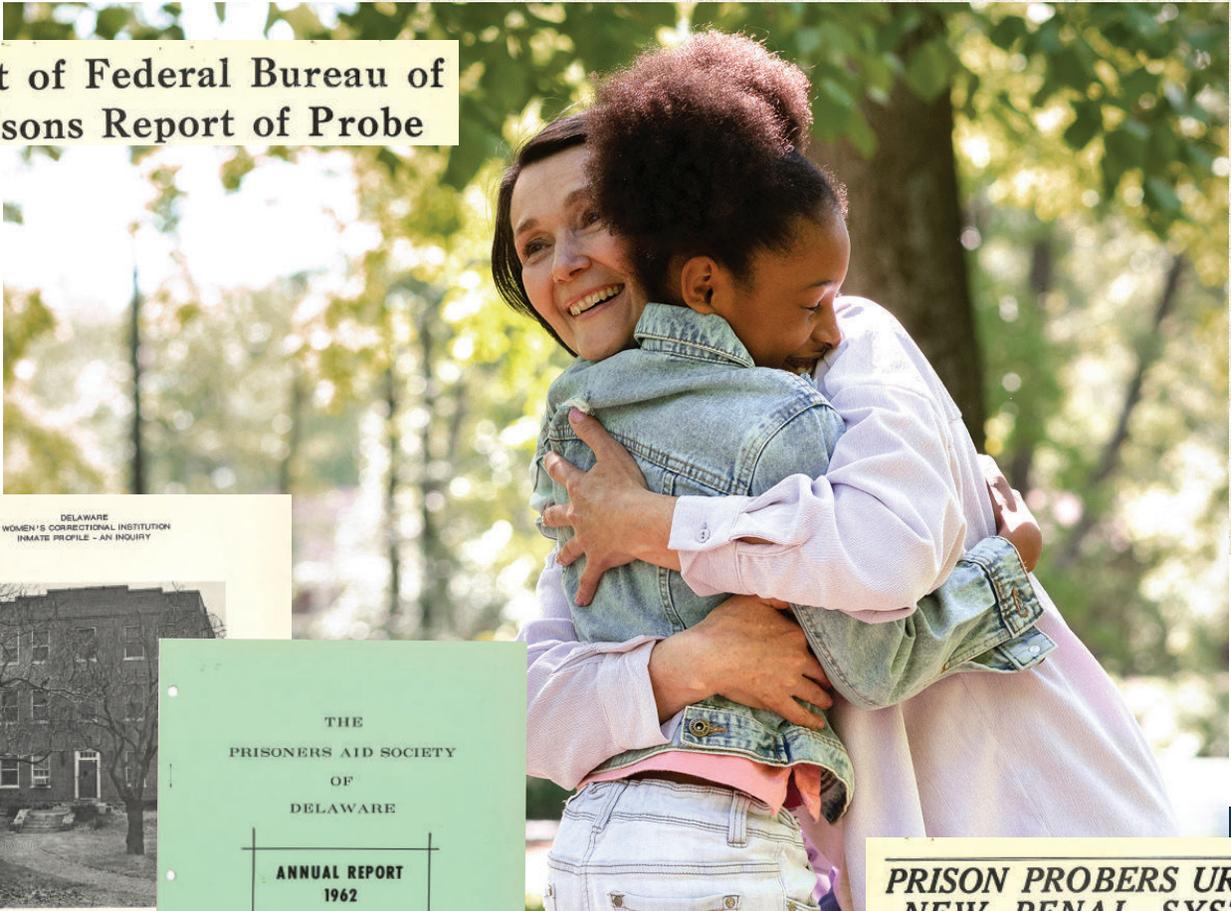


THE NEXT CENTURY OF JUSTICE STARTS HERE.

Delaware Center for Justice | 2025 Impact Report

Text of Federal Bureau of
Prisons Report of Probe



DELAWARE
WOMEN'S CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION
INMATE PROFILE - AN INQUIRY



Conducted
by
Delaware Council on Crime and Justice

THE
PRISONERS AID SOCIETY
OF
DELAWARE

ANNUAL REPORT
1962

PROTECT SOCIETY
THROUGH
REHABILITATION OF OFFENDERS

**PRISON PROBERS URGE
NEW PENAL SYSTEM
IN STATE, MORE FUNDS**

A Message from Our Leadership

Dear Friends and Partners,

In 2020, the Delaware Center for Justice reached the milestone of our 100th anniversary, during a year defined by a global health crisis and national protests for racial justice. During that troubling time in which celebrations felt inappropriate, DCJ focused on serving clients, adapting programs, and supporting staff through the crisis.

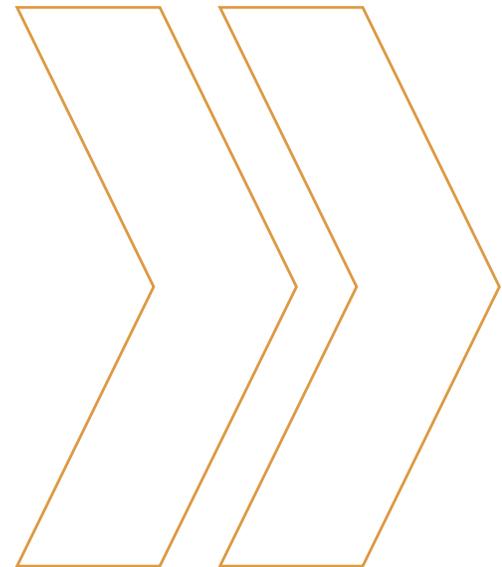
Five years later, our 105th Anniversary Giving Campaign represents a timely and necessary opportunity to remind Delawareans of our long history of impact, and expand our base of support.

This 105th Anniversary Impact Report tells the story of an organization that has been Delaware's steady voice for justice through every modern era of change, from our founding in 1920 to today's fight for comprehensive criminal justice reform.

Your support has never been more crucial. As we launch our most ambitious agenda yet, we need partners who believe in justice for all Delawareans.



Alonna Berry, Executive Director



Our Foundation: 105 Years of Justice Work

1920: The Bold Beginning

On June 10, 1920, several hundred Delawareans met at the old Wilmington High School on Delaware Avenue to enact a bold reform agenda for corrections in the First State: the creation of a detention home for untried prisoners, a separate women's prison, a satisfactory probation and parole system, and the **abolition of the whipping post**. This was the founding of the Prisoners' Aid Society, which became what is now the **Delaware Center for Justice**.

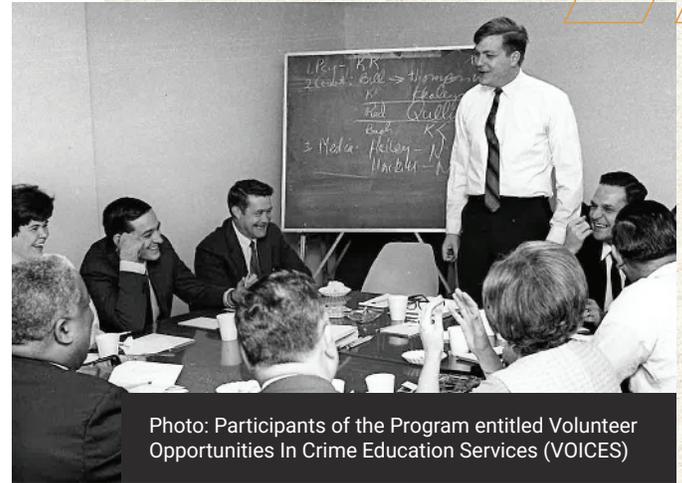


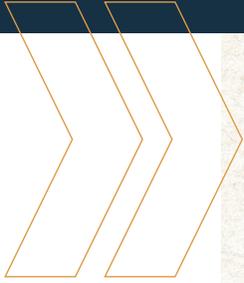
Photo: Participants of the Program entitled Volunteer Opportunities In Crime Education Services (VOICES)

Historic Achievements Over 105 Years

Throughout our history, the Delaware Center for Justice has been instrumental in moving justice in our state forward with these historic initiatives:

- » **1922:** Helped to establish the first probation and parole office.
- » **1929:** Creation of a separate facility for women offenders, the culmination of an 8-year fight for separate quarters.
- » **1945:** Establishment of the Family Court to handle domestic and juvenile matters. (NCCo)
- » **1953:** Enactment of a time-served law, giving individuals credit for pre-trial incarceration.
- » **1957:** Opening of the state's earliest halfway house, one of the first in the nation.
- » **1965:** Prisoner's Aid Society becomes the Correctional Council of Delaware.
- » **1968:** Involvement in revision of the Delaware criminal code. For the first time, our organization began work beyond matters that were purely correctional. This marked the beginning of our modern mission to seek justice and ensure equity across all systems.
- » **1970:** Correctional Council of Delaware revises its charter and becomes the Delaware Council on Crime and Justice.
- » **1972:** Delaware abolishes whipping as a penalty, making it the last state in the nation to do so.
- » **1980s:** Launch of youth diversion programs to break the school-to-prison pipeline.
- » **1986:** State judges' adoption of reformed sentencing guidelines, creating accountability levels and graduated sanctions.
- » **1990:** The Delaware Council on Crime and Justice becomes the Delaware Center for Justice.
- » **1990s:** Launch of reentry services for justice-involved individuals.
- » **2012:** Stand Up for What's Right and Just merges with the Delaware Center for Justice.
- » **2013:** Amendment of Delaware's constitution, restoring voting rights for most former offenders.
- » **2021:** Passage of "Clean Slate" laws, expanding eligibility for expungement of various criminal records and automating portions of the process.

The Challenge We're Addressing



Delaware has one of the highest incarceration rates per capita in the country at 539 per 100,000 residents.¹

As recently as 2019, Black Delawareans accounted for 60% of the state's prison population, while representing less than a quarter of its population overall.^{2,3}

Youth Programs

Our goal is simple but profound: shifting from punishment to repair, and from control to connection.

We are not just preventing recidivism. We help youth build successful, productive lives.

School Offense Diversion Program (SoDP)

The School Offense Diversion Program (SoDP) works with students facing criminal charges as a result of an in-school incident. As an alternative to the juvenile court process, we provide conferencing to develop an accountability plan. Each student works to repair any harm done, and learns better skills to resolve future conflict. They develop the skills needed to sustain healthy relationships, so their first experience with the legal system is also their last.

Forward Thinking

Forward Thinking is a cognitive behavior therapy program offered to youth housed at the New Castle County Detention Center. Through interactive journaling, we help teens change their thinking and behaviors by focusing on understanding their own feelings, thoughts, and emotions. This helps them learn to better control their reactions and decision-making, and reduces the likelihood of future contact with the justice system.

Restorative Futures

Restorative Futures is a school-based program embedded in two middle schools within the Colonial School District. Using the SoDP model, it provides intervention to students in individual and group settings before harm escalates. Our DCJ Restorative Services Specialists help address root causes of conflict and identify underlying issues, often stemming from undiagnosed or untreated trauma, mental health issues, or neurodivergence. Restorative Futures serviced 150+ students in two years with just two staff members!

Youth Reentry Services

Youth Reentry Services provides support to teens as they transition back home. Our family service advocates offer intense case management, connecting with parents/guardians to identify and address the family's needs, and ensuring comprehensive support for the teens. We help young people find training programs, employment, mental health resources, and other support. In the past year, DCJ has provided \$20,000 in financial assistance to youth and families in this program.

¹ Prison Policy Initiative <https://www.prisonpolicy.org/profiles/DE.html>

² The Sentencing Project <https://www.scribd.com/document/679312657/Nellis-2016-the-Color-of-Justice-Racial-and-Ethnic-Disparity-in-State-Prisons>

³ ACLU Delaware <https://www.aclu.org/press-releases/aclu-delaware-statements-criminal-justice-reform-bills-announced-today>

Adult Reentry & Support

Transitional Reentry Services Program

Our Transitional Reentry Services provides support to adults leaving the Delaware Department of Corrections Level 4 & 5 facilities. We help them navigate the first 90 days after release, beginning on day one with transportation from the prison door. Our staff transport and accompany individuals to appointments, assist with obtaining documents such as ID cards and health insurance, and provide basic needs—food, clothing, and hygiene products. Transitional Reentry Services assisted over 700 individuals in successfully reintegrating back into the community last year.

Community Reintegration Services Program

Community Reintegration Services Program (CRSP) assists individuals on Delaware Probation & Parole. We are the ONLY service provider co-located within the state's probation and parole facilities. CRSP staffers offer case management and employment services to parolees. The program is voluntary, and provides support services statewide for up to a year following incarceration.

S.E.L.F. (Safety, Emotion, Loss, and Future) Program

S.E.L.F. is a trauma-informed group counseling curriculum administered at the Hazel D. Plant Treatment Facility and Baylor Women's Correctional Institution. The program is specifically designed for women dealing with trauma and working to transition back into society.

Studies show the vast majority of incarcerated women have been the victim of physical or sexual violence in their lifetime.⁴ Many also deal with substance abuse. S.E.L.F. aims to support women in navigating challenges such as regaining custody of children, rebuilding relationships with partners or children's fathers, and successfully reintegrating back into their communities. To date, the program has helped over 200 women.

Restorative Justice & Family Connection

Restorative Conferencing

Restorative conferences are an alternative to the legal system. They bring together the victims who were harmed and the individuals who harmed them to find a resolution. Instead of criminal charges, individuals have the opportunity to make restitution, complete community service, and learn new skills, while allowing victims to feel heard. In a recent year, we oversaw 173 adult case conferences, 92% of agreements successfully completed, and 49 youth case conferences, with 98% of the agreements successfully completed.

Read In, Read Out Program

The Read In, Read Out Program (RIRO) is a powerful collaborative effort between the Delaware Center for Justice, the Delaware Department of Corrections, and Read Aloud Delaware. RIRO aims to repair and strengthen the bonds between incarcerated individuals and their children. Incarcerated parents record themselves reading books to their children, and RIRO sends these recordings and the accompanying books to the kids, helping to nurture literacy and heal family bonds. Since launch, more than 100 children have participated.



⁴Multiple Sources

<https://www.prearesourcecenter.org/resource/86-percent-women-jail-are-sexual-violence-survivors>

<https://vawnet.org/material/womens-experiences-abuse-risk-factor-incarceration-research-update>

Stories of Transformation



”

“When you come out of prison, you have nothing. No food, no clothes—no socks, no underwear, no bra, no panties. You have nothing to your name. You’re newborn.”

- Nicole Campbell

Nicole’s Story

After 16 years of incarceration, Nicole was motivated to work, but needed support to overcome the challenges of re-entering society—from basic supplies to help with the job search. Her DCJ case manager, Emma, was there to provide immediate assistance.

“What a returning citizen needs is an unbiased chance,” Nicole says. “Some people don’t expect you to change. I was very raw and combative when I went into prison. Now, I see my mistakes and don’t let my emotions control me. I need to be a role model for my kids.”

DCJ offered Nicole the unbiased chance at redemption she needed. With Emma’s support, Nicole began creating a new path forward. In addition to directing Nicole toward job opportunities, she has become a reference who can speak to who Nicole is now, not who she was in the past.



”

“I followed the format that DCJ laid out for me, and it gave me a purpose. It gave me a reason to do the hard work.”

- James

James’ Story

DCJ staffer Amber picked James up from prison the day he was released. James, a self-described addict, needed a lift to his sober living facility in Milford, where he lives with 5 other men who are also in recovery. *“Without her, I would have been lost because the area I moved into was totally new.”* Amber helped him navigate, get to appointments with his parole officer, and became a steady source of support in his life.

James says DCJ’s reentry services gave him the chance to reclaim his life.

“I have money in the bank. I’m connected with my kids again,” he says. “I’m 61 and I’m just now starting to live.”



Policy Impact: Changing Systems, Not Just Lives

Recent Legislative Success

Today's Delaware Center for Justice carries on the tradition of strong, non-partisan policy advocacy that's been in our DNA for over a century, most recently resulting in the historic passage of 11 legal system reform bills in the first half of the 150th Delaware legislature.

There's More Work to Be Done

In Delaware, we have yet to achieve an unbiased, equitable, and transformative vision of justice. The effects of slavery, Jim Crow, poverty, and discrimination are embedded in our state's institutions and disproportionately impact those most vulnerable to structural injustice.

In the pursuit of higher equality in justice, we focus on legal system reforms, including:

- » Ending mass incarceration
- » Policing reform—both in communities and schools
- » Reforming the bail, fines, and fees models that criminalize poverty
- » Abolishing the death penalty in Delaware
- » Compensation for wrongful conviction
- » Implementing restorative justice practices throughout the state
- » Ending systemic racism



The Road Ahead: Building the Next Century

Our Bold Vision

As we continue fighting in our second century, we are about to launch our boldest agenda yet. Our strategic priorities include:

Expanding Direct Services

- » Continuing to serve justice-involved individuals across all three Delaware counties
- » Maintaining evidence-based programming with proven success rates
- » Adapting services to meet emerging community needs

Driving Systemic Change

- » Continuing legislative advocacy for comprehensive criminal justice reform
- » Addressing racial disparities in justice outcomes
- » Working toward the elimination of policies that criminalize poverty

Join the Movement

105th Anniversary Campaign

For 105 years, the Delaware Center for Justice has been Delaware's steady voice for justice reform, human dignity, and second chances. In that time, we've helped abolish the whipping post, advanced civil rights, and transformed countless lives.

But our work is far from finished.

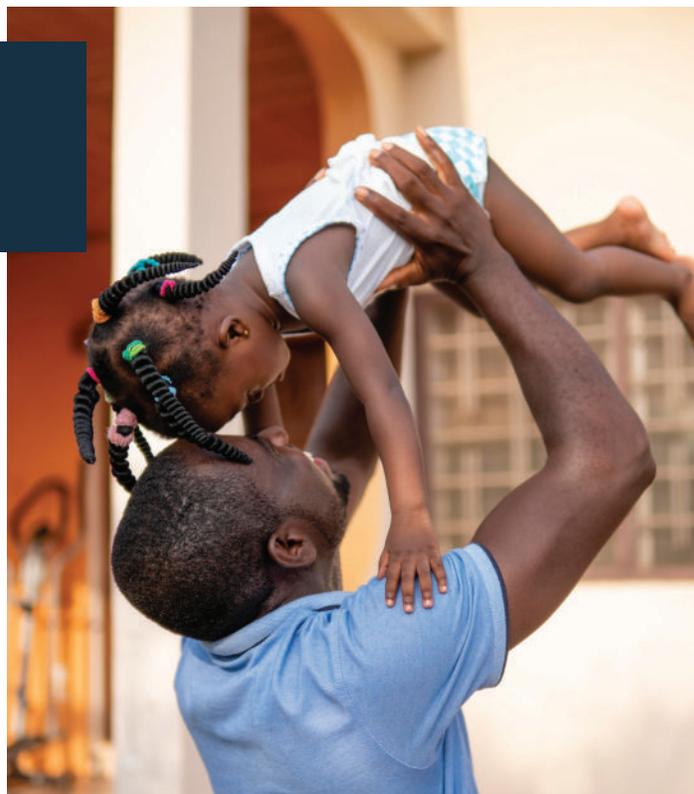
Delaware still has one of the highest incarceration rates in the nation. Families are still torn apart by a justice system that criminalizes poverty and perpetuates racial injustice. Young people are still pushed out of schools instead of receiving the support they need to thrive.

The moment demands bold action.

The communities we serve need transformational investment in programs that work and policies that heal.

Your partnership makes this possible.

When you invest in DCJ, you're investing in justice for all Delawareans.



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The Next Century of Justice Starts Here.

Justice is not guaranteed.
It's built, case by case.

