

# WTWO Features Offender Re-Entry Program

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Commissioner

State offenders from the Wabash Valley will now be better trained to re-enter society, because of a unique program.

Clay County Sheriff Mike Heaton was joined by J. David Donahue, from the Indiana Department of Correction to announce a new offender re-entry program at the jail.

The Clay County Re-Entry Program or CCRP is a close to home effort to reduce repeat offenders.

Twenty-four beds at the Clay County Justice Center will be used to house offenders at the end of their prison time.

This is the first program of its kind in the state, and if it goes well the plan is to use other county facilities for the same purpose.

It uses local resources to help men who would most likely return to clay and surrounding counties after paying their debt to society.

At Clay County men will be provided with literacy and life skills, job training and placement, temporary housing and other social service needs.

Indiana Department of Correction Commissioner J. David Donahue, said Wednesday, “We`ve learned,

just literally looking back at our agency the absence of employment, the absence of housing and the absence of transportation puts an individual that's an ex offender literally in a position to potentially fail. And we think this facility will help us narrow that gap, improve the quality of life for clay county, as well as the offenders while promoting public safety."

Clay County Sheriff Mike Heaton added, "Here we are, we're not just going to house these people and cut them lose, we need to give them the opportunity and show them the opportunities that are out there and keep them from being repeat offenders."

Currently, statistics show four out of every 10 offenders fail in the first three years after re-entering society.

The resources that will be used are public resources that anyone in the community can use and will be available when the offender is released.

In the long run tax payers can benefit from the program.

### **About The Department of Correction**

The Department employs over 8,000 employees and houses 24,000 adult and juveniles in 32 facilities, ranging from minimum to maximum custody, prison camps, juvenile facilities and work release centers. The Department's home page on the Internet can be found at: <http://www.in.gov/indcorrection>. The Department's Re-entry Site can be found: <http://www.reentry.in.gov>.

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