

DRUG POLICY ALLIANCE

Reason. Compassion. Justice.

Rockefeller Drug Law Reforms of 2009: Follow the Money

The 2009 reforms to the draconian Rockefeller Drug Laws included \$71 million over two years for implementation—nearly \$30 million in FY2010 and \$41 million in FY2011. Most of these funds come from the 2009 Economic Stimulus Package passed by Congress and signed by President Barack Obama. Proper implementation is essential as New York begins its shift away from the Rockefeller Drug Law regime, and toward an approach to drug policy based on health and public safety.

\$500,000,000 – Yearly cost of Rockefeller Drug Laws (police, courts, prisons)

\$71,000,000 – Funds dedicated for implementation of the 2009 RDL Reforms

Treatment Programs

Funding through the State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS)
Over \$40 million in state and federal stimulus funding allocated to four major initiatives:

Residential Expansion of More Than 600 Treatment Beds

- \$17.3 million in federal stimulus funding to provide the operating dollars needed for new residential capacity.

Outpatient and Assessment Services

- \$2 million in outpatient and assessment services (released December 2009). OASAS has developed a Local Planning Supplement to obtain additional outpatient and assessment services in those areas around the state that will see an influx of drug law diversions into the community, RFP process is now closed.

Case Management Services

- \$1.7 million in state aid funding is targeted for case management services. OASAS will issue a Local Planning Supplement (December 2009) to create case management services to work with patients to ensure they maintain their recovery and do not reoffend. Services will be delivered by locally selected and eligible clinical case management service providers.

Capital Projects

- \$10 million of state funding will be allocated annually for the renovation, expansion or new construction of residential treatment beds to meet the future needs of the potential capacity of non-violent offenders seeking treatment.

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Re-entry Housing and Supportive Services

- \$319,000 allocated for housing and supportive services, in anticipation of the demand for parolee housing. Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) offer Rental Subsidies up to Fair Market Rental rates, in combination with Case Management and Employment Counseling/Job Development services.

Re-Entry Programs – Integrating formerly incarcerated people back into society

Funding through the Department of Correctional Services (DOCS)

\$14.8 million in federal stimulus grants allocated for:

Center for Employment Opportunities (CEO): \$5 million over 2 years

- Provide approximately 675 parolees in transitional jobs over the next two years in New York City and several upstate counties.

The Doe Fund: \$3 million over years

- Expand its Ready, Willing & Able program, with a focus on Rockefeller resentencing cases and violent offenders who have served long periods of incarceration.

The Fortune Society: \$2 million over 2 years

- Provide clients with job-readiness training and placement into stable full-time and transitional jobs

Osborne Association: \$2 million over 2 years

- Creation of a Green Career Center providing job opportunities and support services to 130 formerly incarcerated persons in the first year and 192 in year two.

Department of Correctional Services (DOCS): \$2.8 million over two years for two projects

- The “Digital Literacy Program” (\$1 million for each of the next two years) provides inmates within six months of release with hands-on training at special computer workstations
- A \$397,336 allocation for each year to support the Department’s Special Education programs, including the “Quantum Learning Program” to train DOCS Title I and Special Education teachers in methods to teach students of widely varying abilities in Special Needs Units and correctional facilities with inmates under age 21.

\$5 million in State local assistance funds for:

Funding through the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS)

- Support the establishment or continuation of local reentry task forces to coordinate and strengthen the community's reentry process and better align it with evidence-based practices
- Provide support or continued support for contracted services to reentry clients that contribute to effective risk management by addressing, first and foremost, their criminogenic needs as well as their stabilization and survival needs (e.g. housing and public benefits) as appropriate.

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Counties eligible for local assistance funds: Albany, Broome, Chautauqua, Dutchess, Erie, Monroe, Nassau, Niagara, Oneida, Onondaga, Orange, Rensselaer, Rockland, Schenectady, Suffolk, Ulster, and Westchester counties; the New York City Office of the Criminal Justice Coordinator, and the Kings County District Attorney's Office.

Drug Courts – Providing Alternatives to Prison for People with Substance Use Problems

Funding through the New York State Office of Court Administration (OSA)

\$15 million in grants for Drug Court initiatives:

- \$8.0 in capital funds for drug court establishment.
- \$3.0 million for new drug court parts. It has not been determined where these funds will go and will depend on need. Much of it is likely to go to NYC.
- \$4.0 million for drug court officers and \$500,000 for probation aid (funding through DCJS).
- \$2.8 million through DCJS for law enforcement. \$1.0 million of this will go to District Attorneys and \$1.8 million for alternatives to incarceration projects.
- \$2.0 million through DCJS to create a report; also for re-classification of offenders, research and sealing of records.

These funds will roll over and ramp up for next year, for a total of \$48 million for 2010-11. For example, the OASAS allocation for treatment will rise from \$4.0 million this year to \$29 million for next year.

Join us to develop a New Direction for New York

Updated January 2010