



DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 15, 2000

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Department of Corrections Awarded Life Skills Grant for Inmates

(Pierre) - The South Dakota Department of Corrections (SD DOC) has been awarded a grant from the U.S. Department of Education to better help prepare inmates for life after prison.

The amount of the Life Skills for State and Local Prisoners grant award is \$340,930 for the first year. It is anticipated that the grant will be renewed for two additional years.

The grant provides financial assistance for establishing and operating programs designed to reduce recidivism through the development and improvement of life skills needed to reintegrate adult prisoners back into society. Life skills include self-development, communication skills, job and financial skill development, education, interpersonal and family relationship development and stress and anger management.

The SD DOC is developing "Forward", a life skills development program for inmates who remain in prison beyond their parole date because they aren't able to put together an acceptable parole plan. Inmates who are within one year of release from prison through six months after release who are at high risk for parole violation or recidivism due to life skill deficits will also be targeted in the programming.

"The Forward program will be a big step forward in assisting inmates in developing skills to help them succeed once they are released back into society," said Corrections Secretary Jeff Bloomberg. "It's another tool to combat crime by cutting down on the number of inmates who return to our system."

Governor William J. Janklow and Senator Tom Daschle assisted in securing the grant for the South Dakota DOC.