

# "PRE-RELEASE" IS...

## A STATUS

"Pre-release" is the lowest possible security level, assigned to individuals with good behavior and who present the least risk of violence or escape.

## AN OPPORTUNITY

- *To work:* Individuals on pre-release status can participate in work-release
- *To plan:* While on pre-release, individuals begin planning for a successful re-entry
- *To re-connect:* While on pre-release, individuals can reconnect to family and community resources

## BEST HOUSED IN A SEPARATE FACILITY

Maryland's Reentry Task Force recommended that individuals be transferred to a local facility several months before release. Pre-release programs located in the community are associated with reduced participant recidivism

## JOIN US

- VOICE YOUR SUPPORT.
- Visit our office (1400 E. Federal Street, Baltimore, MD 21213) to sign a letter of support
- Email us at [getinfo@out4justice.org](mailto:getinfo@out4justice.org) to deliver testimony

## SUPPORT OUR BILL

- Email us at [getinfo@out4justice.org](mailto:getinfo@out4justice.org) for more information about becoming a sponsor

## LEARN MORE

- Visit our Facebook page ([Facebook.com/OFJ2014](https://www.facebook.com/OFJ2014)) or website ([www.out4justice.org](http://www.out4justice.org)) for more information



OUT FOR JUSTICE

# WOMEN'S PRE-RELEASE

"Building power for change."



# WHY WOMEN'S PRE-RELEASE?

## OUR VISION

Provide Maryland's women with access to community and opportunity through a separate pre-release facility that provides trauma-informed and gender-responsive services including:

- Physical and mental healthcare
- Education
- Money management and life skill development
- Access to job training and local employment
- Opportunities to reconnect with important family members and other social supports
- Connection to stable housing
- A thorough plan for continued access to supports and services after release

## Women's needs are not being met at MCI-W.

"Honestly, the services I have are the same as any other resident. There is a transition coordinator, however, help is extremely scarce...the information is outdated and useless...I had to find a transitional house on my own since there was absolutely no help inside the institution"

***"Currently I do not have a job, there are not many jobs afforded to residents here. For the best jobs, you have to know someone on a higher security level."***

"Trying to transition properly when my everyday life is so restricted by the restrictions of a maximum security prison. When I'm released I have no job, no car, no license, no clue how to get around, no money management training...I have never taken a bus...thrown into society with no sense of navigation...the bottom line is that transitioning is really impossible in this setting."

## Maryland's incarcerated women are different than men.

- Will be released sooner (avg. of 4 yrs. compared to men's 6.8 yrs.)
- TWICE as likely as men to be incarcerated for a non-violent conviction
- Over 66% are mothers
- THREE times more likely than men to head a single parent household

## Men have EIGHT facilities, while women have ZERO.

Prison authorities have asserted that there were too few women in need of pre-release services to justify a separate facility. But, as many as 90 women in Maryland are currently on pre-release status, and as many as 160 more are on minimum security status. These numbers indicate there are enough eligible women to fill a pre-release facility over three times the size of Threshold.

## Separate facilities are cheaper.

- Avg. per-capita cost to run the men's (pre-release and minimum) facilities is \$35,160
- Avg. per-capital cost at MCI-W is 49,462 (14k more per person!)

## Women in mixed facilities are in greater danger.

- Women on prerelease at MCI-W are housed alongside individuals on maximum security
- The average "inmate assault rate" at MCI-W in 2017 was 1 in 16 (compared to an average of 1 in 25 at the men's separate facilities)