Hampshire Sheriff's Office

Community Justice Support Center

The HSO's Community Justice Support Center (CJSC), located in downtown Northampton, is all about building community. Working in partnership with the state Office of Community Corrections, our CJSC is a critical piece in the HSO's ongoing efforts to increase our services in the community, and to continue the safe decarceration process of the people in our care.

By providing a safe, welcoming space for probationers to access programming for substance abuse issues, on-line classes for job skills and educational development, and opportunities for community service projects, staff at the CJSC aim to provide the people in the care of the Hampshire County criminal justice system the chance to continue improving themselves. This can help them re-establish their connection with family members and the wider community, as well as giving them the space to further stabilize their physical and mental health.

Our CJSC is a one-stop shop for formerly incarcerated individuals looking to increase their chances of making a successful re-entry, and for other justice-involved individuals who are working with the courts to avoid incarceration.

Services and Support

Our CJSC staff is responsible for intakes and transitions, supervision, security, treatment management, job readiness/placement, HiSet preparation and pre-testing, urinalysis functions,

and for providing all substance abuse treatment services. Our staff also offers life skills services, including anger management, money management, financial and computer literacy and interviewing skills.

Clients of our CJSC also have access to cognitive behavioral treatment (CBT), focusing on decision making and substance use disorders. Treatment groups are run using an evidence-based CBT curriculum, which has proven to be effective with offenders, along with a system of sanctions and rewards that monitors progress during the treatment process. Our CJSC also provides random drug screening for individuals involved with the Hampshire County Drug Court.

Massachusetts incarcerates fewer people than any state in the nation, and that's something to be proud of. Without the Community Justice Support Centers, in Northampton and elsewhere, many probationers might find themselves on the street, where their health and safety could be compromised, and where the possibility of falling back on old habits seems high.