

CORRECTION CONNECTION

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The Skills Gap

- 37% of adults in McDowell County have difficulty reading beyond a 4th grade level
- Wyoming County = 27%
- Mercer County = 23%
- *Over 1/4 of the adults in these counties have skills gaps that keep them from meaningful employment!*

MILESTONES ALONG THE WAY TO THE NEW FEDERAL CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

Despite some “speed bumps” along the way, the federal correctional facility in McDowell County is moving along. The \$142 million dollar project, a 1,280-bed facility, will generate approximately 350 new jobs in the region as well as \$35 million per year in revenue. Here are some of the milestones toward the realization of this project:

- June, 2006—\$7.3 million awarded to Clark Design Builders LLC
- July, 2006—Senate Appropriations Committee gives green light to project.
- July, 2006—Senator Byrd acquires an additional \$89 million in building funds for the prison project.
- July, 2006—McDowell County Commission transfers 400 acres in the Indian Ridge Industrial Park to the Federal Bureau of Prisons.
- August, 2006—Clark Design Builders LLC, in conjunction with the McDowell County EDA, hosts housing and employment meeting.
- Sept., 2006—Construction trailer placed on site.
- Oct., 2006—Design Team meetings held with local representatives in McDowell, Mercer, and Wyoming Counties.
- Oct., 2006—Margaret Hamilton, former warden at Alderson, featured speaker at McDowell County Chamber of Commerce luncheon.
- Nov., 2006—HUBZone Certification workshop
- Nov., 2006—Landlord Training Seminar
- March, 2007—Credit Counseling class scheduled.



THANKS TO SENATOR BYRD, SENATOR ROCKEFELLER, AND U.S. REPRESENTATIVE RAHALL!

Thanks to the untiring work of Senators Byrd and Rockefeller and U.S. Representative Rahall, the funding for the federal correctional facility was not only restored and approved, but was increased! Their efforts will make this facility,

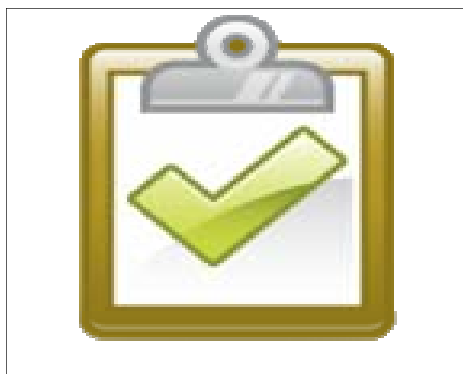
which will be such an economic boost to the region, a reality. Hats off to them and their staff!

FEDERAL CORRECTIONS OFFICER REQUIREMENTS

The Bureau of Prisons website (www.bop.gov) provides this information for job-seekers:

- 4-year degree from an accredited institution

Or



- Equivalent of at least 3 years of full-time general experience performing duties such as providing assistance, guidance, and direction to individuals; counseling; supervising or managing; teaching; selling products or services

Or

- A combination of undergraduate education and general experience equivalent to three years of full-time experience.

And

The following knowledge, skills, and abilities:

- Ability to supervise others
- Ability to communicate verbally
- Ability to react in crisis situations.

“The gap between the skills needed by employers and the skill level of US workers, both incumbent and entering, poses a major challenge for the US labor market.”

POTENTIAL JOBS AT THE NEW FEDERAL CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

The new Federal Correctional Facility may generate over 350 new jobs in the region. Jobs at the correctional facility will include: Food Services (10), Health Services (12), Inmate Services (1), Correctional Services (105), Unit Management (20), Inmate Systems (4), Education (7), Recreation (5), Religious Services (2), Psychology Services and Drug Treatment (3), Executive Office (1), Employee Services (1), Financial Management & Trust Fund (12), Computer Services (2), Facilities (15), Safety (1), UNICOR

(10).

Approximately 60% of the proposed workforce needed for the new facility will come from local hires.

COUNTY BY COUNTY

McDowell County

- Criminal Justice classes leading to a certificate being offered at McDowell County Technical Education Center for high school students.
- Spanish is offered in the public schools via distance learning.
- Southern WV Community and Technical College is offering 2 Criminal Justice classes at MCTEC.
- Local ABE program has Money

Smart materials to help with credit issues.

Mercer County

- Adult Learning Center has GED & basic skills classes

Wyoming County

- Information on jobs in corrections given to high school juniors and seniors
- SWVCTC offering a Criminal Justice class at the Saulsville Campus.

SKILLS REQUIRED TO WORK IN FEDERAL CORRECTIONS

According to Cathi Litcher, the Bureau of Prisons Site Activation Coordinator, jobs in the new federal correctional facility will require the following skills:

- Understanding organizational structure of public government entities (differences between law enforcement and corrections; correctional organizational structure)
- Leadership skills (developing a meeting agenda; facilitating a meeting)
- Oral Communication (persuasive teaching techniques, negotiation skills, motivational skills, conflict resolution techniques, instructor skills)
- Written Communication (application procedures, report writing, incident reports)
- Diversity Training (Understanding diversity, cultural background)
- Technology (Internet research, Groupwise

e-mail, presentation software, WordPerfect, Excel, Lotus)



CONTACTS FOR PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Clark Construction—Interest in Employment forms available at the Workforce West Virginia Career Centers in McDowell, Raleigh, and Mercer Counties. Call 1-866-316-8278.

Adult Basic Education (Mercer County)—Marcia Ware @ 304-425-7953

Adult Basic Education (McDowell County)—Bill Sparks @ 1-304-436-6580

Adult Basic Education (Wyoming County)—Jeff Caudill @ 682-4262

McDowell County Economic Development Authority—304-436-3833

UPCOMING CLASSES/TRAINING!

Credit Counseling Seminar

When: March 8

Where: Wyoming County Economic Development Authority office in Pineville

Time: 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Limited openings-pre-registration required!

Contact: 1-866-316-8278 and leave your name, phone number, and mailing address to receive a pre-registration form.

All information is kept CONFIDENTIAL!

Additional sessions planned for McDowell and Mercer Counties.

**West Virginia Workplace Education
Program**

RESA VII
1201 N. 15th St.
Clarksburg, WV 26301

Phone: 304-624-6554 XT 243
Phone: 1-800-427-3600 XT 243
Fax: 304-624-5223

Building a world-class workforce

CORRECTIONS FAQs

Will this be a medium or maximum security facility?

- *The facility will be medium security.*

Does the 37 year age limit apply to all jobs?

- Yes

How will job applications be taken?

- *Job applications are taken on-line only.*

How soon can I apply?

- *Job applications specifically for the McDowell County facility are not yet available. However, applicants can apply for jobs in federal correctional facilities elsewhere in the U.S. and transfer back to McDowell County in the future. The application process is on-line at www.bop.gov*

What would keep me from getting a job?

- *A conviction for spousal abuse automatically disqualifies an applicant since s/he cannot apply for a gun permit—ever.*
- *Poor credit rating*
- *Inability to pass a drug screen.*
- *Failure to meet minimum qualifications or pass background check*

