

Department of Correction
Risk Reduction Earned Credit Program
September 2011 – December 2011

The 2011 General Assembly enacted legislation that provides for Risk Reduction Earned Credits (RREC). Inmates may earn credits for compliance with programmatic participation, as well for accompanying good behavior. Governor Malloy signed Public Act 11-51 on June 30, 2011. The agency has until July 1, 2012 to implement the provisions of the law.

Under the program, which applies to inmates sentenced to a term of imprisonment for a crime committed on or after October 1, 1994, inmates may earn up to a maximum of five days a month off of their sentence. These credits may also be revoked for non-compliance with programmatic requirements or behavioral misconduct. Inmates with significant disciplinary issues, those on restrictive status (such as gang members), those felons who refuse to provide a DNA sample, and those that refuse a required program shall not earn credit.

In accordance with the provisions of Public Act 11-51, no risk reduction earned credits will be awarded to any offenses that are parole ineligible. The parole ineligible offenses are: murder, capital felony, felony murder, arson murder, aggravated sexual assault 1st degree and home invasion. Inmates with an offense date prior to October 1, 1994 are not eligible for RREC. Those inmates are eligible for statutory good time under the applicable statutes. Additionally, earned credit cannot be applied to reduce a statutorily required mandatory minimum term of imprisonment.

Good conduct alone and obedience to institutional rules will not entitle an inmate to risk reduction earned credits. Also, risk reduction earned credits will not eliminate the community supervision portion of the term of incarceration.

During September 2011, retroactive RREC began to be awarded to those inmates supervised in a community setting under Transitional Supervision, Parole or in Halfway House status.

During October 2011, retroactive RREC began to be awarded in correctional facilities. In accordance with good correctional practice and with public safety at the forefront, it is the Department's plan to stagger the application of RREC based on the inmate's risk level, releasing those with shorter sentences first. In general, inmates who are of a higher security level will have their retroactive RREC applied later in the implementation phase.

As of November 1, 2011, all inmates who had earned credit through compliance with program recommendations and good conduct during October were awarded credit. All such inmates may receive credit each month.

Between September 2011 and December 2011, a total of 2,710 offenders who received RREC discharged from the Department.

Month	Community	Facility	Total
September 2011	242	0	242
October 2011	192	79	271
November 2011	619	503	1122
December 2011	488	587	1075

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Using the four basic Federal Bureau of Investigations crime categories, as well as Connecticut's additional category of substance abuse, the controlling offenses of those 2,710 offenders that discharged with Risk Reduction Earned Credits fall under the following five crime type categories:

Crime type – sorted highest to lowest	Community Discharge	Community Discharge Percent	Average Award Days	Facility Discharge	Facility Discharge Percent	Average Award Days	Total Inmates Discharged with RREC	Total Percent
Public Order	386	25.04%	55	452	38.66%	20	838	30.92%
Substance Abuse	488	31.66%	71	181	15.48%	38	669	24.68%
Crimes against Persons	328	21.28%	87	253	21.64%	34	581	21.43%
Crime against Property	217	14.08%	59	191	16.33%	34	408	15.05%
Other	122	7.91%	72	92	7.86%	35	214	7.89%

(Public Order includes gambling, prostitution, pornography and weapons; Substance Abuse includes drug and DUI offenses; Crimes Against Persons includes assault, manslaughter, and sex offenses; Crimes Against Property includes robbery, burglary, larceny and fraud; and, Other includes violation of probation/parole.)