



Lebanon County

Intermediate Punishment Treatment Plan
for 2025-2026

INTRODUCTION

Lebanon County's leaders remain committed to preventing overcrowding at the Lebanon County Correctional Facility (LCCF). Keeping the inmate population at manageable levels is accomplished by offering viable, cost-effective alternatives to incarceration for eligible offenders while protecting the public. County officials have authorized and revised these sentencing alternatives as part of County Intermediate Punishment (CIP) programming and, in accordance with Act 115 of 2019, as restrictive conditions of probation. The County's criminal-justice stakeholders, who are represented on the Lebanon County Criminal Justice Advisory Board (LCCJAB), remain committed to reentry and the importance of working to ensure that offenders return successfully to the community and avoid further involvement with the criminal justice system. The County is excited that the Offender Reentry Coalition has been reestablished and reenergized after a long hiatus. In September 2024, the County hired a new Offender Reentry Coordinator; the Coalition has held several meetings to date. The CJAB is excited about the Coalition's work in 2025-2026. (The Reentry Coordinator is a core member of the CJAB.) LCCF has also implemented a Life Skills Class for inmates who are about to be released.

Act 115 of 2019 replaced what had been formerly known as County Intermediate Punishment (CIP) with Restrictive Conditions of Probation. Since the enactment of that law, the County has been committed to working within its guidelines, including changes to eligibility under Title 42, Section 9721 (a.1), while maintaining the proactive practices that benefit both the offender and the community. The County adheres to the Seventh and Eighth Editions of the PA Sentencing Commission Guidelines that address the sentences and supervision of offenders eligible for intermediate punishment. The County's IP Plan is based on these guidelines. An "eligible offender" includes:

- 1) Offenders sentenced for an offense under the 7th Edition at Levels 2, 3, or 4 and who would otherwise be sentenced to a period of partial or total confinement in a county facility.
- 2) Offenders sentenced for an offense under the 8th Edition at Level B, with a standard range recommendation that includes restrictive conditions.
- 3) Offenders sentenced under the 8th Edition at Level C or D and who would otherwise be sentenced to a period or total confinement in a county facility.

This updated plan reviews the IP programs and restrictive conditions for eligible offenders that are currently in place or could be in place a future time. For FY 2025-2026, the County requests funding for some, but not all, components of the plan.

The main goal of the plan is to offer viable alternatives to incarceration as means of keeping the Average Daily Population (ADP) at the Lebanon County Correctional Facility (LCCF) below 300. The County has been achieving this objective most of the time. The ADP at the end of November was 281, with an average length of stay of 22 days. The ADP at the end of September was 315, though not indicating an upward trend giving cause for concern. The ADP at the end of July was 298; the ADP for May 252, with an average stay of 21 days. The ADP a month earlier was 238, the lowest average in years. This gives evidence that the diversionary programs in place in the County are working. The average length of stay during the January 1-November 30, 2025, period was 55 days. Although the ADP 298 at the end of July was 298, the length of stay

remained low at 22 days. During the short length of stay, inmates continue to receive counseling and treatment post-release. A major service for inmates is the Medication Assistance Program (MAT). This includes both a maintenance and induction component funded primarily through opioid settlement funds, with any balance coming directly from LCCF budget. The County has expressed concern about the rising number of inmates over the age of 60. An aging inmate population could mean a greater demand for medical treatment and the fiscal costs associated with it.

Another ongoing concern has been the number of inmates with mental health issues—inmates who are on “maintenance” at the prison and whose needs have not always been addressed. Lebanon County MH/ID/EI collaborates with PrimeCare, the health-care provider contracted to deliver medical services to inmates at the LCCF, to devise effective care for this segment of the inmate population. MH/ID/EI also has an active Team MISA (Mental Illness and Substance Abuse) program in Lebanon County. Comprised of representatives from criminal justice departments, Team MISA works to divert low-risk offenders with mental illness and other special needs from prison. It also focuses on expanding community-treatment options and working toward early diversion for defendants with drug/alcohol or MH/ID issues. No additional funding from the County budget is required. Team MISA meets monthly and has discussed, to date, the cases of 43 individuals, all of whom have a mental-health history or drug/alcohol history. The purpose is to engage in meaningful dialogue about identified individuals and develop treatment plans to bring before the court. Since February 2024, MH/ID/EI has dealt with 401 previously incarcerated individuals who have had or currently have open cases with the office. Of these, 69 have been incarcerated more than once during the same period.

The President Judge also intends to establish a mental-health treatment court in Lebanon County by the Spring of 2026. Planning meetings have taken place. This represents another proactive step toward providing those with mental health needs with options that do not include incarceration. Discussions about establishing this fourth treatment court have also addressed early identification of offenders with mental-health needs as well as viable housing options for such offenders

Lebanon County believes that CIP/Restrictive Conditions of Probation should be less costly and more effective than incarceration. These conditions include a combination of supervision, treatment, and behavioral management.

Lebanon County also realizes that such programming is not appropriate for all offenders, but should be specifically oriented to individuals who, through restrictive probation and alternative sentencing program, will benefit from program contact without jeopardizing community safety. In 2024, Probation Services began utilizing the nationally recognized Ohio Risk Assessment System (ORAS) as the chief evidence-based assessment tool to identify offenders’ criminogenic needs and to determine whether to incarcerate an offender. The ORAS is now used by most counties in the Commonwealth. In January 2023, the County began assessing offenders prior to sentencing--immediately after an offender enters a guilty plea-- to determine risk levels and offenders’ criminogenic needs. The County contends that pre-sentence assessments assist the Court in determining a more appropriate sentence and subsequent levels of supervision/conditions

of probation. The practice of assessing offenders prior to sentencing is continuing in 2025-2026 with ORAS, which has a very accurate pre-screening component. The plan is to conduct pre-sentence assessments on all eligible offenders, including M2 cases. Training of adult probation officers in how to use ORAS effectively will continue.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE ADVISORY BOARD

The Lebanon County Criminal Justice Advisory Board (LCCJAB) hears reports on and discusses elements of this plan at CJAB meetings, which take place every other month. The focus is on ensuring that these alternatives to imprisonment remain effective.

CIP/Restrictive Conditions of Probation Policies in Place

Lebanon County continues to utilize—and plans to continue utilizing--the following programs as viable alternatives to incarceration.

- Community Service
- Victim Restitution
- Work Release
- Drug Treatment Court
- Electronic Monitoring
- D.U.I. Court
- Veterans' Court
- Mental Health Court
- IP and Juvenile Offenders

Referrals are the primary methods of alerting the courts to individuals eligible for restrictive programming. Many referrals come from Probation/Parole Officers who make recommendations to the court as part of the pre-sentence investigation. Members of the District Attorney's staff as well as members of the Public Defender's Office also serve as significant sources for referrals.

Offender accountability is vital. If offenders fail to comply with program requirements, the program identifies and imposes specific sanctions, including incarceration.

ASSESSMENT OF CURRENT CIP PROGRAMS/RESTRICTIVE CONDITIONS OF PROBATION

What follows is a review of existing programs that the County is using as Restrictive Conditions of Probation or offering as alternatives to incarceration. These programs meet the minimum standards for Intermediate Punishment listed in Appendix "D" of the PCCD's grant announcement:

COMMUNITY SERVICE—Probation Services coordinates Community Service efforts throughout the county in addition to managing a minimum supervision caseload. Offenders in this program clean the Probation Building. It is important to note that some juvenile offenders also perform community service as part of their restitution, including, for example, mopping floors and emptying waste baskets at the Probation Building (Juvenile Unit). The LCCF uses inmates for yard work at the prison as well as other county properties. In early April 2025, only 26 inmates were involved in any work detail.

VICTIM RESTITUTION – Administered by the office of District Attorney, this program offers an alternative to traditional periods of probation and incarceration, enabling an offender to make restitution according to a predetermined schedule. Probation Services monitors and enforces collections. Failure to make restitution results in the imposition of more severe penalties, including appearing in Court.

WORK RELEASE – After a COVID-related hiatus, the Work Release Program was reinstated in January 2023. This has been a longstanding approach used by the Lebanon County Courts as a means of retaining prisoners while enabling them to provide for their families, to pay restitution, or to pay other court costs, fines, and fees. The program includes releasing eligible prisoners to work at an approved job in the community. The prisoner returns to the Correctional Facility at the conclusion of his/her work shift. At the end of November 2025, 12 inmates were taking advantage of work-release. LCCF intends to add more companies willing to participate in the program and, as result, raise the number of inmates on work release. This effort is headed by a Work Release Coordinator now on staff at LCCF.

DRUG TREATMENT COURT—The County established this specialty court in November 2022, following several months of planning and discussion, as an alternative to the former Renaissance-Crossroads Program, which had been rehabilitating eligible offenders for two decades.

The number of participants in this program continues to range from 25-30, the highest participant level among the three treatment courts. An advisory team meets regularly with the President Judge to review applications, discuss participants' progress, and address any other issues that arise. Like D.U.I and Veterans Court, participants in the Drug Court appear regularly before the President Judge to report on their progress and experiences with the program. The President Judge is pleased with the program's progress, noting that it provides offenders with an excellent opportunity to avoid incarceration in State prison for two years or more for their drug-related offenses. The officer in charge of supervising offenders in the program is also an active participant in the advisory team. The plan is to continue this treatment court in 2025-2026

ELECTRONIC MONITORING (EM) – The Office of Probation Services continues to utilize the Electronic Monitoring Program for eligible offenders as an alternative to incarceration. Since 2021, the average caseload of offenders on EM/HA has ranged from 50 to 60, though the range had dropped from 40 to 50 toward the end of the fiscal year. Offenders participating in the three specialty courts also serve a phase of their sentence on

house arrest. No doubt that the Court will continue to make use of this restrictive condition of probation. It will remain a vital part of IP in 2025-2026 and beyond.

LEBANON COUNTY D.U.I. COURT PROGRAM – Started in 2008, the D.U.I. Court Program focuses on second and third-time D.U.I. offenders who have serious problems with alcohol abuse or issues of dependency. The program presents a heightened level of judicial involvement and intensive probation supervision coupled with rigorous treatment to address addiction. The D.U.I. Treatment Court employs an aggressive approach designed to assist the participants in their rehabilitation through a supervised program of treatment and accountability. Offenders appear before the President Judge on a regular basis to discuss their progress, goals, and setbacks. The Lebanon County D.U.I. Court does not accept participants with mental-health issues that renders the offender unable to complete the program’s requirements.

Key to the program’s success is the use of substitute Electronic Monitoring and/or the use of a SCRAM unit (or other Alcohol Monitoring device) in lieu of incarceration. The program may also provide a combination of incarceration and Electronic Monitoring to fulfill the mandatory sentencing required by law.

The County funds this specialty program with local dollars, underscoring the County Commissioners’ belief in the merits of the program and its success in keeping intoxicated drivers off the road and embracing sobriety. (Other methods of funding include a D.U.I. Court fee, an electronic monitoring fee, and a SCRAM monitoring fee.)

In recent times, the number of participants at any time has ranged from 18-30, though the number has been as high as 39. As of 12-8-25, the number of participants was 26. The number of participants at the end of July was 22 and 25 at the end of October. The plan is to continue identifying eligible defendants under Act 115 to maintain participation levels in this longstanding, successful program. This specialty court has attained accreditation by the Administrative Office of PA Courts (AOPC), and the plan is to continue this treatment program for FY 2025-2026. (The President Judge and review teams are working toward attaining accreditation for the Veterans’ and Drug courts as well.)

Members of the court treatment teams also attend annual training, which is part of the requirement to attain and/or renew AOPC accreditation. Team members attended the PA Association of Treatment Court Professionals Conference in State College in October 2025. Team members also plan to attend the same conference in October 2026.

VETERANS’ COURT PROGRAM—In January 2019, Lebanon County became the 21st county in the Commonwealth to have an official Veterans Court. The number of participants has ranged from 11 to 15. The goal is to continue to increase the number of participants, with all offenders matched up with a volunteer mentor who is a veteran of the armed forces, preferably from the same branch as the offender. Members of the Veterans Court Review Team meet regularly to review applicants to the program and discuss participants’ progress. Participants appear regularly before the President Judge to report on their progress in meeting the program’s goals and expectations. The officer in charge of offenders in this program is also

an active participant in the advisory team. Participants also engage in pro-social activities, such as an annual softball game featuring offenders and court-team members from Lebanon and other counties. The plan for 2025-2026 is to continue this court program.

MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT COURT—President Judge John C. Tylwalk has announced his intention to implement a mental-health treatment court in Lebanon County. Planning meetings have been held since early 2025. The plan is to establish this fourth treatment court by Spring 2026.

IP AND JUVENILE OFFENDERS IN LEBANON COUNTY—The County has taken proactive steps over the years to ensure effective diversion programs for juvenile offenders. A day-treatment alternative for eligible juvenile offenders is in place, thanks to a collaborative effort between the County and Youth Advocate Programs (YAP). Located at a centralized location in Lebanon City, YAP's Community Treatment Center (CTC) represents a viable, cost-effective alternative to sending offenders to out-of-county placement. (Lebanon County does not have its own detention facility.) The program offers drug and alcohol treatment, family counseling, and treatment groups. As of 11-20-25, six juvenile offenders were participating in this program. In recent times, the number of participants has been as high as eight, rarely exceeding that number. The County does have a contract for guaranteed access to one detention bed at Abraxas Academy in Morgantown, PA and another at Adelphoi Manor Detention in Ebensburg, PA. When these beds are already occupied, the County uses house arrest with electronic monitoring.

First-time juvenile offenders who are arrested for possessing a small amount of marijuana and/or drug paraphernalia are referred to Teen Intervene. This program is a collaboration between the Juvenile Court, Empower the Mind, and Lebanon Family Health Services. Juveniles who complete Teen Intervene are not supervised by Juvenile Probation; rather, they are referred to this pre-petition diversion program. Empower the Mind screens each participant for any drug and alcohol treatment needs and is authorized to refer a juvenile for services if necessary. Lebanon Family Health then completes a four-session drug and alcohol education curriculum with the young offender. Services can be provided in a variety of settings, including at school. The objective is to help teens identify a potential substance use disorder. After successful conclusion of Teen Intervene, the juvenile's case is closed and eligible for expungement in six months. The average caseload for Teen Intervene is 10 juveniles at a time.

The plan is to continue these programs for juvenile offenders in 2025-2026.

USE OF EXISTING COMMUNITY AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

Many treatment alternatives require utilization of existing community resources in either direct or supporting roles. Lebanon County utilizes the following community agencies and organizations wherever possible. *Participation in any of the faith-based organizations (*) is strictly voluntary.*

- a) New Perspectives at White Deer Run
- b) PA Counseling Services, Inc.
- c) Veterans Administration Medical Center
- d) PA Careerlink
- e) Jubilee Ministries*
- f) WellSpan Philhaven Behavioral Health
- g) Salvation Army*
- h) Rescue Mission*
- i) Lebanon County Mental Health/Intellectual Disabilities/Early Intervention
- j) Lebanon County Area Agency on Aging
- k) Pennsylvania Department of Human Services
- l) TRIAD Treatment Specialists
- m) Lebanon County Commission on Drug and Alcohol Abuse
- n) Domestic Violence Intervention (DVI)
- o) Sexual Assault Resource and Counseling Center (SARCC)

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Prepared by John P. Shott, CJAB Planner