

Answers to the RFP: Incarcerated Correctional Sex Offender Program Coordinator and Facilitators

Question Deadline: January 19, 2015

Responses: January 23, 2015

1. Do you have planned, or do you anticipate, making any changes in the format and/or content of the programming, from the current VTPSA program format and content, for the Low Risk Offenders and Special Needs offenders, or any other group of sex offenders who may be housed at SSCF for the purpose of participating in VTPSA programming,?

There is no immediate plan for changes to the format or content of the VTPSA.

2. If there is a plan or the potential to change the format or content of programming re: #1 above, please describe the specific nature of the planned or anticipated format and/or content changes of that programming.

The VT DOC is committed to providing interventions using the Evidenced Based Principles for working effectively with criminal justice involved offenders. As those principles continue to evolve, program content and delivery may be modified to ensure adherence to evidence-based principles.

3. Regarding the VTPSA programming to be delivered at SSCF, due to the history of significant fluctuations in numbers of programmers over the course of time for both Low Risk and Special Needs VTPSA participants, do you have any plan to include a mechanism in the contract that attempts to provide a means to assure some stable minimum base number of hours of work per week/month for the VTPSA interventionist delivering services at SSCF over the term of the contract?

The contract will not provide a guarantee for a minimum number of hours within the contract period.

It is anticipated that a minimum of one FTE will be needed at Southern State Correctional Facility and will average a 40 hour work week over five days, Monday through Friday. In addition to sex offender programming at SSCF, the VT DOC will also deliver RRP to inmates not able to participate in RRP at the DOC facility in Newport due to medical or other issues. Group size for this curriculum typically averages between 8 – 12 inmates. There may be opportunities to deliver curriculum in this capacity if numbers allow.

4. How does the Vermont Recidivism rate compare to other states?

Vermont's rates are a little better than most states and the Sex Offender recidivism rates a little lower than most states.

5. What assessment tools are used to determine risk levels in sex offenders?

Sex Offender Assessment Tools used by the Vermont DOC are the Static 99R, VASOR2 and SOTIPS. The VASOR 2 and SOTIPS forms are used for community supervision. The VT DOC uses the LSI and is transitioning to the ORAS. The inmates risk is understood to be best reflected in the combination of these tools.

6. Would the Department provide trainings for contractor(s) to be certified in the assessment tools and ORAS?

The Department currently provides training and certification process in the sex offender risk assessment tools. The Department does not currently provide certification to staff other than DOC in other risk assessment tools.

7. The Program Coordinator will be holding weekly co-facilitation meetings. Who would the Program Coordinator be co-facilitating with?

The Program Coordinator will co-facilitate weekly meetings with the Site Liaison. Other attendees include the Living Unit Supervisor (LUS), Corrections Services Specialist (CSS), Mental Health and Education staff.