



FY 2025 Annual Report

President

Jason Varney
Oriana House, Inc.

Executive Director

Lusanne Green

OCCA Agency Members

Alvis - Columbus,
Dayton, Chillicothe, Lima,
Toledo

BHP of Central Ohio, Inc. -
Newark

Community Assessment &
Treatment Services, Inc. -
Cleveland

Community Corrections
Association, Inc. - Youngstown

Community Correctional Center,
Talbert House - Lebanon

Community Restoration Centers,
Inc. of Stark County - Canton

Community Transition Center -
Lancaster

CROSSWAEH CBCF, Oriana
House, Inc. - Tiffin

Judge Nancy R. McDonnell
CBCF, Oriana House, Inc. -
Cleveland

Mahoning County CBCF,
Community Corrections
Association, Inc. - Youngstown

Oriana House, Inc. - Akron,
Cleveland, Marietta

Salvation Army Harbor Light -
Cleveland

Summit County CBCF Oriana
House, Inc. - Akron

Talbert House - Cincinnati

Turtle Creek, Talbert House -
Lebanon

Volunteers of America Ohio &
Indiana - Cincinnati, Dayton,
Mansfield, Toledo

Message from the President



OCCA member agencies continue to demonstrate that community corrections works. In urban centers and rural communities across Ohio, halfway houses and community based correctional facilities (CBCFs) provide structured, secure, and evidence-based services to individuals returning from prison or sanctioned in the community in lieu of incarceration. In FY25, that commitment only strengthened.

The individuals we serve present with increasingly complex needs, including co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders, employment barriers, and housing instability. Yet our response has been clear: assess every individual, tailor programming to risk and need, and deliver interventions grounded in research. Through treatment and programming that includes cognitive behavioral treatment, chemical dependency services, workforce readiness programming, and strong supervision, our members continue to reduce recidivism and improve outcomes for justice-involved individuals.

In FY25, halfway house and CBCF residents once again made meaningful contributions to their communities:

- ◆ Halfway house and CBCF residents joined the workforce and earned almost \$8 million and paid taxes while completing programming and treatment.
- ◆ Halfway house and CBCF residents contributed 350,000 hours of community service in towns and cities across Ohio. They also began paying court fees, contributed to child support and made restitution.

These numbers represent more than statistics; they reflect restored accountability, strengthened families, and safer communities.

OCCA remains steadfast in its dual mission of training and advocacy. In FY25, we expanded professional development opportunities, equipping community corrections professionals with the tools necessary to address complex behavioral health needs and apply evidence-based practices effectively. Over 350 individuals participated in our year round training, and our annual conference brought together almost 300 leaders, supervisors, and line staff from across the community corrections spectrum.

We continued our advocacy for common sense criminal justice reforms and for policies that recognize the vital role of halfway houses and CBCFs in Ohio's corrections continuum. As demands on jails and prisons evolve, community corrections stands as a proven, cost-effective solution that enhances public safety while promoting meaningful reintegration.

I am proud of the work accomplished during FY25 and grateful for the dedication of our members and partners. Together, we are strengthening Ohio's communities by helping justice-involved individuals build productive, law-abiding lives.

Sincerely,

Jason Varney
OCCA President

Mission

The Ohio Community Corrections Association provides to member community corrections service providers the opportunity for advocacy and professional development which enhances their ability to reduce repeat criminal offending.

OVERVIEW

OHIO'S RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS

WHERE CHANGE HAPPENS

Our association represents two types of residential community corrections programs. The first are non-profit operated **community based correctional facilities – or CBCFs** – which are funded by the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction and divert felony offenders from entering prison. The Common Pleas judges directly sentence individuals to these CBCFs for a period not to exceed a six month stay. The average length of stay is typically four months, during which time residents participate in treatment programs including cognitive behavioral programming, chemical dependency counseling, vocational rehabilitation, and educational classes including GED testing. In Fiscal Year 2025, there were 17 CBCFs operating in the state. OCCA represents five non-profit operated CBCFs. Facility Governing Boards oversee these facilities.

Halfway houses are residential programs that provide supervision and treatment services for program participants. There are 33 halfway house facilities throughout Ohio. The primary focus is to transition participants back to the community and assist with obtaining employment, stable housing and connecting them to support services they can access independently. Specialized services for substance abusers, sex offenders and the mentally ill may be offered. Most participants enter halfway houses in the following ways:



OCCA member agencies operate 38 halfway houses and community based correctional facilities (CBCFs) in communities across Ohio. These facilities provide structured, evidence-based programming in supervised settings—offering residents the opportunity to turn their lives around as they prepare for successful reentry into their local communities.

- ◆ **Direct Sentence.** A direct sentence allows a judge to sentence a person directly to a halfway house. This allows appropriate individuals to be diverted from prison and placed in local community corrections programs while creating space in prison for violent and dangerous individuals who need to be separated from society. If community corrections options are not available, local judges will have no choice but to sentence these persons to prison.
- ◆ **Probation or Parole Violation.** With failure to meet the technical conditions of their probation or parole, (housing, employment, abstinence from drugs and alcohol) some may need to be placed temporarily in a more structured environment, with a higher level of supervision but not necessarily in prison. These violators need to be stabilized and understand the conditions of their probation or parole. This alternative sanction keeps the individual from going to prison and enables him or her to transition back to the community successfully.
- ◆ **Parole/ Post Release Control/ Institutional Referrals.** These clients have completed their prison sentence and are released into the structured environment of the halfway house to receive services and remain under the supervision of the Adult Parole Authority as they transition into the community.
- ◆ **Treatment Transfer.** This program transfers eligible non-violent individuals serving a year or less with substance use disorders to halfway houses where they receive comprehensive treatment including chemical dependency treatment, aftercare and relapse prevention, self-help groups, and drug and alcohol testing.
- ◆ **Transitional Control.** Transitional control participants spend the final months of their sentence, first in a halfway house and later in their homes with electronic monitoring.

DELIVERING CRITICAL SERVICES

CBCF/HALFWAY HOUSE PROGRAM SERVICES PROVIDED

Alcohol / Drug Services:

- Chemical Dependency Treatment
- Aftercare / Relapse Prevention
- Self Help Groups
- Prevention
- Drug & Alcohol Testing

Cognitive Skills:

- Criminal Thinking
- “Thinking for a Change”
- Restorative Justice
- Victim Impact
- Anger Management
- Family / Parenting

Education Services:

- Literacy/Tutoring
- Adult Basic Education (ABE)
- General Equivalency Diploma (GED) Preparation and Testing
- Vocational Services
- Computer Training

Employment Services:

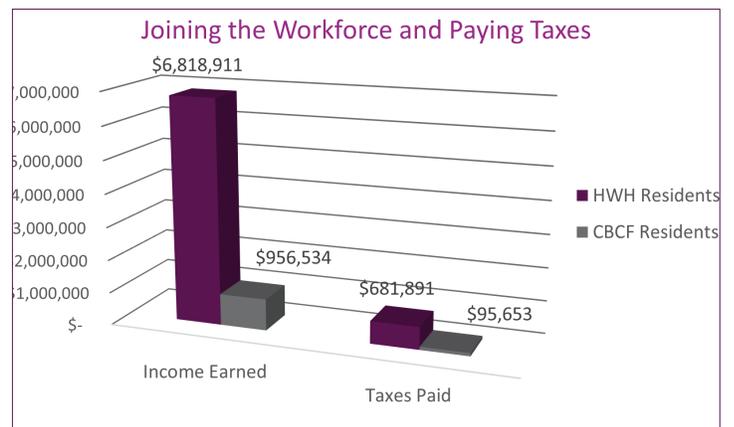
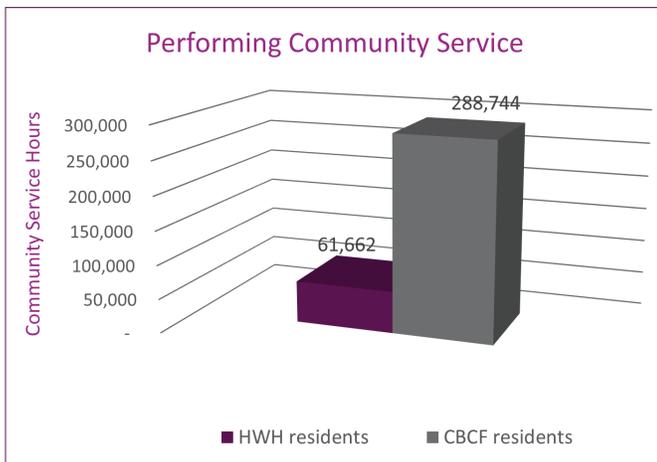
- Job Readiness
- Jobs Assistance/Placement/Retention

Special Services:

- Mental Health
- Sex Offender Treatment
- Developmentally Disabled
- Dual-Diagnosis Treatment
- Domestic Violence Services
- Veteran Services
- Geriatric Services
- Human Trafficking Victims
- Children/Family Programs

NOTE: Not all services are provided by all Halfway Houses or CBCFs

Fiscal Year 2025 All Residential Community Corrections* Program Benefits



*The data reflected in the graphs represent all Ohio community based correctional facilities, including the five that are member agencies of the OCCA.

FISCAL YEAR 2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In fiscal year 2025, the OCCA fulfilled its mission of advocacy and professional development by:

- **CONDUCTING THE OCCA ANNUAL CONFERENCE** in 2025. Almost 300 individuals participated. Conference highlights included keynotes by Jermaine Wilson (*Pathways to Progress: From Incarceration to Inspiration*) and Brian Wittup (*Redefining Success for Correctional Agencies*) as well as a roundtable centered on the social determinants of successful reentry.
- **OFFERING DAY TRAININGS** that feature evidence-based practices shown to reduce recidivism. The OCCA Training Committee conducted a survey to determine training needs and oriented its training calendar around the identified areas. The association sponsored regular user training for community corrections professionals on the Ohio Risk Assessment System (ORAS) tool and targeted additional training to assist community corrections professionals and other providers in meeting the housing needs of justice-involved Ohioans. OCCA is authorized by the state of Ohio to provide credentialing hours through the Ohio Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board and the Chemical Dependency Professionals Board - designations we have held for over twenty years.
- **INVESTING IN THE FUTURE** to ensure the OCCA is prepared for the challenges facing community corrections and the criminal justice involved by conducting an annual strategic planning retreat. The OCCA is focused on collaborating with community partners to increase support for shared clients, developing additional training for those who work with clients who are presenting with more complex needs, and providing advocacy for common sense justice policies.
- **BUILDING ONGOING RELATIONSHIPS WITH POLICY MAKERS AND THEIR STAFF** by hosting an annual reception at the Statehouse complete with educational literature. OCCA also testified in support of efforts to provide individuals leaving prison with the identification documents and education/certification records needed to obtain employment and housing and engaged with the Senate Select Committee on Housing on the impact of Ohio's housing crisis on individuals with criminal histories. OCCA participates in the Attorney General's Task Force on Criminal Justice and Mental Illness, the statewide Stepping Up Initiative, and the Ohio Justice Alliance for Community Corrections.



OCCA Member Robert Newman joins Representative Melanie Miller at the 2025 OCCA Legislative Reception .



OCCA members relax at a Columbus Clippers game after spending the day setting the course for the coming year at the OCCA Strategic Planning Retreat in Columbus.



OCCA Member Beau Hill meets with Senator Kent Smith and staff.

CONNECTING, LEARNING, LEADING

2025 OCCA Annual Conference

Nearly 300 professionals from across Ohio's community corrections continuum - including halfway houses, CBCFs, probation departments, and partner agencies gathered for the 2025 OCCA Annual Conference. The event provided a meaningful opportunity for participants to collaborate, learn, and strengthen our shared commitment to successful reentry and public safety.

Dynamic keynote presentations anchored the conference, challenging attendees to think boldly about the future of community corrections while reinforcing the impact of evidence-based practices and strong leadership. A thoughtful roundtable discussion brought system leaders together to address emerging challenges and opportunities facing the field. Workshops covered topics ranging from behavioral health and supervision strategies to staff wellness and innovative programming.



Jermaine Wilson, restored citizen, former mayor of Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas and ambassador for the Prison Fellowship opened the conference with a compelling keynote that focused on the challenges of successful reentry and the possibilities for success.



Community corrections professionals switched roles during the reentry simulation. This immersive experience asked them to step into the position of individuals confronting the real-world barriers individuals face upon returning to their communities - powerfully reinforcing the importance of coordinated and compassionate support.



Mike King, President and CEO of the national Volunteers of America joined OCCA Past President David Stillwagon and senior leaders from around Ohio to share his experiences building workplace culture and discuss the role of relationships in successful leadership.



A lunchtime panel featuring Ohio Senator Michelle Reynolds and other experts focused on solutions to the barriers to reentry including housing and employment.

FIRST OF ITS KIND - AUDITOR TRAINING

Widely recognized as a national leader in community corrections, Ohio continues to set the standard for excellence and innovation in the field. In June 2025, the Ohio Community Corrections Association (OCCA) partnered with the American Correctional Association (ACA) and OCCA member agency Alvis to co-sponsor the first auditor training course designed specifically for community corrections professionals. This one-and-a-half-day training took place at Alvis facilities in Columbus and marked the first time ACA conducted an onsite auditor class solely for community corrections staff - an initiative expected to serve as a model for other states.

Eighteen participants from OCCA member agencies were selected based on their experience, leadership qualities, and interest in contributing to the broader corrections field. The curriculum mirrored ACA new auditor training requirements but focused specifically on the Adult Community Corrections Standards Manual. Learning began in the classroom but soon moved on to hands-on practical exercises, including conducting interviews, reviewing file folders, and touring a halfway house to engage in a mock onsite audit. Participants demonstrated their competency with a proficiency test at the end of the training.

Ohio's leadership within ACA was instrumental to the success of this training. Instructors included experienced community corrections auditors Dawn Baker (Oriana House) and Jennifer Stohr (Alvis), alongside ACA's Director of Standards and Accreditation, David Haasenritter. Guest speakers reflected Ohio's national influence, including Denise Robinson, President and CEO of Alvis and 108th President of the ACA; Tom Stickrath, Chair of the Ohio Casino Control Commission and Chair of the ACA Commission on Accreditation for Corrections; and Linda Janes, Commission on Accreditation Member.

This class represents the first step toward certifying these professionals to serve as ACA auditors nationwide. Once certified, they will help ensure programs across the country meet rigorous national standards. Through this partnership, the OCCA has once again demonstrated its commitment to advancing quality, accountability, and professional excellence in community corrections.



Denise Robinson, Alvis CEO and President and 108th President of the American Correctional Association shares her perspective on the critical role that auditors play in ensuring corrections programs meet national standards.



Auditor training class participants are focused on the details of the mock audit files they are reviewing.



Participants tour a halfway house kitchen as part of their audit training.



Students join their instructors for a group photo after completing the ACA auditor training.

LEADERSHIP MAKES A DIFFERENCE

2025 OCCA President's Award Maureen Corcoran



Former Ohio Department of Medicaid Director Maureen Corcoran received the OCCA President's Award in recognition of her work to extend Medicaid eligibility to halfway house residents.

2025 OCCA Membership Award Jennifer Stohr



2025 OCCA Leadership Award winner Jennifer Stohr, Director of Quality Assurance & Accreditation at Alvis addresses the audience at the 2025 OCCA Conference after accepting the award in recognition of her contributions to local, state, and national community corrections.

2025 CLIFF SKEEN RESIDENTIAL AWARD WINNER VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA OHIO & INDIANA—DAYTON RESIDENTIAL REENTRY PROGRAM



The Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction presents the Clifford Skeen Award annually to residential and non-residential programs in recognition of excellence in community corrections.

The 2025 Cliff Skeen Residential Award winner is Volunteers of America Ohio & Indiana's Dayton Residential Reentry Program.

Volunteers of America leaders and staff pose with Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (DRC) leaders after receiving the 2025 Cliff Skeen Residential Award.

