

## **Auburn Citizen - Lockup program a money-saver (SHOCK)**

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The state Department of Corrections and Community Supervision says its Shock Incarceration Program has been good for inmates — and good for taxpayers.

The program now has 50,193 graduates since it was launched in 1987. The most recent class — 34 inmates who participated in the six-month program — graduated from Lakeview Shock Incarceration Correctional Facility in Chautauqua County.

Since its creation, the initiative has saved the state nearly \$1.5 billion, DOCCS said. The savings is based on how much it would've cost to house the nonviolent offenders in the state's traditional correctional facilities.

"The Shock Incarceration Program's success can be attributed to the well-trained and dedicated staff the facilities have to offer, and the support of the forward thinking individuals who created the program 28 years ago," Acting DOCCS Commissioner Anthony Annucci said.

The shock program uses alternatives to incarceration to assist inmates who committed drug and other nonviolent crimes for early parole release consideration.

Inmates participate in 108 hours of classes, group counseling and alcohol and substance abuse treatment. Drill instruction, physical training and work crews are also part of the program.

There are two shock incarceration correctional facilities in New York — Lakeview in Chautauqua County and Moriah in Essex County.

A three-year recidivism study reviewed the progress of 3,087 shock incarceration graduates. More than one-quarter of participants — 28 percent — reentered the state prison system after a new felony conviction or a parole violation.

Recidivism among shock graduates is lower than the overall statewide rate of 40 percent, according to DOCCS.

As of November, there are 728 inmates — 624 men and 104 women — in the shock program.

"I am grateful for the ongoing commitment made to the program and proud to see such positive results every day," Annucci said.