

The Shelby County Common Pleas Court Adult Probation Department was honored on October 12th in Columbus Ohio as the recipient of the Clifford Skeen 2023 best prison diversion probation department in Ohio. The Shelby County Adult Probation Department was one of three prison diversion programs in Ohio nominated by the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections Grant auditor. The probation department was nominated and selected due to the efforts of the probation officers to go above and beyond the normal standards and success rates with individuals placed on probation.

The Shelby County Common Pleas Court Adult Probation Department's CCA prison diversion program is directed by Chief Probation Officer Philip Mowell and implemented by agency staff Probation Officers Patrick Reed and Brooke Mintkenbaugh. Candidates for the intensive supervision program consist of offenders determined to have a moderate to high risk level as well as offenders from an established specialized population. Following assessment, applicable treatment plans are developed with the offender's input and referrals are made for appropriate community programs to assist with the continuing effort to rehabilitate the offender. The goal for each offender is to successfully complete community control (probation) and become a productive member of society. Local programs utilized include the WORTH Center community-based correctional facility, substance abuse and mental health counseling, Thinking for a Change, Batterer's Intervention, Anger Management, Aspire educational/GED, and local sober living homes. When suitable programs are not readily available, Probation Officers spend ample time during individual meetings with offenders discussing the steps it may take to make necessary changes to alter their criminal lifestyles. Probation Officers regularly implement evidence-based practices during office meetings such as Behavior Chains, Thinking Reports, Decisional Balances, and Carey Guides. Probation Officers recognize that there are often many other challenging factors in the offender's life that which they struggle to overcome. The Shelby County Adult Probation Department is dedicated to reducing the prison population by assisting all aspects of the offender's life. The Department's investment in the collaborative effort to reduce offender risk is instrumental for program participants to accomplish being productive members of society. Achieving this provides endless benefits to the community as a whole.