

# What Are Diminution Credits?

Diminution credits are adjustments made to a prison sentence for behavior and compliance. Each credit equals one day to be served on community supervision rather than in physical incarceration. Almost every state has a diminution credit system, including conservative states like Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi. In Maryland, our diminution credit system is managed by DPSCS through Case Management and Commitment. There are four different kinds of diminution credits, each with a different purpose.

## Types of Diminution Credits

### Good Conduct Credits (GCCs)

GCCs are issued at the beginning of a sentence based on a standard rate of 5 per month for violent convictions and 10 per month for non-violent. DPSCS can revoke GCCs in part or in full as a sanction for infractions, thereby increasing the amount of time the Incarcerated Individual (II) will serve. This is utilized to deter bad behavior, help DPSCS maintain order in the institution and keep correctional staff, contractors and volunteers safe.



ECs are awarded at a rate of 5 per month for participation in qualified educational programs. These include GED programming, vocational training, and transitional classes. ECs exist to motivate IIs who may not have experienced the benefits of education in the past to go to school.

### Education Credits (ECs)

### Industrial Credits (ICs)

ICs are awarded at a rate of 5 per month for participation in work activities. ICs motivate IIs to participate in institutional work assignments. These assignments generally pay \$1-4/day although they often serve critical functions such as dietary, sanitation, maintenance, and clerical work. ICs and SPCs (below) are the primary wage for institutional jobs.



### Special Project Credits (SPCs)



SPCs are flexible credits that can be used by the legislature or DPSCS. Some examples of current SPC uses are “preferred” jobs that are more time consuming and teach vocational skills are issued 5 SPCs per month by DPSCS, and the legislature offered 10 additional SPCs to non-violent offenders that participate in education or training through DLR or MCE through the Justice Reinvestment Act.



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