

# Seeds of Change: Native Plant Nursery at the Howard County Dept. of Corrections

MACO – 8/17/2018

Green Is the New Black session

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# Non-profit Model

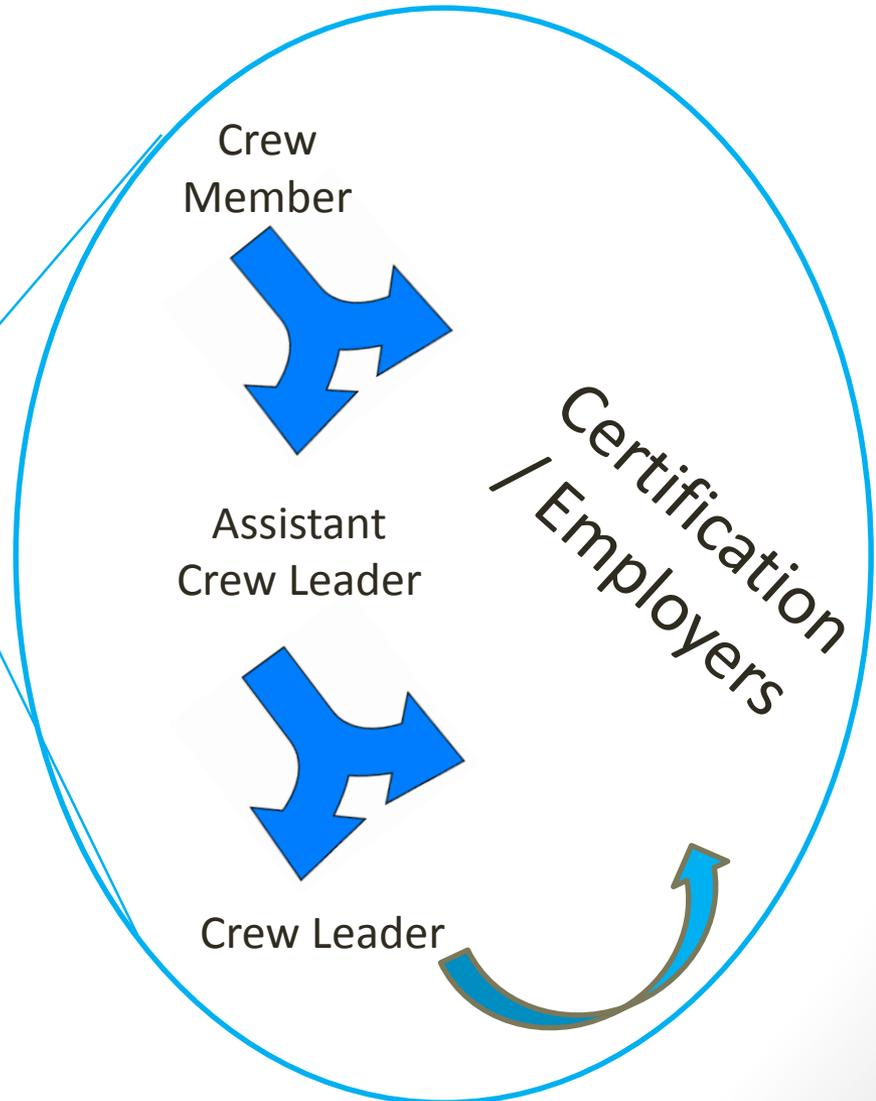
Mission - To empower an under-served workforce to respect and restore our natural systems for future generations.

Workforce  
development



Environmental  
improvement

# Green Infrastructure (GI) Workforce Pipeline





Workforce  
Development  
Labor



Environmental  
improvement  
projects in the  
community



Materials



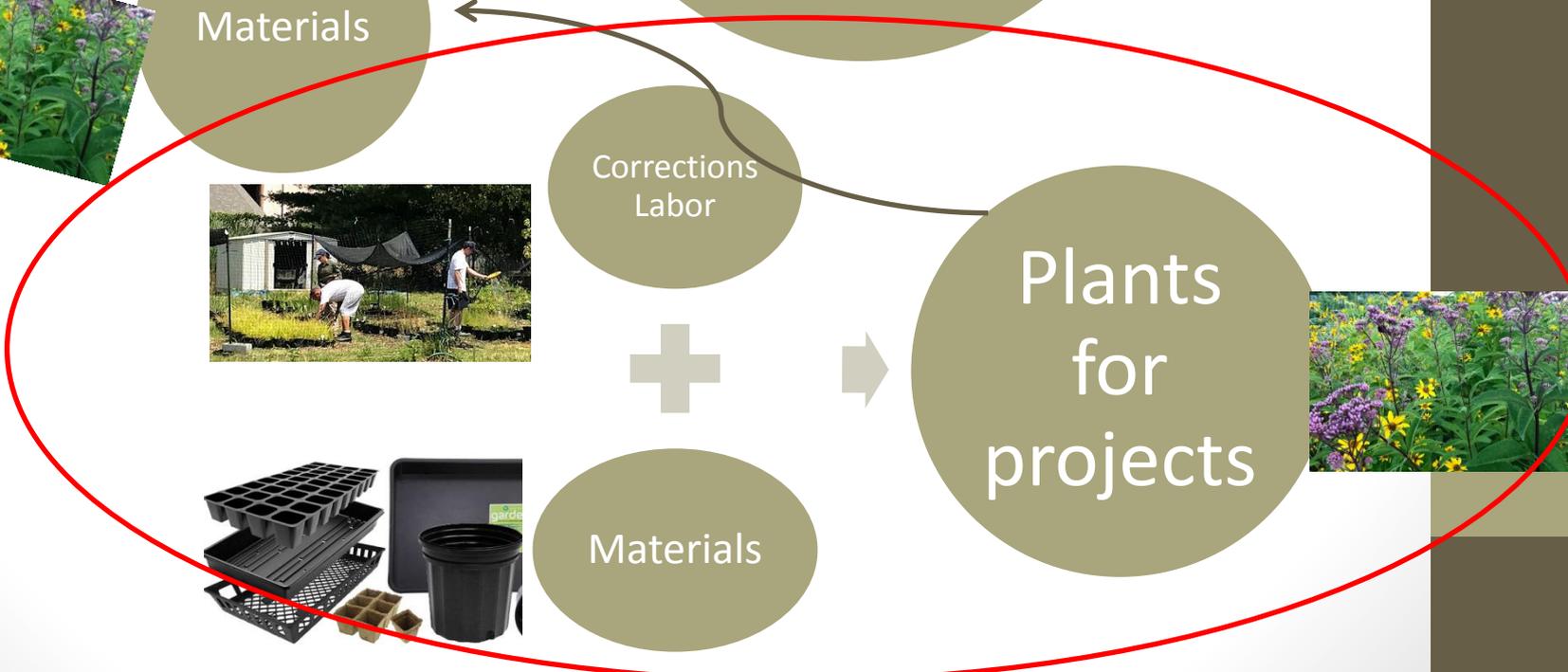
Corrections  
Labor



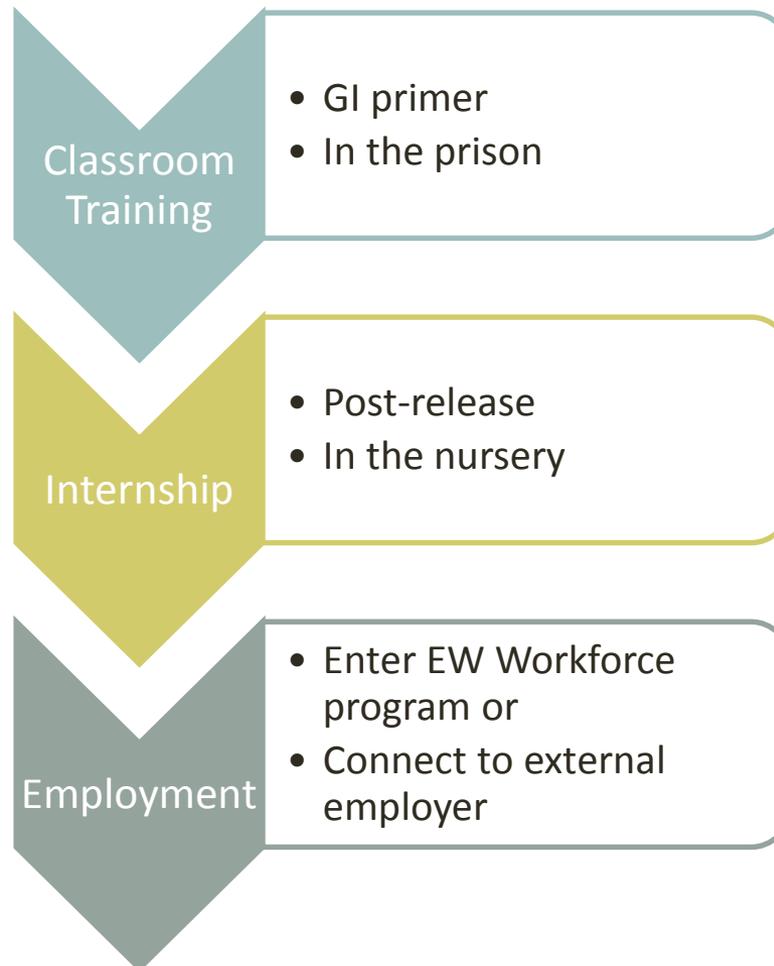
Plants  
for  
projects



Materials



# GI Workforce Pipeline for Corrections (Proposed to MD DLLR)



# Seeds of Change



- Focus on sustainable gardening and landscaping – in practice / on-site and as a potential career path for in-mates
- In-mates receive reduced sentences for working with us
- In-mates spend time outside and get exercise
- Horticultural therapy benefits

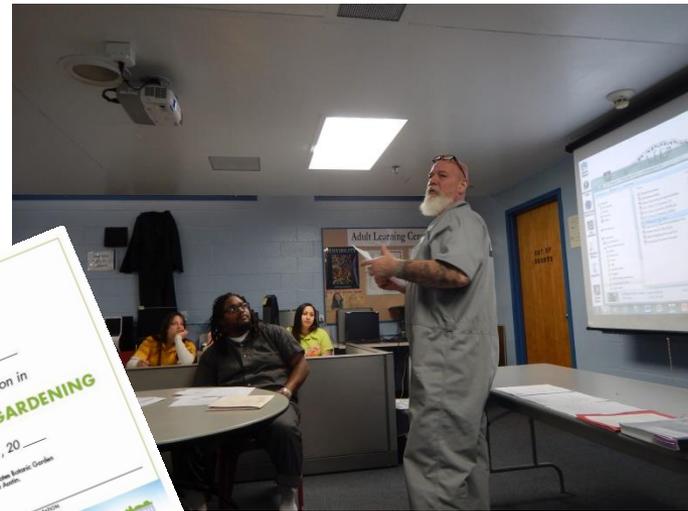
# Nursery Activities

- Watering
- Weeding
- Potting up
- General nursery maintenance



# Landscapes for Life Training

- Vocational training can reduce recidivism by up to 24%
- Two classroom sessions held, 15 hours / session
- 31 in-mates participated in both sessions
- Received a certificate upon completion



# Landscapes for Life training - Food Plot installation



# In-mate response to training

What was the most important thing you learned?

- “Different types of soil is very important and helps me understand the appropriate plants for each soil type”
- “Using or planting materials (veg or plant) that are environmentally good for habitat and climate”

## Landscapes for Life Evaluation (Scale of 1-4)

	Make decisions that improve sustainability of a garden	Select appropriate plants for a given area	Assess soil conditions	Select sustainable materials
Before	2	1	2	2
After	3.2	3	3	3.4

# Inmate contribution to nursery operations

	2016	2017	2018	Total
Total hours of labor	167	129	50	346
Number of workers	24	25	12	60
Est. in-kind contribution cost at \$15/hr	\$2,505	\$1,935	\$750	\$5,190

- Prisoner days avoided: Approx. 346
- Cost avoidance at \$138/day = \$47,748



Thank you!

