



BROOME COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sheriff Frederick J. Akshar II

Undersheriff Sammy L. Davis

155 Lt. Van Winkle Drive, Binghamton, NY 13905

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BROOME COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE ANNOUNCES LATERAL TRANSFER INCENTIVE PROGRAM

Certified Corrections Officers Throughout New York State Eligible for \$5,000 Sign-on Bonus

(BINGHAMTON, NY) Sheriff Fred Akshar, joined by members of the Broome County Legislature and the Broome County Sheriff's Office Corrections and Road Patrol divisions, announced the latest in a series of recruitment efforts designed to address the staffing crisis at the Broome County Sheriff's Correctional Facility.

"From Day One, it's been our priority to address this crisis," said Sheriff Fred Akshar. "The hardworking men and women serving in the Corrections Division are down nearly 40 full-time positions, which has led to thousands of hours of overtime, increased stress, inevitable burnout and the lowest morale in decades. It's unquestionably created a difficult environment not only for our corrections officers and their families, but for the incarcerated individuals in their care. The bottom line is they need help, and we're going to do everything we can to give it to them."

The Broome County Sheriff's Office will now be offering a \$5,000 sign-on bonus for all new Corrections Officers hired as lateral transfers. Eligibility for this bonus is open to certified Corrections Officers currently employed at local correctional facilities across New York State.

Under the new incentive, qualified lateral transfers will receive an extra \$2,500 in their first paycheck with the Broome County Sheriff's Correctional Facility, \$1,250 after their first year with the agency and \$1,250 upon completion of their second year of active employment. Should the new lateral transfer leave employment prior to completing three years as a Corrections Officer, they would be required to repay the hiring bonus back to Broome County.

The incentive was approved by the Broome County Legislature on February 16, 2023.

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“Serving as a Corrections Officer is already a difficult job, but the increased pressure of longer hours due to staff shortages has put an even greater strain on the dedicated men and women working at our Public Safety Facility,” said Broome County Legislature Chairman & 5th District Legislator Dan J. Reynolds. “This new program will help address the staffing crisis at the jail and increase morale by opening the door to transfer in trained professionals to help our existing employees who have been working around the clock to serve our community.”

"The County is committed to finding new ways to recruit qualified people to join our workforce," said Broome County Executive Jason Garnar. "Sheriff Akshar has hit the ground running to help us with this effort through this new, unique approach. Lateral transfers will virtually eliminate the time and costs of training, allowing corrections officers to get to work in our jail quicker than ever - all at no cost to County taxpayers."

Sheriff Akshar has also lifted the college requirement for Corrections Officers that was added during the previous administration.

“We are looking for qualified, certified Corrections Officers who are currently doing the job, have already received their training and are ready to start ASAP,” said Sheriff Akshar. “More available officers means increased flexibility to staff expanded visitation hours as well as support programs and services. Our hardworking men and women in Corrections need relief and our incarcerated individuals deserve a well-trained and well-rested team to ensure their safety as they make their way through the criminal justice system and eventually back into society.”

Starting salary for lateral transfer corrections officers will be commensurate with their years of experience under Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) certification.

Currently, the salary track for Corrections Officers at the Broome County Sheriff’s Office is as follows:

Starting Salary:	\$44,812
Completion of Academy:	\$48,435
Completion of 2 nd Year of Service:	\$51,882
Completion of 3 rd Year of Service:	\$58,775
Completion of 4 th Year of Service:	\$65,668
Completion of 5 th Year of Service:	\$73,831

The Lateral Transfer Incentive Program is the first in three phases of this year’s Corrections Officer Recruitment effort, with additional opportunities and programs to be announced in the coming months.

Members of the Broome County Sheriff's Office Corrections Division oversee the Broome County Correctional Facility through a variety of specialized roles, including Investigations, Classifications, Field Training & Instruction, Sheriff's Emergency Response Team (SERT) and many more.

The Lateral Transfer program has begun alongside a separate campaign to hire new Corrections Officers with provisional designation. Nearly 25 candidates are currently going through testing and training towards full employment. Any lateral transfers Corrections Officers who have completed their paperwork to join the Broome County Sheriff's Office by March 6th will be placed ahead of new hires in terms of seniority.

Any currently employed and certified corrections officer interested in the Lateral Transfer Program or employment with the Broome County Sheriff's Office is urged to email JoinBCSO@broomecountyny.gov.

"The more dedicated, hardworking and community-minded people we have in the Correctional Facility, the better, stronger and safer our community as a whole will be," concluded Akshar.

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