



**STATE DIRECTOR'S MEMORANDUM #2015-5**

**TO: Probation Directors/Commissioners  
Alternatives to Incarceration Program Directors  
Residential Stabilization Centers Program Directors**

**FROM: Robert M. Maccarone, Deputy Commissioner and  
Director, Probation and Correctional Alternatives**

**DATE: August 4, 2015**

**SUBJECT: Revised NYCOMPAS Guidance for Probation and Community Corrections Agencies**

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The NYCOMPAS risk and need assessment instrument that is now utilized by 57 probation departments and a growing number of community correction agencies across New York State has been a key component of implementing evidence based practices. In addition to offering an assessment instrument with strong predictive ability, NYCOMPAS functionality includes:

- A case planning module that allows the user to develop and evolve supervision plans which are directly associated with the need areas identified by the assessment
- A pre-trial release assessment tool
- The ability to create a “springboard” pre-sentence investigation from the Full NYCOMPAS assessment,
- A case review tool which measures changes in the individual since the last assessment and provides a recommendation regarding possible change of classification level
- An opportunity to document the need for services in the community, and to measure successful outcomes associated with various program types
- Access to certain other assessment instruments through the NYCOMPAS suite.

On average, just over 9,500 NYCOMPAS assessments are completed each quarterly period by users in New York State—nearly 40,000 each year. Over 15,000 NYCOMPAS Case Reviews are now completed each quarter—over 60,000 each year.

The use of NYCOMPAS has provided many benefits to probation departments and ATI programs, including informing recommendations to courts, improved allocation of resources based on risk, and more.

The Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives (OPCA) is pleased to share the attached NYCOMPAS Guidance for Probation and Community Corrections Agencies. This document updates the original guidance issued in 2008, and provides valuable new

information to probation and community correction agencies as they continue to refine, or expand assessment efforts.

A predictive validity study of the NYCOMPAS conducted by Dr. Sharon Lansing of the Division of Criminal Justice Services can be found at

[http://www.criminaljustice.ny.gov/crimnet/ojsa/opca/compas\\_probation\\_report\\_2012.pdf](http://www.criminaljustice.ny.gov/crimnet/ojsa/opca/compas_probation_report_2012.pdf).

Should you have any questions regarding the attached guidance, or NYCOMPAS in general, please contact Colleen Thorn at (518) 457-7410 or via email at [colleen.thorn@dcjs.ny.gov](mailto:colleen.thorn@dcjs.ny.gov); or Nicole Aldi at (518) 485-8457 or via email at [nicole.aldi@dcjs.ny.gov](mailto:nicole.aldi@dcjs.ny.gov).

Thank you for your continued commitment to assessment and other evidenced based practices, as we continue our work to improve community and victim safety in an informed and cost effective manner.