

Fatherhood & Reentry: Engaging Fathers Post-release

July 21, 2016

Presented by



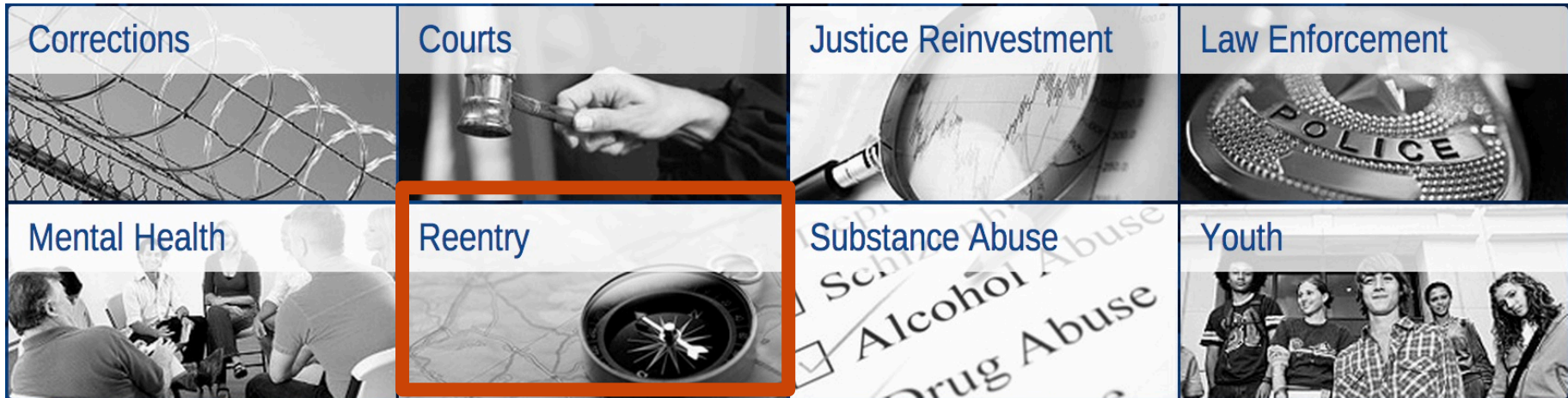
the NATIONAL REENTRY
RESOURCE CENTER

— A project of the CSG Justice Center —

The Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center

- National non-profit, non-partisan membership association of state government officials
- Engages members of all three branches of state government
- Justice Center provides practical, non-partisan advice informed by the best available evidence

Web: csgjusticecenter.org | Twitter: [@CSGJC](https://twitter.com/CSGJC)



The National Reentry Resource Center

www.nationalreentryresourcecenter.org

- ▶ The NRRC is a project of the CSG Justice Center and is supported by the Bureau of Justice Assistance.
- ▶ NRRC staff have worked with nearly 600 SCA grantees, including 40 state corrections agencies.
- ▶ The NRRC provides individualized, intensive, and targeted technical assistance training and distance learning to support SCA grantees.

Reentry Matters: Strategies and Successes of Second Chance Act Grantees Across the United States
November 2013

With over 95 percent of people in the nation's state prisons expected to be released at some point, officials at all levels of government recognize the need for initiatives to support the successful reentry of these individuals to their communities. For the estimated 60,000 youth incarcerated in juvenile detention and correctional facilities on any given day, there is a particular urgency to help them avoid crime and improve their prospects for a successful future when released.

In 2008, Congress responded to these needs by passing the Second Chance Act, first-of-its-kind legislation that was enacted with bipartisan support and backed by a broad spectrum of leaders in law enforcement, corrections, courts, behavioral health, and other areas. The legislation authorizes federal grants that support reentry programs for adults and juveniles, nearly 600 of which have been awarded by government agencies and nonprofit organizations in 49 states by the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs.

The program snapshots below illustrate the positive impact these reentry initiatives can have by focusing on areas vital to reintegration back into the community, including employment, education, mentoring, and substance abuse and mental health treatment. Also highlighted are programs that address the needs of a particular population, such as youth, women, and tribal communities. Representing a wide range of populations served, these programs also demonstrate the diversity of approaches that can address recidivism and increase public safety.

Supporting Employment and Job Readiness

Employment is widely seen by practitioners, researchers, policymakers, and formerly incarcerated individuals alike as crucial to successful reintegration into the community and decreasing the risk of recidivism. Yet the stigma of incarceration and having been out of the workforce for a period of time often contribute to the challenges individuals face when trying to find a job after release. Individuals who have been incarcerated

have been shown to earn 40 percent less annually than they had earned prior to incarceration and are likely to have less upward economic mobility over time than those who have not been incarcerated.

Meaningful employment can help individuals succeed in the community after release from incarceration because it reduces their time and efforts on pro-social activities, making them less likely to engage in risky behaviors or interact with criminal associates. Reentry programs that focus on preparing individuals in prisons and jails for employment can have a significant impact on these individuals, their families, and their communities.

Key Terms and Definitions

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED?
THE CHANGING LANDSCAPE OF JUVENILE INCARCERATION

SUCCESSSES
Due to high costs and poor outcomes, states have dramatically reduced incarcerated youth

High costs
\$148,767
Average cost of incarceration per youth per year

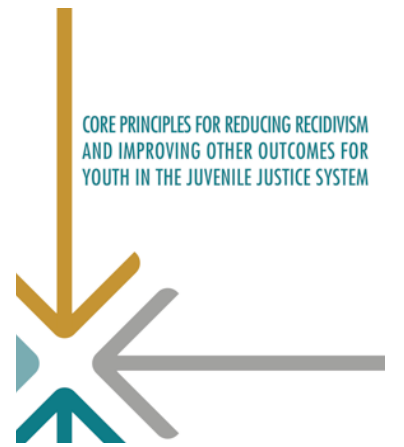
Poor outcomes
80%
Recidivism rate in some states for youth three years after release from incarceration

Number of youth incarcerated nationwide, 1997-2013

CHALLENGES
The majority of incarcerated youth are now in private or locally-run but most states do not provide sufficient oversight of these facilities

Change in Youth Incarceration by Facility Type

INTEGRATED REENTRY and EMPLOYMENT STRATEGIES
Reducing Recidivism and Promoting Job Readiness



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Second Chance Act Grantee Profiles



[Washington State Works to Improve Employment Outcomes for Incarcerated Youth](#)



[Vermont DOC Builds Commitment to Restorative Justice](#)



[Allegheny County Officials, Employers Join OJP's Push to Eliminate Labels for People with Criminal Records](#)

New Publications and Resources

[State Identification: Reentry Strategies for State and Local Leaders](#)
National Reentry Resource Center

[Protecting the Fair Housing Rights of People with Criminal Records](#)
HUD, the Shriver Center, and the Vera Institute of Justice

Webinar: [Reentry Housing Options for Sex Offenders](#)
National Reentry Resource Center

[Beyond the Box Resource Guide](#)
U.S. Department of Education

Funding and Other Opportunities

[Smart on Juvenile Justice: Reducing Out-of-Home Placement](#)
OJJDP
Deadline: May 25

[National League of Cities Leadership Academy](#)
National League of Cities Institute of Youth, Education, and Families
Deadline: May 26

[Smart on Juvenile Justice: Statewide Juvenile Justice Reform](#)
OJJDP
Deadline: May 31

[Second Chance Act Smart Reentry Program](#)
BJA
Deadline: June 9

[Juvenile Probation Reform Academy](#)
American Probation and Parole Association, The CSG Justice Center, and the Robert F. Kennedy National Resource Center for Juvenile Justice
Deadline: June 10

[2016 School-Justice Partnerships Certificate Program](#)
The Center for Juvenile Justice Reform at Georgetown University's McCourt School of Public Policy
Deadline: June 20

Fatherhood and Reentry Webinar Series

▶ Key Areas of Focus

- ▶ Engaging Families in the Reentry Process (June 2016)
- ▶ Post-release engagement and retention of fathers (Today)
- ▶ Program sustainability (August 2016)
- ▶ Innovative child support partnerships (TBD)

Fatherhood and Reentry: Engaging Families in the Reentry Process
(<http://bit.do/NRRCEngagingfamilies>)

Available at
csgjusticecenter.org/nrrc/webinars

Implementing a Family-Focused Approach

- Element #1 – Increasing facilities' involvement around family engagement
 - Connect your fatherhood program to their priorities
 - Share studies of your curriculum that show impact
 - Show how fatherhood programs create trust between facility staff and incarcerated fathers



The Issue...

- ▶ Pre-release often means a captive audience
- ▶ Barriers to engagement post-release
 - ▶ Inaccurate or out of date contact information
 - ▶ Transportation
 - ▶ Other needs take priority (e.g. housing, employment, etc.)
 - ▶ Yet another person or place to report to
- ▶ Programs that begin in jails vs. prisons

Presenters

- ▶ **Erik Vecere,**
Vice President of Program Support
National Fatherhood Initiative
- ▶ **Jordan Jeske,**
Field Director, Monterey, CA
Prison Fellowship
- ▶ **Hannah Gibson,**
Corrections Program Administrator
Kentucky Department of Corrections
- ▶ **Moderator: Ronin A. Davis,**
Grantee Technical Assistance Manager
The Council of State Governments Justice Center



Engaging Fathers Post-Release

National Fatherhood Initiative[®]

Transforming organization and communities by equipping them to intentionally and proactively engage fathers in their children's lives.

NFI's vision is for every child to grow up with an involved, responsible, and committed father.

Overview

- Leveraging post-release issues to retain fathers in reentry programs
 - Child support
 - Housing
 - Employment (Prison Fellowship presentation)
- Additional strategies
 - Alumni program
 - Partner with probation & parole (KY DOC presentation)



Leveraging Post-Release Issues

- Offer Child Support Arrearage Forgiveness Incentive
- Parental Obligation Pilot Project (POPP)
 - Partnership between Mid-Iowa Community Action, the YMCA of Marshalltown, the Wellmark YMCA, and Iowa Child Support Recovery
 - Pilot program to provide education and training to fathers
 - Fathers can have up to 80% of their child support arrearages forgiven



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Leveraging Post-Release Issues

- Partner with local housing options and integrate your program with housing requirements
- UCount Family Home in Georgetown, DE
 - Three-quarter recovery house
 - Typical resident is homeless or comes from prison or a rehabilitation program
 - Encourage sobriety, accountability, and provide housing in a good neighborhood



Leveraging Post-Release Issues

- Help fathers gain employment
- Prison Fellowship
 - Jordan Jeske, Field Director



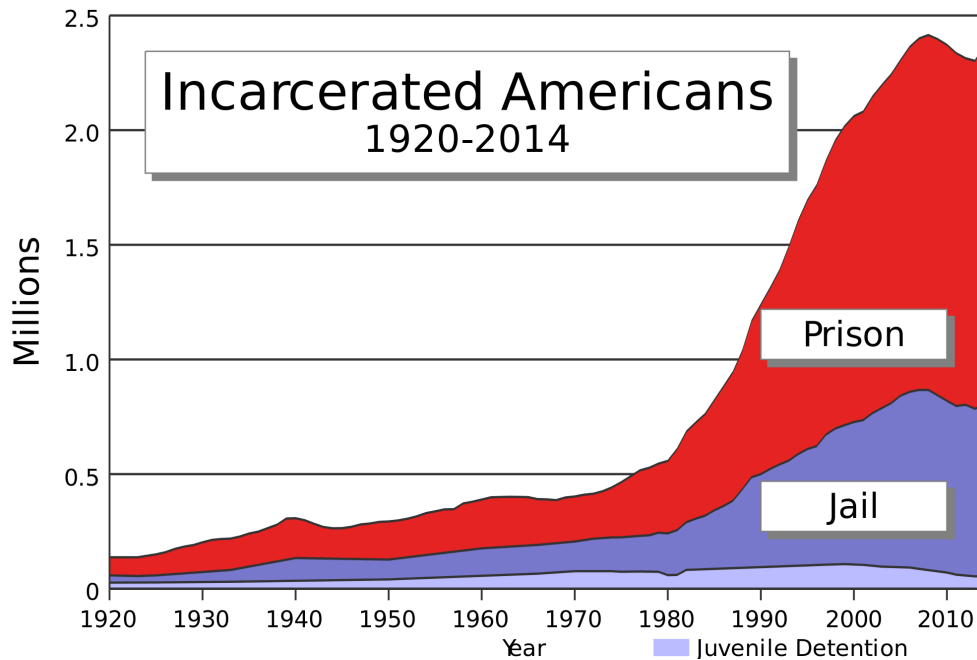
PRISON
FELLOWSHIP®



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Background Nationally



There are nearly 2.2 million people incarcerated in America

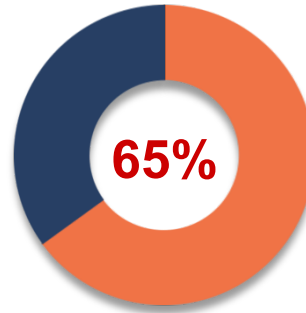
The United States has about 5% of the world's population yet it accounts for about 25% of the world's prisoners.

- Incarceration and Recidivism: Lessons from Abroad, Carolyn W. Deady, March 2014

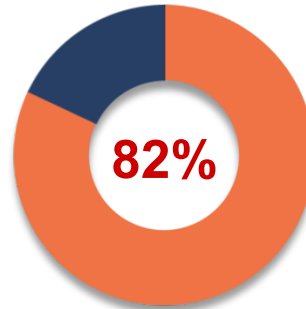
Background in California



California has built 22 prisons and just one university since the 1980's



- In California 65% of parolees go back to prison within 3 years of being released



- Nationally, 82% of parolees go back to prison within 3 years of being released



- There's around 165,000 California inmates released every year



65
MILLION



ADULTS IN THE
UNITED STATES
HAVE A CRIMINAL
RECORD

THE
SECOND
PRISON
PROJECT™
A Campaign of Prison Fellowship®

44,000
LEGAL BARRIERS



\$65
BILLION

65 BILLION IN
LOST ECONOMIC
OUTPUT BY NOT
ALLOWING THOSE WITH
A CRIMINAL RECORD
TO FULLY RE-ENTER
THE WORKFORCE

WHAT WE BELIEVE: A SECOND CHANCE DECLARATION

- We believe people can change.
- We believe a completed sentence means “paid in full.”
- We believe in giving back.
- We believe in making a positive difference.
- We believe in service.
- We believe mistakes can be stepping stones to success.
- We believe in unlocking second chances.



Additional Strategies

- Establish an alumni program
- Newark Now in Newark, NJ
 - D.A.D.S. (Delta Alpha Delta Sigma)
 - Alumni meet once per month for 2 hours
 - Meeting keeps fathers engaged in activities and promote brotherhood and self empowerment
 - Guest speakers
 - Allows the organization to maintain the support network established during the fatherhood program



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Additional Strategies

- Partner with probation & parole to integrate program into their interventions
 - Kentucky DOC
 - Hannah Gibson, Corrections Program Administrator



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To start off...

- ▶ Assess the need
- ▶ Who is interested?
- ▶ Do we have enough buy-in?
- ▶ What is the goal?



Barriers

- ▶ Overworked Officers
- ▶ Motivation
- ▶ Punctuality
- ▶ Transportation
- ▶ Other priorities



Incentives for client

- ▶ Good time credit
- ▶ Inactive/Administrative supervision
- ▶ In lieu of revocation
- ▶ Rapport with the Officer
- ▶ Class could count as a report day



Incentives for the officer

- ▶ Rapport with the client
- ▶ Allowed extra work hours
- ▶ Reduced or no caseload
- ▶ Break from the paperwork
- ▶ A chance to make a change



Results

- ▶ The client has a support system
- ▶ A chance to open up, share experiences and get feedback
- ▶ Client express appreciation
- ▶ The Officer is more skilled, professional, empathetic and knowledgeable



Additional Strategies

- Partner with Sherriff's Office to integrate program into their interventions
- NOLA Dads in Louisiana
 - ▶ NOLA Dad's class
 - ▶ At Day Reporting Center
 - ▶ Part of the Parish Sheriff's Office
 - ▶ Goal: reduce recidivism for those on P&P
 - ▶ Other classes include anger management, employment, and education
 - ▶ Featured on NPR:
<http://wwno.org/post/family-service-greater-new-orleans-teaches-dads-how-parent>



Additional Strategies

- Engage moms to encourage fathers' program participation
- Allegheny Intermediate Unit in Pittsburgh, PA
 - Use NFI's Understand Dad™ program for moms
 - Moms then recruit dads into the fatherhood programs



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Time for Questions

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