



Reentry Services 101: What Homeless Service Providers Need to Know

September 14th, 2016

RESEARCH AND EDUCATION • INFLUENCING FEDERAL POLICY • BUILDING LOCAL CAPACITY

Background & Purpose

- Barriers to public and private housing for people with criminal records
- Criminal Justice Reform
- The purpose of this webinar is to provide basic information on corrections systems to homeless service providers in help them develop effective partnerships with reentry providers.

Agenda

- **Jayme Day (moderator)**, Policy Director for Individual Homeless Adults, National Alliance to End Homelessness
- **Mary Owens**, Management and Policy Analyst, U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness
- **Madeline Neighly**, Senior Policy Advisor, CSG Justice Center
- **Alix McLearen**, PhD, Administrator, Female Offender Branch, Federal Bureau of Prisons
- **Marcus Dawal**, Deputy Chief, and **Craig Emmons**, Division Director, Adult Field Services Alameda County Probation Department
- **Wendy Jackson**, Executive Director, East Oakland Community Project (EOCP)
- **Q&A**



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Send us your questions!

Lines are muted to facilitate this call.

A recording of this webinar will be posted online at:

www.endhomelessness.org

If you have questions during the webinar, submit them in the question box on your control panel. We will answer as many questions as possible at the end of the webinar.



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Reentry and Housing Coalition

- Coalition Mission and Goals
- Homeless Services 101 webinar for reentry providers
 - Second Chance Act grantees (<https://csgjusticecenter.org/nrrc/projects/second-chance-act/>)
 - What reentry providers asked about
 - Tool coming out
- Website: www.reentryandhousing.org



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Reentry Services 101: What Homeless Providers Need to Know

Mary Owens USICH
September 14, 2016





Homelessness in America

2015 AHAR Report

- In January 2015, 564,708 people were identified as experiencing homelessness on a given night.
- 31% were found in unsheltered locations.
- Nearly ¼ were children under the age of 18.
- 9% were between 18-24.
- 68% were 25 years and older.

Housing Affordability in the U.S. for a Two Bedroom Apartment

- Annual income: **\$39,360**
- OR
- Full-time job with hourly wage: **\$18.92**
- OR
- Full-time jobs at minimum wage: **2.6**

Estimated Mean Renter

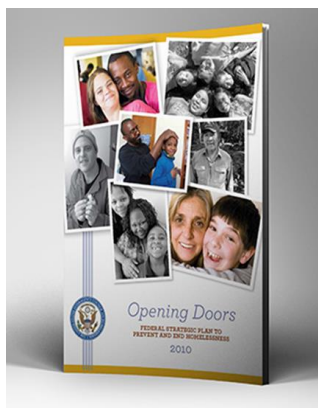
Wage in the U.S.

Full-time job with hourly wage: **\$14.65**

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Advancing Opening Doors



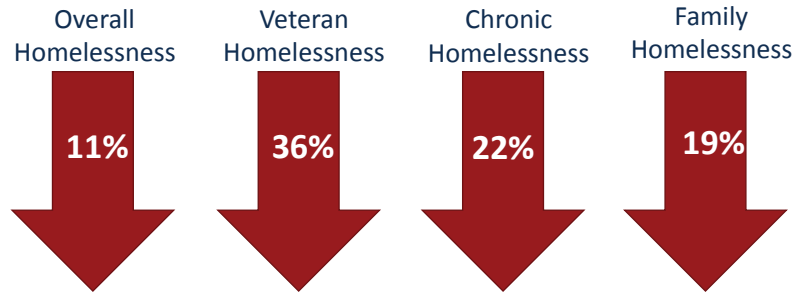
Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness:

1. Prevent and end homelessness among Veterans in 2015
2. Finish the job of ending chronic homelessness in 2017
3. Prevent and end homelessness among families, children, and youth in 2020
4. Set a path to end all types of homelessness

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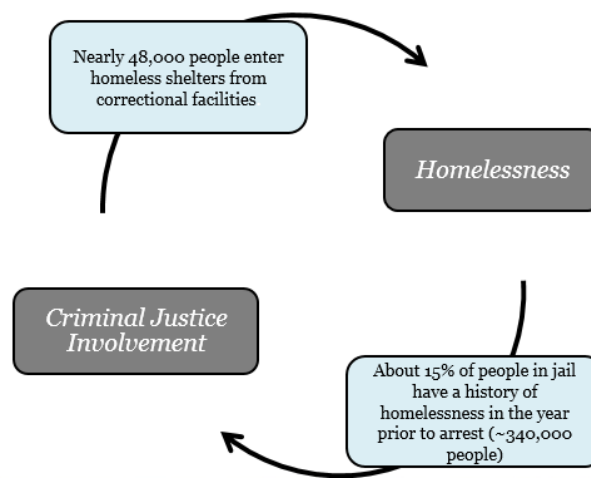
Our Results Since 2010



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Homelessness and Incarceration



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Reentry and Homelessness

- People leaving jails face housing challenges
- 50,000 people a year enter shelters directly after release
- Reentry programs and services are limited in meeting housing needs

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Typology of Housing Needs

	Criminal Justice Involvement		Housing Strategies
	Low	High	
Housing/Service Needs		Housing loss due to long-term incarceration, housing barriers due to criminal histories	Family reunification, rapid rehousing
		High barriers to employment, substance use issues, mental health challenges	Affordable housing, rapid rehousing, transitional housing
		People with law enforcement contacts due to criminalization of homelessness Chronically homeless, chronic behavioral health conditions, and/or frequent users of corrections	Permanent supportive housing

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Objective 9

"Advance Health and Housing Stability for People Experiencing Homelessness Who Have Frequent Contact with Hospitals and Criminal Justice."

- Ensure Discharge Planning and Reentry
- Encourage adoption of housing strategies as part of state and community efforts to improve reentry from prison and jail
- Encourage state links to housing assistance.
- Reduce criminalization of homelessness

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Federal Interagency Reentry Council

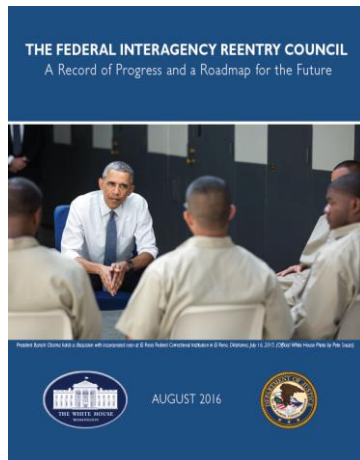


- 20-agency Council established in 2011 by the Attorney General
- Coordinates Federal policy efforts to reduce barriers to successful reentry (housing, employment, benefits, services, civic participation)

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The Federal Interagency Reentry Council: A Record of Progress and a Roadmap for the Future



Progress to date:

- Policy Clarifications
- Anti-discrimination guidance
- Pay for Success

Roadmap for the future:

- Engaging PHAs
- TA to HUD field staff

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Connecting People Returning from Incarceration with Housing and Homeless Assistance

March 2016



Connecting People Returning from Incarceration with Housing and Homelessness Assistance

People returning from incarceration need stable housing to successfully reenter our neighborhoods and communities. Many studies have shown that reentry initiatives that include housing assistance reduce recidivism rates, more than just a roof over one's head, housing is a stabilizing force, giving people a consistent place from which they can access employment, services for mental health or substance use disorders, and other support services. It also helps people make or restore connections with community resources, with family, and with positive social networks.

Unfortunately, many people leaving jail or prison face significant challenges finding safe and affordable housing. As a result, many wind up homeless. National data shows that nearly 50,000 people a year enter shelters directly after release from correctional facilities. Many of these individuals are caught in a revolving door between homelessness and incarceration, bouncing back and forth between the streets, shelter, and jail.

This document provides practical tips for how correctional agencies, reentry service providers, state and local governments, and community partners can help break such cycles of homelessness and incarceration by helping people exiting the criminal justice system connect to available housing resources and find stability in their lives.

Partner with Housing and Homelessness Assistance Systems

A good starting point is to identify and engage the key agencies, systems, and providers that administer or control access to affordable housing and homelessness assistance resources in your community. While these entities face many competing demands for their scarce housing and services resources, they are often interested in identifying creative ways to help address housing needs for justice populations, including among justice-involved people. Some public housing agencies (PHAs), for example, are working with community-based organizations to develop reentry programs that allow returning citizens to reunite with their families who live in public housing.

Start by getting to know staff at key agencies or planning bodies. These providers can help you navigate local coordination entry systems for supportive housing and homelessness assistance programs, many of which prioritize the most chronically homeless and vulnerable people for housing assistance. These include:

- The local Continuum of Care (CoC), a collaborative planning body that oversees the use of federally-funded homelessness assistance programs, like supportive housing
- The PHA, which oversees programs like Section 8 housing Choice Vouchers and public housing
- City and county housing departments and your state housing agency, all of which help finance and regulate affordable housing

United States Interagency Council on Homelessness

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- Released by USICH in March 2016

- Tips on how to help people exiting justice systems connect to housing

- Provides a range of housing programs available for people returning from incarceration

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Mary Owens

Management and Program Analyst
U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness

mary.owens@usich.gov

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www.usich.gov

The Council of State Governments Justice Center

- The CSG Justice Center is a national non-profit organization that provides practical, nonpartisan advice informed by the best available evidence on criminal justice topics
- The National Reentry Resource Center (NRRC), funded through the Second Chance Act, is a clearinghouse of resources for the reentry/corrections field.

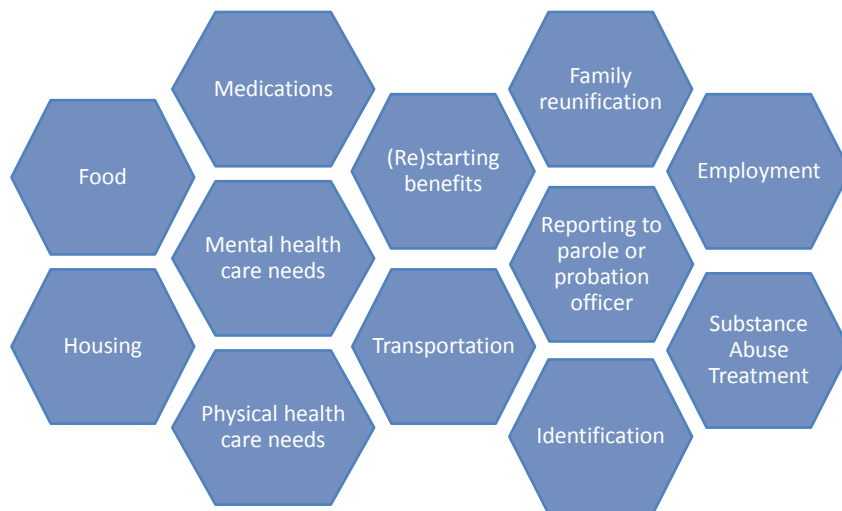


Madeline Neighly, Senior Policy Advisor, mneighly@csg.org



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People leaving jail or prison have a variety of needs



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People do not leave incarceration prepared or able to meet their needs

- Identification**
- Frequently required to access social services, housing, and to apply for employment
 - Most people find themselves **without** state identification after incarceration

<https://csgjusticecenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/State-Identification.pdf>

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- Housing**
- 10% of people exit incarceration into homelessness
 - California study found 10% of parolees were homeless with much higher rates in major cities (LA and SF)

-
- Health care**
- People in jails and prisons suffer from disproportionately high rates of HIV/AIDS, hepatitis, diabetes, and other illnesses
 - 3x as likely to have a major mental illness
 - 90% of people exiting incarceration are uninsured

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- Family reunification**
- 54% of prisoners are parents with minor children (0-17)
 - 2.7 million children have a parent in jail or prison

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People do not leave incarceration prepared or able to meet their needs

- Transportation**
- Many rural areas have no public transit systems
 - If public transit is available, it may be unaffordable

-
- Probation/Parole Reporting**
- Lack of transportation may interfere with ability to report
 - Reporting requirements may prevent employment or even participation in or completion of treatment

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- Employment**
- People with criminal records struggle to find and maintain employment
 - The effect of a criminal record is more pronounced on black job seekers
 - People with criminal records may be prevented from obtaining certain occupational licenses

<https://csgjusticecenter.org/reentry/publications/the-consideration-of-criminal-records-in-hiring-decisions/>

<https://csgjusticecenter.org/reentry/publications/the-consideration-of-criminal-records-in-occupational-licensing/>

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Collateral consequences vary based on offense level (misdemeanor vs. felony)

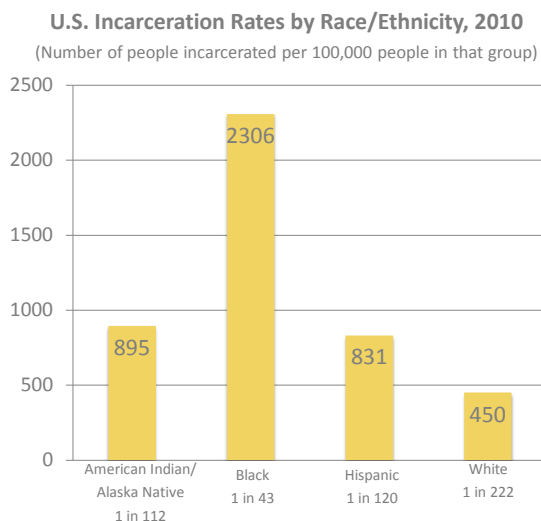
Legal sanction or restriction imposed because of a criminal record

- Employment
- Licensing
- Housing
- Education
- Voting
- Jury participation
- Firearms rights

www.abacollateralconsequences.org

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Communities of color are disproportionately affected by the criminal justice system



Source:
Leah Sakala, *Breaking Down Mass Incarceration in the 2010 Census* (Northampton, MA: Prison Policy Initiative, 2014).



Source:
Maurice Emsellem and Michelle Natividad Rodriguez, *Advance a Federal Fair Chance Hiring Agenda* (New York, NY: National Employment Law Project, 2015).

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Landlords are increasingly requiring background checks on applicants

Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. § 1681 et seq.)

- Limits disclosure of non-conviction criminal history to 7 years. Convictions may be reported indefinitely.
- Requires authorization from and notification to applicant if “adverse action” (duty on landlord).
- Require CRA to use “reasonable procedures to assure maximum possible accuracy of the information.”
- Preempts states from increasing adverse action notifications and restricting what information may be contained in report.

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Fair Housing Law (42 U.S.C. § 3601 et seq.)

Federal Fair Housing Law prohibits both

disparate treatment

- Intentional discrimination of a protected class
- Housing decision is made on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, family status, national origin, or ability/disability
- Having a criminal record is not a protected category

disparate impact

- Looks at the effect of practices that are fair in form, but discriminatory in operation
- Excluding people from housing because of a criminal record is likely to have a disparate impact on people of color, particularly blacks and Latinos. May violate the Fair Hiring Act if there is no substantial, legitimate, nondiscriminatory interest served.

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Fair Housing Law Resources

HUD Guidance for Public Housing Agencies (PHAs) and Owners of Federally—Assisted Housing on Excluding the Use of Arrest Records in Housing Decisions

(<http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/documents/huddoc?id=PIH2015-19.pdf>)

Summary of Guidance from HUD on Use of Criminal Records in Housing (<http://www.endhomelessness.org/page/-/files/2016-04-27%20Summary%20of%20Guidance%20from%20HUD%20on%20Use%20of%20Criminal%20Records%20in%20Housing.pdf>)

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Cities are implementing policies to support housing for people with criminal records

Housing Authority of New Orleans

- Eliminated ban on providing housing assistance to people with criminal records (March 29, 2016)
- Creates individual review of criminal histories to ensure maintenance of safety while increasing housing opportunities

Seattle

- Mayor created Fair Chance Housing coalition in 2016 following recommendation by the Housing Affordability and Livability Agenda set in 2015
- Low-income housing agencies created individualized assessment policies to increase housing opportunities for people with criminal records while maintaining community safety

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Reentry Services 101

Alix M. McLearen, Ph.D.

Administrator, Female Offender Branch

Federal Bureau of Prisons

Corrections Overview

- BOP is nation's largest correctional system
 - 122 prisons
 - 28 female
 - Located nationwide
- BOP is one of more than 3,000 systems in the U.S.
 - National
 - State
 - Local

Types of Facilities

- Corrections includes
 - Prisons
 - Longer-term, sentenced
 - State or Federal Government
 - Often rural
 - Jails
 - Local Government
 - Short-term sentences or pretrial
 - Juvenile facilities

Services for Incarcerated Persons

- Level of service varies by
 - Length of stay
 - Type of facility
 - Resources of facility
- Nearly all facilities offer reentry and self-improvement services
 - Education
 - Job Training
 - Mental Health Treatment
 - Medical Care and Wellness
 - Parenting
 - Special Population Services

Reentry Planning

- Ideally, considerable effort is expended in preparing for release
 - In BOP, assignment of case manager to develop individualized reentry plan
 - Review risks and needs
 - Identify programs and services in release area
 - Suitable housing is generally a required component

Housing Issues

- Shorter-term facilities have less time to plan
- Special populations may be more vulnerable to homelessness
- Fewer options for some individuals (rural, special needs)
- Even the best laid plans....

Housing Options

- Halfway House or Residential Reentry Center
- Other transitional housing
- Own property
- Stay with friends or family
- Short-term shelter
- Homelessness

Solutions

- Correctional workers and community providers have the same goals
 - Quality services
 - Continuity of care
 - Reduce recidivism
 - Prevent homelessness
 - Accessibility to those in need

Future Directions

- Communicate
- Make information widely available
- Know that corrections cares

THANK YOU!

ALAMEDA COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT

ADULT FIELD SERVICES



Adult Investigations

- ❖ Deputy Probation Officers investigate, evaluate and make recommendations about a client in the presentence report.
- ❖ The presentence report is mandated by law and assists the Courts in making appropriate sentencing dispositions.
- ❖ Risk Assessment
- ❖ Static 99R

Investigations

- ▣ Completed 2,809 presentence reports
- ▣ Completed 2,269 Risk Assessments



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Adult Supervision

Risk Based Supervision Model



- ❖ Risk Assessment Score 20 or below - Services as Needed (Low)
- ❖ Risk Assessment Score 21-24 is supervised by KIOSK DPO (Medium)
- ❖ Risk Assessment Score 25+ is supervised by a Supervision DPO (High)

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Services as Needed Caseload

- ❖ Client is placed on probation.
- ❖ Client is ordered to go to Orientation.
- ❖ Client's folder gets placed in the bank of the Services as Needed Caseload.
- ❖ Client receives services as needed by the Officer of the Day by the client calling directly to the Probation Department or reporting to the office.



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Domestic Violence

Deputies work with the Courts, police, victim advocates and other community providers to provide services to domestic violence cases in compliance with Penal Code Section 1203.097.

Specialized domestic and family violence caseloads.

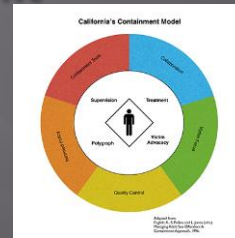
All domestic violence cases or cases with domestic violence conditions are assigned to a supervision caseload.



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Sex Offender Unit

A collaborative approach to sex offender management (Containment Model) became mandatory in California beginning July 1, 2012.



- ❖ Three required components: participation by a supervising probation officer; sex offender treatment provider; and polygraph examiner.
- ❖ All clients on probation for sex offenses are assigned to a specialized caseload.

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AB109 – Realignment

The realignment legislation enacted in October 2011:

- ❖ 1) Created a new sentencing mechanism for non-violent, non-serious, non-high risk sex offenders
- ❖ 2) Clients serving time in prison for realigned offenses are now supervised by probation.

Realignment (PRCS and Mandatory Supervision)

- ❖ Risk and Needs Assessment
- ❖ Response Grid – Rewards and Sanctions
- ❖ Flash Incarceration
- ❖ Collaborations with community based organizations & other county agencies

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Thank You

Adult Field Services Division



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Questions?

A recording of this webinar and presentation slides
will be available at www.endhomelessness.org

&

www.reentryandhousing.org