



# the NATIONAL REENTRY RESOURCE CENTER

— A project of the CSG Justice Center —

## **About the National Reentry Resource Center**

The National Reentry Resource Center (NRRC), established by the Second Chance Act (Public Law 110-199) and administered by Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), U.S. Department of Justice, provides education, training, and technical assistance to states, tribes, territories, local governments, service providers, non-profit organizations, and corrections institutions working on prisoner reentry. The Center is operated by the Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center.

## **Who Are We?**

The National Reentry Resource Center is a project of the Council of State Governments Justice Center, with key project partners: the Urban Institute, Association of State Correctional Administrators, the American Probation and Parole Association, and Shay Bilchik, research professor/center director, Center for Juvenile Justice Reform, Georgetown University Public Policy Institute. Nine advisory committees that include representatives of over 150 leading nonprofit organizations and service providers in the reentry field also guide the Center.

## **Features & Services**

### ***Connection to Reentry Community and Peer-to-Peer Information Exchange***

[The Resource Center](#) distributes a monthly electronic newsletter that provides information about new reentry research, funding and training opportunities. Subscribe to the newsletter at by accessing the link in the lower right-hand corner of the main webpage referenced above.

### ***Training and Distance Learning***

The National Reentry Resource Center offers monthly webinars and webcasts on key reentry topics. The Resource Center also convenes national training and technical assistance events to facilitate peer-to-peer networking. An archive of recorded webinars is available at <http://nationalreentryresourcecenter.org/training/webcasts>.

### ***What Works in Reentry Clearinghouse***

In partnership with the Urban Institute, the Resource Center has developed the [What Works in Reentry Clearinghouse](#), an online clearinghouse that offers easy access to important research on the effectiveness of a wide variety of reentry programs and practices. It provides a user-friendly, one-stop shop for practitioners and service providers seeking guidance on evidence-based reentry interventions, as well as a useful resource for researchers and others interested in reentry.

### ***Library***

In addition to the materials available in the What Works in Reentry Clearinghouse, the Resource Center's online library contains over 1,000 publications, reports, and other reentry materials searchable by topic. The library is available at <http://nationalreentryresourcecenter.org/library>.

### ***Reentry Programs Database***

The CSG Justice Center is building an online database of reentry programs that catalogs adult and juvenile reentry programs nationwide. To create profile of your program or search for other innovative reentry initiatives from across the country, visit <http://reentrypolicy.org/reentry-program-examples/reentry-programs-start>.

### ***Information for Returning Individuals and Families***

The Resource Center is building an [online portal to existing state and local reentry directories](#) that help individuals returning home and their families identify service providers and resources in their area.

### ***National Criminal Justice Initiatives Map***

[The National Criminal Justice Initiatives Map](#) highlights national reentry and other criminal justice initiatives implemented throughout the United States and its territories. Though not exhaustive, the map seeks to provide a place-based catalog of national initiatives and programs designed to reduce the recidivism rates of people returning from prison, jail, and juvenile facilities.

### ***Federal Interagency Reentry Council***

The purpose of the [Reentry Council](#) is to bring together numerous federal agencies to make communities safer, assist those returning from prison and jail in becoming productive, tax-paying citizens, and save taxpayer dollars by lowering the direct and collateral costs of incarceration. The Council also empowered working group staff—now representing over 20 federal departments and agencies—to work towards a number of goals.

### ***Reentry Myth Busters (A Product of the Federal Interagency Reentry Council)***

The [Myth Busters](#) is a series of fact sheets intended to clarify existing reentry myths in various subject areas, with federal policy fact information that affect formerly incarcerated individuals and their families. These subjects include such areas as public housing, access to benefits, parental rights, employer incentives, Medicaid suspension/termination, and more.

## **About the Second Chance Act**

The Second Chance Act was designed to improve outcomes for people returning to the community from prisons and jails. Signed into law on April 9, 2008, the Second Chance Act authorizes federal grants to government agencies and nonprofit organizations to provide employment assistance, substance abuse treatment, housing, family programming, mentoring, victims support, and other services that can help reduce recidivism.

In this capacity, the NRRC serves as the training and technical assistance provider for the Office of Justice Program's (OJP) Second Chance Act competitive site-based grantees that include adult

and juvenile-related programs administered by BJA and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). These programs focus on adult offenders with co-occurring substance abuse and mental health disorders; family-based substance abuse treatment; adult and juvenile planning and implementation projects; reentry courts; adult and juvenile mentoring programs; technology careers training projects for incarcerated adults and juveniles; and the evaluation of adult and juvenile reentry demonstration projects.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. How do I find out about technical assistance opportunities available through the National Reentry Resource Center?

The most important thing you can do to get connected to technical assistance opportunities available through the National Reentry Resource Center is to sign up for our newsletter. Go to [www.nationalreentryresourcecenter.org](http://www.nationalreentryresourcecenter.org) to sign up.



The screenshot shows the homepage of the National Reentry Resource Center. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Home, About, Library, Topics, Training & TA, Reentry Facts, and What Works. Below the navigation bar is a search box. The main content area features a newsletter sign-up form on the left, which is circled in red. The form includes fields for Name and Email, and a Subscribe button. To the right of the form is a map of the United States titled "National Criminal Justice Initiatives Map". Further right, there is a "What's New?" section with several news items, including a webinar on reducing recidivism and promoting behavioral health. At the bottom, there are sections for "Popular Topics" and "Announcements".

### 2. Who can we contact with questions?

The National Reentry Resource Center can support you with information, resources, and answers to your questions free of charge. The Resource Center offers great expertise from staff that can assist you in finding the most helpful information. Resource Center staff is also familiar with programs like yours across the country, and can help connect you with colleagues so you can benefit from their experiences. For more information visit the NRRC website to find additional resources, email us at [info@nationalreentryresourcecenter.org](mailto:info@nationalreentryresourcecenter.org), or call us at (877) 332-1719.

### 3. How can we learn more about different strategies for improving outcomes for recently released individuals?

At each juncture of the criminal justice process—from before arrest to after release from a correctional facility—there are steps that you can take to improve the likelihood that people

recently released will successfully transition to the community. [The Report of the Reentry Policy Council](#), which was authored by the Council of State Governments and ten project partners, reflects the results of a series of meetings among 100 of the most respected workforce, health, housing, public safety, family, community, and victim experts in the country. The *Report* provides hundreds of recommendations, which reflect the common ground reached by this wide-ranging, diverse group of leaders who, collectively, represent every region of the country.

The [National Reentry Resource Center](#) website is a clearinghouse of information related to reentry strategies and promotes a variety of distance learning opportunities, such as webinars, podcasts, and written documents.

***4. How can we learn from the experiences of other jurisdictions, especially other communities whose demographics (e.g., large urban area or rural jurisdiction) are similar to ours?***

The Justice Center, with joint support from the BJA and the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, has developed the Reentry Programs Database, a searchable programs database that includes descriptions of reentry programs and initiatives from across the country. These examples highlight promising efforts that may provide valuable ideas for policymakers to consider or build on as they develop their own initiative. This database can be accessed through the Justice Center's [Reentry Policy Council Web site](#), and grantees are invited to add information about their programs.

We also host a [National Criminal Justice Initiatives Map](#) where you can search through a catalogue of past and present Justice-related grantees.

## Contact Information

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