



**THE AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION  
CRIMINAL JUSTICE SECTION**

**SURVEY ON REENTRY**

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## ABA Survey on Reentry: Introduction

*Charles J. Hynes<sup>1</sup>*

In recent decades, the incarcerated population in the United States has dramatically increased. At midyear 2008, over 1.5 million individuals in this country were in custody in state or federal prisons. That's one in every 196 U.S. residents. Additionally, close to 800 thousand people were being held in local jails, bringing the total number of incarcerated to over 2.3 million. And as the number of incarcerated has grown, so too has the number of former inmates eventually released back to their communities – more than 700,000 individuals were released from state and federal prisons in 2007, a 20 percent increase over 2000.

As the stream of the formerly incarcerated swells, communities are struggling to absorb the tide and meet the needs of this population. And the needs are great. Incidence of mental illness is two to four times higher among prisoners than in the general population. Over two-thirds have engaged in substance abuse. About half have not graduated high school. Many were unemployed before incarceration and have checkered employment histories and no job to go to upon their release.

Research tells us that recidivism is high. Three years after release, over two-thirds of these former inmates will have been rearrested and about half will wind up back behind bars. Their criminal activity undermines public safety, and their cycling in and out of prison exacts a huge toll on the individual, his or her family, and the community. The key challenge that must be met is how to ensure that these individuals become law-abiding, healthy members of society, instead of reoffending and recycling through the criminal justice system, leaving victims and destabilized families and communities in their wake.

This American Bar Association Survey on Reentry demonstrates how agencies, both inside and outside the criminal justice system, are rising to that challenge. Almost all the programs described herein were launched in the last decade, and most within the last five years. They evince a nationwide recognition of an urgent and growing demand for effective reentry programs. As these programs become more widely known, it is hoped that they will inspire replication in other jurisdictions. Many programs are now eligible for funding through the Second Chance Act (P.L. 110-199), and monies appropriated for Second Chance Act programs present a wise investment in the country's future. This survey should inspire a commitment, in both public and private sectors, to ensure that effective reentry programs be available to all those leaving prison. Not only public safety, but also the social and fiscal health of our nation, is on the line.

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<sup>1</sup> Charles J. Hynes is the district attorney of Kings County (Brooklyn), New York. He also serves as chair of the ABA's Criminal Justice Section and is a vice president of the National District Attorneys Association.

# FEDERAL REENTRY PROGRAMS



**PROJECT WEBSITE:** <http://www.reentry.gov/>

With the passage of the Second Chance Act in 2008, the government was able to begin putting into place “a four-year, \$300 million prisoner reentry initiative to expand job training and placement services, to provide transitional housing, and to help newly released prisoners get mentoring, including from faith-based groups.” These programs have begun to be implemented on a federal level through many different federal agencies and departments.

Funding and other resources from a variety of federal departments may be applied toward a comprehensive offender reentry program. These agencies have all allocated some of their funding to the support of these reentry programs. Specific examples from some of these agencies follow on the next two pages.

- U.S. Department of Justice
  - Office of Justice Programs
- U.S. Department of Labor
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
  - Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
- U.S. Department of Education
- U.S. Department of Agriculture
- U.S. Department of Commerce
- U.S. Department of the Interior
- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
- Small Business Administration
- Social Security Administration
- White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives

**PROJECT NAME:** The Reentry Initiative

**PROJECT WEBSITE:** <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/reentry.html>

**CONTACT NAME:** Thurston Bryant

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The Reentry Initiative is supported by the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs (OJP) and its federal partners: the U.S. Departments of Education, Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, and Labor. This initiative is a comprehensive effort that addresses both juvenile and adult populations of serious, high-risk offenders. It provides funding to develop, implement, enhance, and evaluate reentry strategies that will ensure the safety of the community and the reduction of serious, violent crime. This is accomplished by preparing targeted offenders to successfully return to their communities after having served a significant period of secure confinement in a state training school, juvenile or adult correctional facility, or other secure institution.

The Reentry Initiative envisions the development of model reentry programs that begin in correctional institutions and continue throughout an offender's transition to and stabilization in the community. These programs provide for individual reentry plans that address issues confronting offenders as they return to the community. The initiative encompasses three phases and is implemented through appropriate programs:

**Phase 1-Protect and Prepare:** Institution-Based Programs. These programs are designed to prepare offenders to reenter society. Services provided in this phase include education, mental health and substance abuse treatment, job training, mentoring, and full diagnostic and risk assessment.

**Phase 2-Control and Restore:** Community-Based Transition Programs. These programs work with offenders prior to and immediately following their release from correctional institutions. Services provided in this phase include, as appropriate, education, monitoring, mentoring, life-skills training, assessment, job-skills development, and mental health and substance abuse treatment.

**Phase 3-Sustain and Support:** Community-Based Long-Term Support Programs. These programs connect individuals who have left the supervision of the justice system with a network of social services agencies and community-based organizations to provide ongoing services and mentoring relationships.

**NAME OF REENTRY PROJECT:** Inmate Skills Development Initiative

**PROJECT WEBSITE:** [http://www.bop.gov/inmate\\_programs/placement.jsp](http://www.bop.gov/inmate_programs/placement.jsp)

**CONTACT NAME:** DonaLee Breazzano

**CONTACT PHONE NUMBER:** (202) 353-3598

**CONTACT EMAIL ADDRESS:** [dbreazzano@bop.gov](mailto:dbreazzano@bop.gov)

The federal Bureau of Prisons has begun to recognize the need to focus on rehabilitating prisoners to enable them to successfully reenter society. It has started using the Inmate Skills Development Initiative to enhance reentry success and reduce recidivism, particularly for the high-risk offender population in addressing their significant skill deficiencies as revealed in research and focus group findings.

More than a new program, it is a new model of framing the reentry process that moves from fairly unstructured case management assessments and success defined as program completions to a highly structured and focused competency-based model that measures success by skill acquisition and ultimately reentry success. While the strategy is still not yet completely integrated into the Bureau, it will be shortly and includes a strong research and evaluation component. The efficacy of this new paradigm has yet to be proven and will be reported as the data are analyzed, but the agency believes it offers powerful tools and connections for offender transition.

Seeing as this a model as opposed to a program, there is no available information on any surveys or other statistics from the program.

# CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES: REENTRY PROGRAMS



**NAME OF REENTRY PROJECT:** Indiana Judicial Center

**PROJECT WEBSITE:** <http://www.in.gov/judiciary/pscourts/reentry.html>

**CONTACT NAME:** Jennifer L. Weber

**CONTACT PHONE NUMBER:** (317) 232-1313

**CONTACT EMAIL ADDRESS:** [jweber@courts.state.in.us](mailto:jweber@courts.state.in.us)

The Indiana Judicial Center was granted oversight by the Indiana General Assembly in 2006. The reentry program provides offenders released from the Department of Correction access to comprehensive, wrap-around services for a minimum of one year to promote their successful reintegration into the community. Like the drug court statute, the reentry court statute permits the Judicial Conference Board of Directors to adopt rules for reentry courts and requires reentry courts established under the chapter to be certified by the Indiana Judicial Center. The major components of the reentry court are the following: supervision, offender assessment, judicial involvement, case management and services, and program evaluation.

**If a validation survey (or evaluation) of the program has been performed, what was the result?** No such survey has been performed.

**What level of recidivism was found within the program? How does it compare to the recidivism levels of individuals who did not participate in the reentry program?** These figures are currently unknown.

**How many individuals participate in the program annually?** Over 100.

**When was the program established? How is it funded?** The program was established in 2006. It is primarily funded by grants.

**Does the program provide housing for the individuals involved? Does it provide (or help provide) employment?** The Indiana Judicial Center monitors several reentry programs around the state. The Allen County Reentry program does help provide employment. Other programs also help provide housing for participants.

**Does the program work in cooperation or in conjunction with local community or faith-based organizations?** Yes.

**Is the program located within the home community of the participating individuals?** Yes.



**NAME OF REENTRY PROJECT:** New York City Discharge Planning Collaboration

**PROJECT WEBSITE:** N/A

**CONTACT NAME:** Kathleen Coughlin

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The NYC Discharge Planning Collaboration is a coalition of different agencies and volunteer organizations in New York City that works to reduce homelessness and re-offense of released ex-offenders. The members of the Discharge Planning Collaboration include members of the Bronx Defenders, as well as the Department of Corrections. In 2004, through the efforts of this Collaboration, the Department of Corrections began providing reentry services to city-sentenced offenders through the Rikers Island Discharge Enhancement (RIDE) Program.

The RIDE Program seeks to link inmates with appropriate health and human services organizations in the community through a coordinated, collaborative effort to provide care during the reentry process. Their process includes beginning treatment while the offenders are still incarcerated, and continues for 90 days after their release.

**If a validation survey (or evaluation) of the program has been performed, what was the result?** A survey was performed by Arizona State University and some other organizations. The survey indicated that recidivism rate were somewhat similar between individuals that participated in the project and those that did not.

**What level of recidivism was found within the program? How does it compare to the recidivism levels of individuals who did not participate in the reentry program?** The rates in the RIDE trial program were somewhat similar, which has led to more questions about how to effectively implement a successful program.

**How many individuals participate in the program annually?** N/A

**When was the program established? How is it funded?** The program was established in 2003 as a part of the mayor's initiative to support reentry programs.

**Does the program provide housing for the individuals involved? Does it provide (or help provide) employment?** Over 40 different organizations are involved in the commission, including organizations that provide housing and employment to ex-offenders.

**Does the program work in cooperation or in conjunction with local community or faith-based organizations?** Yes, seeing as the project is a collaboration of numerous organizations.

**Is the program located within the home community of the participating individuals?** Yes.

**NAME OF REENTRY PROJECT:** San Diego Department of Corrections Reentry Program

**PROJECT WEBSITE:** N/A

**CONTACT NAME:** Tom Ritz

**CONTACT PHONE NUMBER:** (858) 549-1611

**CONTACT EMAIL ADDRESS:** N/A

The San Diego Department of Corrections instituted a successful reentry program into the city after the passage of Senate Bill 618. The program focuses on providing positive reentry tools upon the ex-offenders release from prison. The program also emphasizes a close relationship with both the District Attorney and Public Defender offices to maximize the benefit to the participants.

**If a validation survey (or evaluation) of the program has been performed, what was the result?** No validation survey has yet been performed.

**What level of recidivism was found within the program? How does it compare to the recidivism levels of individuals who did not participate in the reentry program?** This information is not yet available.

**When was the program established? How is it funded?** The program was initiated in 2002, and funded by state correctional spending.

**Is the program located within the home community of the participating individuals?** Yes.



# **PROSECUTION OFFICES: REENTRY PROGRAMS**



**NAME OF REENTRY PROJECT:** ComALERT (Brooklyn District Attorney's Office)

**PROJECT WEBSITE:** <http://www.brooklynnda.org/ComAlert/comalert.htm>

**CONTACT NAME:** Lance Ogiste

**CONTACT PHONE NUMBER:** (718) 250-2798

**CONTACT EMAIL ADDRESS:** [ogistel@brooklynda.org](mailto:ogistel@brooklynda.org)

The ComALERT ("Community and Law Enforcement Resources Together") program was created in 1999 by District Attorney Charles J. Hynes to act as a bridge between prison and the community for parolees returning to Brooklyn. ComALERT assists formerly incarcerated individuals to make a successful transition from prison to home by providing drug treatment and counseling, mental health treatment and counseling, GED, and transitional housing and employment. ComALERT also provides permanent job placement assistance to those parolees who have marketable skills upon their release. ComALERT services begin almost immediately upon release from prison, increasing the success rate for its clients compared to the non-treated re-entry population.

Most ComALERT clients have substance abuse issues, and many are actively abusing illegal drugs and alcohol. This abuse places them in direct contradiction of standard conditional release mandates and increases the likelihood that they will engage in illegal behaviors and return to prison. Thus, substance abuse treatment and counseling form the basic framework for ComALERT's initial three-month enrollment. Though the typical period at ComALERT is one to two years depending on personal progress, the first three months have been identified as crucial to the client's ultimate success. If not engaged in the re-entry process during that time, it is likely that the client will not make a successful transition from prison to the community.

In addition to drug counseling and treatment, many clients will receive a referral to and preferential placement in, the ComALERT "Ready, Willing, & Able" Program, which provides transitional employment through the Doe Fund's Ready, Willing, and Able employment programs. In addition to receiving meals and a weekly stipend of \$200 cash for manual labor jobs for up to nine consecutive months, the Day program provides the group support and reinforcement needed by the clients to maintain their sobriety. ComALERT provides weekly individual and group counseling, as well as random drug testing, to reinforce "Ready, Willing, & Able Day's" zero-tolerance policy.

**If a validation survey (or evaluation) of the program has been performed, what was the result?** Overall, the results of the evaluation of ComALERT are extremely promising. ComALERT clients, especially graduates, show substantially lower rates of recidivism, higher rates of employment, and higher earnings compared to similar Brooklyn parolees. The results are available here: [http://www.wjh.harvard.edu/soc/faculty/western/pdfs/report\\_1009071.pdf](http://www.wjh.harvard.edu/soc/faculty/western/pdfs/report_1009071.pdf)

In October 2007, the Kings County District Attorney's Office collaborated with Bruce Western, Professor of Sociology at Harvard University, to evaluate the ComALERT prisoner reentry program. The study, funded by the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services, examined the effects of ComALERT on recidivism, employment, and substance abuse. ComALERT clients, especially those who graduate from the program, are less likely to recidivate and more likely to be employed than similar New York City parolees. Compared to similar New York City parolees, ComALERT clients are 15% less likely and ComALERT graduates are 30% less likely to be re-arrested, re-convicted, or re-incarcerated. ComALERT

clients are 3 times as likely and ComALERT graduates are 4 times as likely to be employed. Based on the analysis of self-reports completed by ComALERT parolees and a control group concerning employment status and earnings, 82% of ComALERT graduates were employed, compared to 23% who were employed in the control group. Graduates also reported higher weekly earnings at an average of \$387, compared to \$273 earned by the control group. ComALERT clients and graduates have slightly lower levels of self-reported drug and alcohol use than similar New York City parolees.

**What level of recidivism was found within the program? How does it compare to the recidivism levels of individuals who did not participate in the reentry program?** In assessing a matched control group, nearly 50 percent are rearrested and 35 percent reconvicted within 2 years. About one quarter are returned to prison after a parole violation, and a much smaller number, 6.5 percent, are returned to prison on a new felony sentence. In comparison, ComALERT graduates are substantially less likely to recidivate than the matched control group. Less than one third of ComALERT graduates are rearrested within 2 years of release, compared to nearly half of control group individuals. ComALERT graduates are also less likely to be reconvicted, at 19 percent compared to 34 percent, and less likely to be violated, at 16 percent compared to 24 percent. The percent returning to prison on a new sentence is lower for graduates.

**How many individuals participate in the program annually?** In recent years, ComALERT has serviced an average of 541 individuals per year.

**When was the program established? How is it funded?** The program was established in 1999. It is funded by government grants.

**Does the program provide housing for the individuals involved? Does it provide (or help provide) employment?** ComALERT clients provide referrals to either sheltered housing, through The Doe Fund's Ready, Willing and Able, or  $\frac{3}{4}$  houses, that are carefully screened by ComALERT staff and parole. ComALERT has a Community Coordinator and a Job Developer, both responsible for referring clients to vocational services and entities for job placement. In addition, job readiness workshops and VESID orientations are conducted on-site.

**Does the program work in cooperation or in conjunction with local community or faith-based organizations?** ComALERT works with local community and faith-based organizations. Collaborations and networks are important in meeting our objective of increased public safety. Organizations that we partner with include Medgar Evers College, RWA, 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue Committee, VESID, Safe Horizon, Workforce One, Alpha School, amongst others.

**Is the program located within the home community of the participating individuals?** The program operates out of downtown Brooklyn. Individuals serviced are those who are paroled to Brooklyn. Others assisted are from criminal justice involved entities, including the New York City Department of Probation.

**NAME OF REENTRY PROJECT:** Reentry Initiative (San Francisco Prosecutor's Office)

**PROJECT WEBSITE:** <http://www.sfdistrictattorney.org/page.asp?id=32>

**CONTACT NAME:** Lenore Anderson

**CONTACT PHONE NUMBER:** N/A

**CONTACT EMAIL ADDRESS:** N/A

The San Francisco DA's Reentry Initiative works to get offenders off the streets through close supervision coupled with real employment and educational opportunities. The programs provide ex-offenders with the job training, education, and guidance they need to reintegrate successfully into their families and neighborhoods, preventing them from committing additional crimes. The Director of Reentry Programs also oversees programs such as "Back on Track," a comprehensive early intervention program for first-time, low-level drug sales offenders.

**If a validation survey (or evaluation) of the program has been performed, what was the result?** No validation survey has yet been performed.

**What level of recidivism was found within the program? How does it compare to the recidivism levels of individuals who did not participate in the reentry program?** This information is not yet available.

**How many individuals participate in the program annually?** This information is not currently available, but it is a somewhat large, comprehensive program for all of San Francisco.

**When was the program established? How is it funded?** The program was established in 2005 and is managed through funding from the District Attorney's office.

**Does the program provide housing for the individuals involved? Does it provide (or help provide) employment?** The program mostly focuses on employment and job training for ex-offenders.

**Does the program work in cooperation or in conjunction with local community or faith-based organizations?** No.

**Is the program located within the home community of the participating individuals?** Yes, almost all of the ex-offender participants return to the San Francisco bay area.

**NAME OF REENTRY PROJECT:** U.S. Probation Office, Eastern District of Missouri

**PROJECT WEBSITE:** [www.moep.uscourts.gov](http://www.moep.uscourts.gov)

**CONTACT NAME:** Douglas Burris

**CONTACT PHONE NUMBER:** (314) 244-6788

**CONTACT EMAIL ADDRESS:** [Douglas\\_Burris@moep.uscourts.gov](mailto:Douglas_Burris@moep.uscourts.gov)

The U.S. Probation Office in the Eastern District of Missouri has a very successful reentry program underway. Since 2000, the probation office has provided services (including housing and employment) to ex-offenders in the community. By partnering with other organizations within the district, the Probation Office reentry program has created a considerably reduced recidivism rate, especially in comparison to the national averages.

**If a validation survey (or evaluation) of the program has been performed, what was the result?** The organization is in discussions regarding a formal external evaluation.

**What level of recidivism was found within the program? How does it compare to the recidivism levels of individuals who did not participate in the reentry program?** 14.9% are rearrested after 3 years, compared to 67.5% nationally.

**How many individuals participate in the program annually?** There are currently approximately 2,000 ex-offenders under supervision

**When was the program established? How is it funded?** The program was established in 2000, and it is funded by federal budget appropriations and community partnerships.

**Does the program provide housing for the individuals involved? Does it provide (or help provide) employment?** Yes, housing assistance, home ownership, education, and employment, as well as cognitive programs, such as Working It Out, and Money Smart.

**Does the program work in cooperation or in conjunction with local community or faith-based organizations?** Yes

**Is the program located within the home community of the participating individuals?** Yes

# **PUBLIC DEFENDER OFFICES: REENTRY PROGRAMS**





**NAME OF REENTRY PROJECT:** Los Angeles County Public Defender's Office

**PROJECT WEBSITE:** N/A

**CONTACT NAME:** Maureen Pacheco

**CONTACT PHONE NUMBER:**

**CONTACT EMAIL ADDRESS:** [mpacecho@pubdef.lacounty.gov](mailto:mpacecho@pubdef.lacounty.gov)

The LA County Public Defender's Office has been involved in several projects that support successful reentry into society. The Women's Reentry Court was instituted in 2007 with a specific emphasis on dealing with the unique trials that female ex-offenders face. The services provided counseling, drug treatment, and child support to the participants. Also, the Homeless Alternative to Living On the Streets (HALO) project was designed to treat individuals who are convicted of misdemeanors and to find places for them to stay and deal with the problems they face.

Project Youth Embrace is an innovative new collaborative made up of the Los Angeles County Public Defender, PROTOTYPES, Homeboy Industries, Probation Department, and DJJ Parole (TEAM), designed to provide comprehensive reentry services for juvenile offenders returning from custody or out of home placement. The project offers a continuum of assessment, treatment and wrap-around services that commence when the child is still in custody and continues during and following release culminating as needed in housing placement and aftercare in the community. The goals of Project Youth Embrace are to improve outcomes and recidivism reduction for children in the juvenile delinquency system by effectively implementing and delivering a rehabilitative program based on evidence-based efforts.

**If a validation survey (or evaluation) of the program has been performed, what was the result?** No validation survey has yet been performed.

**What level of recidivism was found within the program? How does it compare to the recidivism levels of individuals who did not participate in the reentry program?** In the WRC program, only 8% of the participants returned to prison.

**How many individuals participate in the program annually?** In its first year, 88 women participated in the WRC program.

**When was the program established? How is it funded?** Most of these programs have been established in recent years, beginning in 2007. It is funded through state funds.

**Does the program provide housing for the individuals involved? Does it provide (or help provide) employment?** The HALO project especially works to provide housing for the participants. Most of the programs also work to provide some type of employment or employment training.

**Does the program work in cooperation or in conjunction with local community or faith-based organizations?** Yes.

**Is the program located within the home community of the participating individuals?** Yes.

**NAME OF REENTRY PROJECT:** Maryland Public Defender (Montgomery County)

**PROJECT WEBSITE:** <http://www.msa.md.gov/msa/mdmanual/25ind/html/61pubd.html>

**CONTACT NAME:** Paul B DeWolfe, Jr.

**CONTACT PHONE NUMBER:** (240) 773-9601

**CONTACT EMAIL ADDRESS:** [pdewolfe@opd.state.md.us](mailto:pdewolfe@opd.state.md.us)

The Montgomery County Public Defender's Office provides reentry services to those recently released who are returning to the community. The program works closely with the local correctional facility to provide rehabilitation during the incarceration and after. The Correctional facility has its own reentry program in which the offenders participate, and the Public Defender's Office has established a consortium of different social service networks to provide services to the participants upon their release. These services range from drug treatment to employment, and many others.

**If a validation survey (or evaluation) of the program has been performed, what was the result?** The Maryland School of Social Services is in the process of conducting an evaluation to measure the impact of this program.

**What level of recidivism was found within the program? How does it compare to the recidivism levels of individuals who did not participate in the reentry program?** N/A

**How many individuals participate in the program annually?** Approximately 100-150 per year participate in the program.

**When was the program established? How is it funded?** The program receives federal and state funding to employ several full-time social workers that deal with case management on a daily basis.

**Does the program provide housing for the individuals involved? Does it provide (or help provide) employment?** The consortium of service provides provide both housing and employment. Furthermore, the correctional facility has initiated a one-stop employment center right in the facility, in which many of the inmates participate. The parole and probation programs also correlate with this employment opportunity.

**Does the program work in cooperation or in conjunction with local community or faith-based organizations?** Yes.

**Is the program located within the home community of the participating individuals?** Yes.

**NAME OF REENTRY PROJECT:** Neighborhood Defenders (Maryland Office of the Public Defender)

**PROJECT WEBSITE:** <http://www.opd.state.md.us/neighborhood.html>

**CONTACT NAME:** Gale Starkey

**CONTACT PHONE NUMBER:** (240) 773-9796

**CONTACT EMAIL ADDRESS:**

The Maryland OPD has adopted a similar program to that of the Bronx Defenders, known as the Neighborhood Defenders. The Neighborhood Defenders employ a holistic team approach to client representation that reaches beyond the courthouse and into the lives of clients. Neighborhood Defender attorneys provide zealous advocacy to favorably resolve the criminal case. The social workers, paralegals, and administrative staff connect clients with the housing, public benefits, mental health treatment, and addictions counseling services that are necessary to break the cycle of re-offending.

This program works closely with the Montgomery County program outlined above, and the answers to both programs to the survey questions are roughly the same.



# OTHER REENTRY PROGRAMS



**NAME OF REENTRY PROJECT:** The Bronx Defenders, Civil Action Practice

**PROJECT WEBSITE:** <http://www.bronxdefenders.org>

**CONTACT NAME:** Kate Rubin

**CONTACT PHONE NUMBER:** (718) 838-7878

**CONTACT EMAIL ADDRESS:** N/A

The Bronx Defenders provides comprehensive legal and social services to nearly 14,000 poor families trapped in the criminal justice and child welfare systems in the Bronx each year. Redefining “reentry” as a process that begins at arrest and continues through community reintegration, The Bronx Defenders delivers integrated services from the moment of contact with the justice system, continuing after return to the community. They seek to break the cycle of poverty and crime by offering clients holistic representation that helps them overcome the interrelated barriers to the path out of poverty. The practice offers clients a single place where they can go for help with any issue, whether it is a case in a courtroom, a problem with a landlord, or long-standing mental illness. The Bronx Defenders brings together criminal, family and civil attorneys, social workers, investigators, parent advocates, and community organizers under one roof; working together in interdisciplinary teams, they address the root causes and consequences of clients’ involvement with the system.

**If a validation survey (or evaluation) of the program has been performed, what was the result?** In 2008, the Civil Action staff provided legal services to 974 clients on 1,083 matters. All of these clients had current or prior contact with the criminal justice system. By preventing the eviction of 43 families with more than 123 household members, they achieved over \$1,548,000 in shelter cost savings for taxpayers. Eleven families obtained subsidized housing through their legal advocacy, benefiting 31 family members. They preserved the unity of 71 families by preventing the deportation of a parent or child, affecting more than 150 family members. They preserved hard-earned jobs for the bread-winners of 15 families, and obtained over \$504,854 for clients in awards ranging from consumer matters to annualized public benefits.

**What level of recidivism was found within the program? How does it compare to the recidivism levels of individuals who did not participate in the reentry program?** See above.

**How many individuals participate in the program annually?** 12,500 people receive The Bronx Defenders' criminal defense services; 1,800 receive civil legal services; 1,000 receive family court services.

**When was the program established? How is it funded?** The Bronx Defenders was established in 1997. The criminal defense and family defense practices (including social workers) are funded through contracts with the City of New York that were awarded in a competitive bidding process. The civil legal services component was established through a Skadden public interest law fellowship in 2000 and is currently funded through a combination of foundation and government grants, fee-for-service contracts, private donations, and attorneys fees.

**Does the program provide housing for the individuals involved? Does it provide (or help provide) employment?** The Bronx Defenders provides civil legal services to individuals facing

legal barriers to obtaining or preserving housing or employment because of current or past criminal justice involvement. They provide referrals to housing and employment placement programs.

**Does the program work in cooperation or in conjunction with local community or faith-based organizations?** They partner with hundreds of service providers and community based organizations in the Bronx and citywide, but the vast majority of their clients come to them through court appointment.

**Is the program located within the home community of the participating individuals?** Yes and no. They are based in a residential community in the South Bronx, and many of their clients live within blocks of the office. They serve any individual arrested or at risk of losing custody of their children in the Bronx, so many of the clients also live outside of the community where the program is immediately located.

**NAME OF REENTRY PROJECT:** Buffalo Urban League's Adult Ex-Offender Reentry Employment Initiative

**PROJECT WEBSITE:** [www.buffalourbanleague.org](http://www.buffalourbanleague.org)

**CONTACT NAME:** Tracy Fleming

**CONTACT PHONE NUMBER:** (716) 440-3819

**CONTACT EMAIL ADDRESS:** [tfleming@buffalourbanleague.org](mailto:tfleming@buffalourbanleague.org)

The goal of the Reentry Services provided by the Buffalo Urban League is to successfully transition ex-offenders back into their communities through family reunification, education and job trainings, career assessment, education and placement, resulting in gainful, long term employment. They do this providing mentoring, job training, and employment opportunities, as well as housing and other social services.

**If a validation survey (or evaluation) of the program has been performed, what was the result?** They are still in the first year and have not done any evaluations to date.

**What level of recidivism was found within the program? How does it compare to the recidivism levels of individuals who did not participate in the reentry program?** They have a very low recidivism rate thanks to the many options and opportunities for re-training and employment that they offer.

**How many individuals participate in the program annually?** In the first year, they provided service to over 300 individuals.

**When was the program established? How is it funded?** Our program was established in July 2008 and we are funded through the NYS Department of Labor.

**Does the program provide housing for the individuals involved? Does it provide (or help provide) employment?** They do have access to housing programs through the agency as well as

many community partners who provide housing for the population. The goal is employment and they have been quite successful in their first year.

**Does the program work in cooperation or in conjunction with local community or faith-based organizations?** The Buffalo Urban League is a community based organization and a leader in providing quality services.

**Is the program located within the home community of the participating individuals?** Yes, our program is located in Buffalo NY and services individuals in Erie County.

**NAME OF REENTRY PROJECT:** The College Initiative

**PROJECT WEBSITE:** [www.collegeinitiative.org](http://www.collegeinitiative.org)

**CONTACT NAME:** Michael Carey

**CONTACT PHONE NUMBER:** (347) 998-5861

**CONTACT EMAIL ADDRESS:** [mcarey@collegeinitiative.org](mailto:mcarey@collegeinitiative.org)

The College Initiative (CI) is a non-profit reentry education program open to all men and women in the New York City metropolitan area who want to begin or continue their higher education after release from prison or jail; during probation or parole; or while fulfilling alternative-to-incarceration commitments. CI's free services include one-on-one guidance counseling; help with financial aid and college applications; preparation for entrance examinations; textbook stipends and on-going support and mentoring. The program also has very low recidivism rates (3.2%).

**If a validation survey (or evaluation) of the program has been performed, what was the result?** No survey has been performed.

**What level of recidivism was found within the program? How does it compare to the recidivism levels of individuals who did not participate in the reentry program?** 7% ???

**How many individuals participate in the program annually?** Approximately 400

**When was the program established? How is it funded?** The program was established in 2002, and it is currently funded by both private and public funds.

**Does the program provide housing for the individuals involved? Does it provide (or help provide) employment?** The program does not provide housing or employment.

**Does the program work in cooperation or in conjunction with local community or faith-based organizations?** The organization often makes referrals to other local reentry organizations.

**Is the program located within the home community of the participating individuals?** The program operates city-wide but it is based at the Fortune Society in Long Island City.

**NAME OF REENTRY PROJECT:** Center for Employment Opportunities

**PROJECT WEBSITE:** [www.ceoworks.com](http://www.ceoworks.com)

**CONTACT NAME:** Sam Schaeffer

**CONTACT PHONE NUMBER:** (212) 442-4430

**CONTACT EMAIL ADDRESS:** [sschaeffer@ceoworks.org](mailto:sschaeffer@ceoworks.org)

Center for Employment Opportunities (CEO) is an online database designed to help ex-offenders find a job and successfully reenter society. It helps meet the employment needs of people returning home from prison to help make the community safer.

**If a validation survey (or evaluation) of the program has been performed, what was the result?** Findings from an independent, random-assignment evaluation conducted by MDRC of CEO employment programs show that people who enroll in CEO have significantly lower rates of recidivism on a variety of measures two years after joining the program, an effect rarely seen in rigorous studies such as the one CEO underwent.

**What level of recidivism was found within the program? How does it compare to the recidivism levels of individuals who did not participate in the reentry program?** People who enroll in CEO have a 40 percent reduction in reincarceration for a new crime compared to a randomly assigned control group two years after joining the program.

**How many individuals participate in the program annually?** 2,000 people a year

**When was the program established? How is it funded?** CEO was created as a demonstration project of the Vera Institute of Justice in the late 1970's to meet the employment needs of people returning home from prison. CEO became an independent non-profit in 1996. CEO is funded through government contracts, foundation grants and individual contributions.

**Does the program provide housing for the individuals involved? Does it provide (or help provide) employment?** CEO provides comprehensive employment services, including immediate, paid, transitional work, placement in permanent jobs and employment retention services. CEO works with referral partners around housing issues, but does not provide housing services itself.

**Does the program work in cooperation or in conjunction with local community or faith-based organizations?** Yes.

**Is the program located within the home community of the participating individuals?** CEO serves participants in all five boroughs from its offices in lower Manhattan, and its new office in the Bronx, opening in September 2009.



**NAME OF REENTRY PROJECT:** Citizens Against Recidivism, Inc.

**PROJECT WEBSITE:** [www.citizensinc.org](http://www.citizensinc.org)

**CONTACT NAME:** Mika'il DeVeaux

**CONTACT PHONE NUMBER:** (212) 252-2235

**CONTACT EMAIL ADDRESS:** [mdeveaux@citizensinc.org](mailto:mdeveaux@citizensinc.org)

The goal of Citizens Against Recidivism, Inc, is to work to achieve the restoration of all the rights and attributes of citizenship among people in prison or jail and those who have been released in collaboration with other community and faith-based organizations at each of the overlapping phases of the community integration process – the institutional phase, the structured re-entry phase and the on-going reintegration phase. It does this mainly through providing services that help ex-offenders recover the rights that they had before their incarceration.

**If a validation survey (or evaluation) of the program has been performed, what was the result?** No survey has been performed.

**What level of recidivism was found within the program? How does it compare to the recidivism levels of individuals who did not participate in the reentry program?** Levels of recidivism have remained relatively low. Only 2 out of 50 treated participants were rearrested and sent back to jail.

**How many individuals participate in the program annually?** 50 to 75.

**When was the program established? How is it funded?** The program was established in 2003. It is privately funded, and has received some small grants.

**Does the program provide housing for the individuals involved? Does it provide (or help provide) employment?** No.

**Does the program work in cooperation or in conjunction with local community or faith-based organizations?** Yes, they collaborate with many organizations, particularly the Muslim community.

**Is the program located within the home community of the participating individuals?** Yes.

**NAME OF REENTRY PROJECT:** The Employment Project (Westhab, Inc.)

**PROJECT WEBSITE:** [www.westhab.org](http://www.westhab.org)

**CONTACT NAME:** Robert McConaghy

**CONTACT PHONE NUMBER:** (914) 664-7414 x 201

**CONTACT EMAIL ADDRESS:** [robert.mcconaghy@westhab.org](mailto:robert.mcconaghy@westhab.org)

Westhab focus on building up communities and helping to keep them safe. One of the projects that it implemented to help meet these goals is the Employment Project. The Employment Project is designed to provide skills training, job placement services, job/housing retention services, and a wage subsidy program. These programs are designed to help ex-offenders return to their communities.

**If a validation survey (or evaluation) of the program has been performed, what was the result?** This has not yet been done.

**What level of recidivism was found within the program? How does it compare to the recidivism levels of individuals who did not participate in the reentry program?** This program has been in existence for less than 18 months and they still do not have all of the necessary data compiled.

**How many individuals participate in the program annually?** There have been 77 previously incarcerated individuals enrolled in the program with an additional 32 individuals receiving case management services but they have not been enrolled in the program.

**When was the program established? How is it funded?** The program began in February 2008 and is funded through the NY State Department of Labor.

**Does the program provide housing for the individuals involved? Does it provide (or help provide) employment?** Westhab Inc. is the largest provider of supportive and low income housing in Westchester County, NY. The Employment Project has been able to provide some form of housing to 24 individuals that have been enrolled in our program.

**Does the program work in cooperation or in conjunction with local community or faith-based organizations?** The company is partnering with another CBO, and they are looking at partnering with some FBOs for a mentoring program.

**Is the program located within the home community of the participating individuals?** Yes, one of the eligibility criteria is that they must be residents of a particular municipality and they need to connect with the program within 90 days of their release from jail/prison.

**NAME OF REENTRY PROJECT:** Employment Works, New York City Department of Small Business Services

**PROJECT WEBSITE:** [http://www.nyc.gov/html/ceo/html/programs/employment\\_works.shtml](http://www.nyc.gov/html/ceo/html/programs/employment_works.shtml)

**CONTACT NAME:** Carin Clary

**CONTACT PHONE NUMBER:** (212) 618-8911

**CONTACT EMAIL ADDRESS:** [cclary@sbs.nyc.gov](mailto:cclary@sbs.nyc.gov)

Established in late August 2008, Employment Works engages probationers referred from the Department of Probation to place them in jobs and give them the necessary educational, training and support services to be prepared for long-term employment.

**If a validation survey (or evaluation) of the program has been performed, what was the result?** The Mayor's Center for Economic Opportunities has commissioned Metic/Westat to conduct evaluations of all the CEO programs, and results will likely be made available after the first year.

**What level of recidivism was found within the program? How does it compare to the recidivism levels of individuals who did not participate in the reentry program?** The program does not currently track recidivism levels.

**How many individuals participate in the program annually?** By August of 2010, the program will have placed 1,100 Probationers into full-time employment. The Year 1 goal (by September of 2009) is to place 600 Probationers.

**When was the program established? How is it funded?** The program was launched August 25, 2008, and is funded by the Mayor's Center for Economic Opportunity.

**Does the program provide housing for the individuals involved? Does it provide (or help provide) employment?** The program is a workforce development initiative, with placement and retention goals with regard to employment.

**Does the program work in cooperation or in conjunction with local community or faith-based organizations?** No.

**Is the program located within the home community of the participating individuals?** The program is borough-centric, servicing probationers that report to either the Department of Probation in Brooklyn or Queens.

**NAME OF REENTRY PROJECT:** Episcopal Social Services Network in the Community

**PROJECT WEBSITE:** [www.essnyc.org](http://www.essnyc.org)

**CONTACT NAME:** Anne Williams

**CONTACT PHONE NUMBER:** (845) 687-9460

**CONTACT EMAIL ADDRESS:** [annejwilliams@earthlink.net](mailto:annejwilliams@earthlink.net)

The ESS Network Program offers residential units or modular programs in nine New York State medium and maximum-security facilities to allow the development of positive, intentional communities in which inmates who volunteer for the program are dedicated to helping themselves and others. The Network in the Community program provides reentry support to formerly incarcerated men and women during the difficult period of reintegration into society.

**If a validation survey (or evaluation) of the program has been performed, what was the result?** The Vera Institute conducted a survey of the program in 2002, in which it stated that the program was highly effective in both the prisons and the community.

**What level of recidivism was found within the program? How does it compare to the recidivism levels of individuals who did not participate in the reentry program?** The current recidivism rates are 7% for 3.5 years, and 14.25% for 6 years, which is far below the national average.

**How many individuals participate in the program annually?** Approximately 700 people for the prisons, and 400 from the community participate in the program.

**When was the program established? How is it funded?** The program was originally established in 1979, and received funding from DOCS. It closed down in the mid-nineties, and reopened in 1999 through a grant from the Clark Foundation.

**Does the program provide housing for the individuals involved? Does it provide (or help provide) employment?** They work with partners that provide housing, but they also provide employment through direct job placement.

**Does the program work in cooperation or in conjunction with local community or faith-based organizations?** Yes.

**Is the program located within the home community of the participating individuals?** The project has several administrative sites that enable most individuals to receive support close to home.

**NAME OF REENTRY PROJECT:** Exodus Transitional Community

**PROJECT WEBSITE:** [www.ectny.org](http://www.ectny.org)

**CONTACT NAME:** Adam Friedman

**CONTACT PHONE NUMBER:** (917) 492-0990

**CONTACT EMAIL ADDRESS:** [afriedman@ectny.org](mailto:afriedman@ectny.org)

The Exodus Transitional Community is designed to help ex-offenders reenter society by identifying that success is interconnected with many different aspects of a person's life. The program focuses on counseling and setting goals that enables people to reenter the workforce and be a contributing member to society. Each individual is matched up with a coach that works to help the individual find success.

**If a validation survey (or evaluation) of the program has been performed, what was the result?** No evaluation has been performed.

**What level of recidivism was found within the program? How does it compare to the recidivism levels of individuals who did not participate in the reentry program?** Exodus was a participant in the Department of Labor ready 4 Work program. All of the sites in the Ready 4 Work program demonstrated a reduction in recidivism.

**How many individuals participate in the program annually?** Approximately 250 new people are taken into the program annually.

**When was the program established? How is it funded?** The organization was incorporated in 1999. It is funded by city, state, and federal grants, as well as by individuals, churches and private foundations.

**Does the program provide housing for the individuals involved? Does it provide (or help provide) employment?** The organization does not provide housing, but it does provide employment readiness and placement services.

**Does the program work in cooperation or in conjunction with local community or faith-based organizations?** They refer individuals to non-profit organizations for educational, health, housing, and other services. They also have a mentoring partnership with Abyssinian Baptist Church.

**Is the program located within the home community of the participating individuals?** The program is located in East Harlem, but it services individuals throughout New York City.

**NAME OF REENTRY PROJECT:** Friends Outside (Santa Cruz, CA)

**PROJECT WEBSITE:** <http://friendsoutside.org/>

**CONTACT NAME:** Gretchen Newby

**CONTACT PHONE NUMBER:** (209) 955-0701

**CONTACT EMAIL ADDRESS:** [gnewby@friendsoutside.org](mailto:gnewby@friendsoutside.org)

Founded in 1955, the mission of the Friends Outside program is to “improve the quality of life of families and children impacted by incarceration, and assist with successful community reentry and family reunification for those transitioning from confinement to freedom.” Some of its programs include providing fatherhood programs and family activities for formerly incarcerated persons, as well as helping to provide employment for families.

**If a validation survey (or evaluation) of the program has been performed, what was the result?** Surveys were annually conducted to determine government funding.

**What level of recidivism was found within the program? How does it compare to the recidivism levels of individuals who did not participate in the reentry program?** This information is not currently available.

**How many individuals participate in the program annually?** Over 150.

**When was the program established? How is it funded?** The program was established in 1955.

**Does the program provide housing for the individuals involved? Does it provide (or help provide) employment?** The program does not provide housing, but it does provide employment through case management meetings and assistance in securing and preparing for job interviews.

**Does the program work in cooperation or in conjunction with local community or faith-based organizations?** Yes.

**Is the program located within the home community of the participating individuals?** Yes. Clients must be within the county to qualify for services.

**NAME OF REENTRY PROJECT:** Fortune Society

**PROJECT WEBSITE:** [www.fortunesociety.org](http://www.fortunesociety.org)

**CONTACT NAME:** Peggy Arroyo

**CONTACT PHONE NUMBER:** (212) 691-7554

**CONTACT EMAIL ADDRESS:** [parroyo@fortunesociety.org](mailto:parroyo@fortunesociety.org)

The Fortune Society has several programs that help provide reentry solutions, including the Alternative To Incarceration (ATI) program. Fortune staff members work with defense attorneys, prosecutors and judges to obtain non-incarcerative sentences for carefully screened defendants. We go after the hardest cases: one of the conditions for entry into our ATI programs is that clients must be facing at least a year of jail or prison time. Regardless of the program they're assigned to, clients work with Fortune counselors to develop a comprehensive service plan. ATI clients initially come to our offices five days a week for an average of six months, though the length of stay depends on the progress of the client and the seriousness of the offense. Clients must also submit to a daily retinal scan which detects variance and the possibility of drug use. After completing the program, successful participants receive sentences that often require no further incarceration. Fortune's Alternatives to Incarceration programs reduce the prison and jail population. In 2006, our ATI programs saved the community over \$6.5 million in displaced jail and prison time.

Another program provided by the Fortune Society is the family services program, which recognizes that strong family bonds help reduce recidivism rates. They work with clients to help them understand the importance of family by teaching programs such as cooking and other life skills.

**If a validation survey (or evaluation) of the program has been performed, what was the result?** N/A

**What level of recidivism was found within the program? How does it compare to the recidivism levels of individuals who did not participate in the reentry program?** N/A

**How many individuals participate in the program annually?** There are 300 participants in the ATI program, and 200 in Family Services.

**When was the program established? How is it funded?** ATI was established in 1997, and Family Services was established in 2001. Both programs are funded by government contracts.

**Does the program provide housing for the individuals involved? Does it provide (or help provide) employment?** Limited housing is made available to some individuals. Referrals are made if necessary to other organizations in the community.

**Does the program work in cooperation or in conjunction with local community or faith-based organizations?** No.

**Is the program located within the home community of the participating individuals?** No, the participants are city-wide.

**NAME OF REENTRY PROJECT:** Georgetown County Reentry Services (South Carolina)

**PROJECT WEBSITE:** N/A

**CONTACT NAME:** Debbie Barr

**CONTACT PHONE NUMBER:** (843) 545-3420

**CONTACT EMAIL ADDRESS:** [dbarr@georgetowncountysc.org](mailto:dbarr@georgetowncountysc.org)

The Georgetown County Reentry program has recently started in North Carolina, and it has been relatively successful so far. The program focuses on providing employment for the recently released individuals, as this as an important step on the path to reentry.

**If a validation survey (or evaluation) of the program has been performed, what was the result?** No survey has been performed at this time. Evaluations are done bi-annually. They are sent to the consumers who continue to be incarcerated and who have reentered the community.

**What level of recidivism was found within the program? How does it compare to the recidivism levels of individuals who did not participate in the reentry program?** We are just in our first year of tracking individuals and the recidivism rate is 0%. No participants have returned.

**How many individuals participate in the program annually?** Approximately 50.

**When was the program established? How is it funded?** The program was established in 2007. It is funded through a grant from the Waccamaw Regional Counsel of Governments and the Georgetown County Sheriff's Dept.

**Does the program provide housing for the individuals involved? Does it provide (or help provide) employment?** Housing is not provided, but the client receives assistance with securing safe affordable housing. Each individual reentering the community has had employment the day of being released.

**Does the program work in cooperation or in conjunction with local community or faith-based organizations?** Yes, through the Detention Centers Chaplains program

**Is the program located within the home community of the participating individuals?** Yes.



**NAME OF REENTRY PROJECT:** Judicial Process Commission

**PROJECT WEBSITE:**

**CONTACT NAME:** Sue Porter

**CONTACT PHONE NUMBER:** (585) 325-7727

**CONTACT EMAIL ADDRESS:** [info@rocjpc.org](mailto:info@rocjpc.org)

The Judicial Process Commission is a grassroots non-profit organization that works to create a just, nonviolent community. They support the rights of all people affected by the criminal justice system and promote changes to that system that help them achieve their fullest potential. They do this by providing support services, educating the public and advocating for systemic change.

**If a validation survey (or evaluation) of the program has been performed, what was the result?** No survey has been performed at this time.

**What level of recidivism was found within the program? How does it compare to the recidivism levels of individuals who did not participate in the reentry program?** This information is not currently available. The organization reviewed 487 rap sheets, and helped participants obtain 191 certificates of relief for good conduct.

**How many individuals participate in the program annually?** Over 1,000.

**When was the program established? How is it funded?** JPC was founded in 1972, launched mentoring for ex-offenders in 1996, case management in 1999, and rap sheet review and certificate work in 2005. They are funded through private donations, foundations, and fees for services. In 2006, they expanded the rap sheet and certificate work when the collaboration began with Jason Hoge at Monroe County Legal Services Center.

**Does the program provide housing for the individuals involved? Does it provide (or help provide) employment?** The case management includes help locating housing and help finding employment, job search and resumes etc., advocacy with welfare etc.

**Does the program work in cooperation or in conjunction with local community or faith-based organizations?** They work with many community organizations and faith-based groups.

**Is the program located within the home community of the participating individuals?** Yes, most of the participants live in Northeast Rochester, because it has one of the highest rates of men and women returning home from prison.

**NAME OF REENTRY PROJECT:** The Legal Aid Society in NYC, Civil Practice (Rikers Reentry Project)

**PROJECT WEBSITE:** [www.legal-aid.org](http://www.legal-aid.org)

**CONTACT NAME:** Marshall Green

**CONTACT PHONE NUMBER:** 718/991-4758, Esq.

**CONTACT EMAIL ADDRESS:** [mwgreen@legal-aid.org](mailto:mwgreen@legal-aid.org)

The Legal Aid Society has provided legal services for many years. Most recently, it has instituted the Rikers Reentry Project, which provides advice and legal representation to prisoners on Rikers Island who are scheduled to be released shortly specifically around housing, public benefits; employment and family law. The primary purpose of the project is to try to stabilize the housing and benefits situations of such clients while they are incarcerated and to return and reintegrate into the community and their families as quickly and with as little disruption as possible.

**If a validation survey (or evaluation) of the program has been performed, what was the result?** N/A

**What level of recidivism was found within the program? How does it compare to the recidivism levels of individuals who did not participate in the reentry program?** While there have been no formal studies, client services provided by the Rikers Reentry Project can be linked to clients' more successful re-entry, eviction prevention, receipt or maintenance of benefits, and stability of family members.

**How many individuals participate in the program annually?** On average 250 new cases are referred yearly.

**When was the program established?** The Civil Practice Rikers Reentry Project was established in 2007.

**Does the program provide housing for the individuals involved? Does it provide (or help provide) employment?** The Rikers Reentry Project does not provide housing or employment, but makes referrals to agencies which can provide housing or employment.

**Does the program work in cooperation or in conjunction with local community or faith-based organizations?** The Rikers Reentry Project collaborates with the Center for Urban Community Services to provide services at Rikers Island.

**Is the program located within the home community of the participating individuals?** The Legal Aid Society represents clients in all five boroughs of NYC. They have neighborhood and courthouse-based offices throughout NYC community.

**NAME OF REENTRY PROJECT:** Nassau County Reentry Program

**PROJECT WEBSITE:**

**CONTACT NAME:** Pamela Lincoln

**CONTACT PHONE NUMBER:** (516) 227-7025

**CONTACT EMAIL ADDRESS:**

The Nassau county Reentry Program works with upstate and local inmates in New York. It deals specifically with individuals which are due to be released from prison that are returning to Nassau County. The program assists with housing, employment, education, and treatment. Several agencies have partnered with the organization to provide funding. The program was made possible by a grant from New York State to 12 counties around the state.

Through the County Reentry Task Forces, those individuals receive coordinated services designed to aid their transition back into their communities. These services include therapy and treatment that gets at the root of destructive behaviors and influences, as well helps offenders with needs such as housing and employment. In addition to serving individual offenders, County Reentry Task Forces, through their coordinator, also must oversee a comprehensive assessment of the community resources available in their counties, with the goal of enhancing existing partnerships or developing new relationships to better serve offenders' needs.

**If a validation survey (or evaluation) of the program has been performed, what was the result?** No validation survey is currently available.

**What level of recidivism was found within the program? How does it compare to the recidivism levels of individuals who did not participate in the reentry program?** These statistics are not currently available.

**How many individuals participate in the program annually?** These statistics are currently unavailable

**When was the program established? How is it funded?** The project has been operating for several years, and was made possible by a grant from the New York State Criminal Justice Services Department.

**Does the program provide housing for the individuals involved? Does it provide (or help provide) employment?** The organization helps provide both.

**Does the program work in cooperation or in conjunction with local community or faith-based organizations?** Yes.

**Is the program located within the home community of the participating individuals?** It deals specifically with ex-offenders returning to the Nassau County community.

**NAME OF REENTRY PROJECT:** National H.I.R.E. Network

**PROJECT WEBSITE:** [www.hirenetwork.org](http://www.hirenetwork.org)

**CONTACT NAME:** Nisha Thakker

**CONTACT PHONE NUMBER:** (212) 243-1313

**CONTACT EMAIL ADDRESS:** N/A

The National H.I.R.E. (Helping Individuals with criminal records Reenter through Employment) Network was established as both a national clearinghouse for information and an advocate for policy change. The goal of the National H.I.R.E. Network is to increase the number and quality of job opportunities available to people with criminal records by changing public policies, employment practices and public opinion. The National H.I.R.E. Network also provides training and technical assistance to agencies working to improve the employment prospects for people with criminal records.

**If a validation survey (or evaluation) of the program has been performed, what was the result?** No validation survey has been performed.

**What level of recidivism was found within the program? How does it compare to the recidivism levels of individuals who did not participate in the reentry program?** The rates will differ for each of the organizations with which National H.I.R.E. is involved, but they are generally a considerable improvement over those individuals who did not participate in these programs.

**How many individuals participate in the program annually?** This information is currently unavailable.

**When was the program established? How is it funded?** The program was established several years ago, and has been funded by several grants from prominent philanthropic organizations.

**Does the program provide housing for the individuals involved? Does it provide (or help provide) employment?** The program does not provide housing. It mainly focuses on providing assistance with employment. It refers ex-offenders to employment opportunities in their home communities, and advises them on laws and other regulations that may affect their return to society.

**Does the program work in cooperation or in conjunction with local community or faith-based organizations?** The program acts as a clearinghouse in that it refers ex-offenders to local organizations that can help them.

**Is the program located within the home community of the participating individuals?** Yes.

**NAME OF REENTRY PROJECT:** The Onondaga County Re-Entry Task Force and Supporting Offenders After Release Project

**PROJECT WEBSITE:** [www.webeginagain.com](http://www.webeginagain.com)

**CONTACT NAME:** Kianna Cole

**CONTACT PHONE NUMBER:** (315) 472-7909

**CONTACT EMAIL ADDRESS:** kiannacole@gmail.com

The Onondaga County Reentry Task Force was influential in implementing SOAR (Supporting Offenders After Release) in New York. The program aims to provide ex-offenders with linkages to services that support their successful transition from incarceration. S.O.A.R. assigns each client to a case manager who helps them to set positive goals and work towards them. The most common goals usually center on housing, employment, family reunification, mental health and substance abuse treatment issues.

**If a validation survey (or evaluation) of the program has been performed, what was the result?** No survey has yet been performed, since the program only began 13 months ago.

**What level of recidivism was found within the program? How does it compare to the recidivism levels of individuals who did not participate in the reentry program?** Currently, the recidivism rate has been about 11%. However, the program concentrates on high-risk individuals who have a rate of recidivism of up to 65% in the first three years.

**How many individuals participate in the program annually?** Since May 2008, the program has accepted 108 clients.

**When was the program established? How is it funded?** The Onondaga County Re-Entry Task force was formed in January 2008 and created the S.O.A.R program in conjunction with a community-based agency called Syracuse Model Neighborhood Facility. S.O.A.R began accepting clients in May of 2008. The program as well as the task force are funded by a grant from DCJS.

**Does the program provide housing for the individuals involved? Does it provide (or help provide) employment?** They do not provide housing but they do provide referral to housing providers as well as housing grants to enable clients to access safe and affordable housing. They also do not provide employment but they are working within the community to reduce barriers to employment for their clients and other individuals in the community who have a criminal record. The website was created to encourage employers to hire those with criminal records and also to educate the community about the struggles of persons transitioning out of prison.

**Does the program work in cooperation or in conjunction with local community or faith-based organizations?** Yes, this was the purpose for creating a task force of all agencies that provide services to those who are transitioning out of incarceration. The S.O.A.R program provides referrals to other community agencies and also provides case management, mental health therapy, psychiatric services, mentoring and substance abuse counseling.

**Is the program located within the home community of the participating individuals?** Yes, all of the individuals served must have been convicted in Onondaga County in order to receive the services of the task force (funding source requirement). The S.O.A.R program is located on the South side of the city of Syracuse, an area in which many transitioning individuals live in once they are released.

**NAME OF REENTRY PROJECT:** The Osborn Association: Employment and Training Services (ETS)

**PROJECT WEBSITE:** [www.osborneny.org](http://www.osborneny.org)

**CONTACT NAME:** Jose Vasquez

**CONTACT PHONE NUMBER:** (718) 637-6560

**CONTACT EMAIL ADDRESS:** [jvasquez@osborneny.org](mailto:jvasquez@osborneny.org)

Osborne offers comprehensive Employment and Training Services to people with criminal records. These include vocational and educational assessments, career counseling, job readiness workshops, resume preparation, skills enhancement, job search and placement assistance, referrals for social services, hard skills training, and academic advancement, and support adjusting to workplace demands. Osborne can place program participants in a wide array of employment opportunities, but places special focus on “green jobs” and positions in the food service industry. Workers are encouraged to return for referrals for additional services or better jobs after their first successful placement. Osborne secures employment for hundreds of men and women each year, offering employers a no-cost recruitment service.

**If a validation survey (or evaluation) of the program has been performed, what was the result?** The Osborne Association conducts ongoing internal evaluation of its services through pre and post-tests, surveys and focus groups and uses the data collected via these methods to enhance and expand its services.

Benchmarking Project– Osborne’s ETS program is participating in the Benchmarking Project of Public/Private Ventures (P/PV), along with over 150 other organizations providing workforce development services. As described in P/PV’s informational materials, the project “aims to identify meaningful outcome benchmarks for the workforce development field, so that practitioners, funders, and policymakers can be better informed about what constitutes ‘good’ performance when working with different populations and service delivery strategies. The project has developed a survey tool and reports that allow organizations across the country to anonymously compare their outcomes with similar programs.”

The project is specifically focused on job placement and retention outcomes, though the training provided to ETS staff encompasses important performance management concepts, such as:

- Data as a personal and organizational tool
- “Story telling” using data
- Data as a tool for improving performance
- Use of dashboard indicators

**What level of recidivism was found within the program? How does it compare to the recidivism levels of individuals who did not participate in the reentry program?** A recent review of ETS participants placed in jobs one year ago found that 71% had not returned to jail or prison.

**How many individuals participate in the program annually?** Employment and Training Services serves 200 - 250 participants, annually.

**When was the program established? How is it funded?** The program was established in 2001 and we are supported by a combination of state, federal and foundation funding.

**Does the program provide housing for the individuals involved? Does it provide (or help provide) employment?** No, the program does not provide housing for our program participants but the staff does offer referrals to housing upon request. Yes, the primary objective of Employment and Training Services is to provide participants with career training and then connect them to a local employer.

**Does the program work in cooperation or in conjunction with local community or faith-based organizations?** Yes, Employment and training services works in cooperation with community and faith based organizations such as ComAlert, St. Nicholas Neighborhood Preservation Corp., Dress for Success and Emmanuel Baptist Church.

**Is the program located within the home community of the participating individuals?** The program is open to people from all of the five boroughs of New York City.

**NAME OF REENTRY PROJECT:** The Osborn Association: FamilyWorks Program

**PROJECT WEBSITE:** [www.osborneny.org](http://www.osborneny.org)

**CONTACT NAME:** Randi Blumenthal-Guigui

**CONTACT PHONE NUMBER:** (845) 440-7924

**CONTACT EMAIL ADDRESS:** [rguigui@osborneny.org](mailto:rguigui@osborneny.org)

FamilyWorks repairs and strengthens the ties that may be broken when a father is incarcerated through a comprehensive fatherhood program including parenting education and family counseling in city and state correctional facilities, child-oriented visiting centers at several men's prisons, and community-based services for families. FamilyWorks utilizes proven approaches known to reduce trauma for children and families and improve outcomes for incarcerated parents, including courses on Healthy Relationships (for men) and Healthy Marriage (for couples in committed relationships).

**If a validation survey (or evaluation) of the program has been performed, what was the result?** The Osborne Association conducts ongoing internal evaluation of its services through pre and post-tests, surveys and focus groups and uses the data collected via these methods to enhance and expand its services.

**What level of recidivism was found within the program? How does it compare to the recidivism levels of individuals who did not participate in the reentry program?** They are currently in the process of gathering these statistics.

**How many individuals participate in the program annually?** FamilyWorks serves approximately 220 men, 500 children and 100 couples annually.

**When was the program established? How is it funded?** The program is funded by grants from the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families and the New York Dept. of Correctional Services.

**Does the program provide housing for the individuals involved? Does it provide (or help provide) employment?** The FamilyWorks staff will make referrals to program participants who are coming home.

**Does the program work in cooperation or in conjunction with local community or faith-based organizations?** FamilyWorks works in cooperation with the New York Department of Correctional Services.

**Is the program located within the home community of the participating individuals?** The program is located inside of seven New York State Prisons, including Sing Sing, Fishkill, Shawangunk, Woodbourne and Otisville Correctional Facilities. The Osborne Association, as an umbrella organization, has a presence in most communities where participants' families live.

**NAME OF REENTRY PROJECT:** The Osborn Association: Prevention and Treatment Services

**PROJECT WEBSITE:** [www.osborneny.org](http://www.osborneny.org)

**CONTACT NAME:** Gabriel Ramirez

**CONTACT PHONE NUMBER:** (718) 707-2600

**CONTACT EMAIL ADDRESS:** [GRamirez@osborneny.org](mailto:GRamirez@osborneny.org)

Osborne's Prevention and Treatment Services provide a holistic approach to managing health-related challenges, including drug/alcohol/tobacco use, chronic health conditions, and mental illness. Based on a comprehensive assessment, individuals are offered services that provide an appropriate level of care and support. Osborne's prevention and treatment services are evidence-based, utilizing cognitive behavioral interventions and approaches specific to criminal justice involvement.

El Rio (The River), a highly structured, medically supervised, certified intensive outpatient substance abuse treatment program, offers an alternative to incarceration or re-incarceration for those mandated to treatment by the court, probation or parole. El Rio also has a specialized treatment track focused on supporting younger participants and addressing marijuana dependence.

For those who would benefit from a lower threshold approach to treatment and reentry support, Osborne provides education and counseling, support groups, HIV and general health education, case management, on-site medical testing including TB screening, and assistance in



accessing benefits and health care. Housing placement assistance is available to those living with HIV/AIDS.

**If a validation survey (or evaluation) of the program has been performed, what was the result?** The Osborne Association conducts ongoing internal evaluation of its services through pre and post-tests, surveys and focus groups and uses the data collected via these methods to enhance and expand its services.

El Rio Re-arrest Study – The Office of the Criminal Justice Coordinator (OCJC) has contracted with the NYC Criminal Justice Agency (CJA) to conduct a re-arrest analysis of ATI clients who exited El Rio and three other ATI programs in 2006. They are working with CJA on this effort and are hoping to be able to use the results for in lobbying and communication efforts.

**What level of recidivism was found within the program? How does it compare to the recidivism levels of individuals who did not participate in the reentry program?** 79% of participants who exited El Rio, Osborne’s licensed treatment program, in 2005 had no new convictions two years after exit. For those who had a new conviction, 13% were convicted of a misdemeanor and 8% were convicted of a felony.

**How many individuals participate in the program annually?** Prevention and Treatment Services serves 550 participants annually.

**When was the program established? How is it funded?** The El Rio program was established in 1987 and it is funded by the New York State Division of Probation and Correctional Alternatives (DPCA) and the New York City Council. Community Prevention Services was founded in 2003 and is funded by Public Health Solutions and a grant from Ryan White.

**Does the program provide housing for the individuals involved? Does it provide (or help provide) employment?** Yes, Prevention and Treatment Services does have a housing unit, which works to find people impacted by the criminal justice system who are HIV/AIDS positive find housing. Osborne’s staff also provides referrals for emergency and transitional housing to our program participants if that information is requested. Prevention and Treatment Services does not provide direct employment but it does provide a comprehensive employment assessment and training service for its participants, including vocational/career training and placement.

**Does the program work in cooperation or in conjunction with local community or faith-based organizations?** Yes, Prevention and Treatment Services works in cooperation with local community and faith-based organizations including but not limited to, United Bronx Parents, Promesa Inc., Hunts Point Multi-service Center Inc., and Project Street Beat.

**Is the program located within the home community of the participating individuals?** Yes, Prevention and Treatment Services is located at Osborne’s Bronx site and primarily serves Bronx community members, however, the program also accepts participants from New York City’s other boroughs.

**NAME OF REENTRY PROJECT:** The Osborn Association: Family Ties

**PROJECT WEBSITE:** [www.osborneny.org](http://www.osborneny.org)

**CONTACT NAME:** Tanya Krupat

**CONTACT PHONE NUMBER:** (718) 637-6595

**CONTACT EMAIL ADDRESS:** [tkrupat@osborneny.org](mailto:tkrupat@osborneny.org)

Family Ties facilitates visits for children and their mothers at Albion Correctional Facility, New York's largest women's prison, offering parenting skills courses to incarcerated mothers, visiting support for their children, and family cohesion support upon release.

**If a validation survey (or evaluation) of the program has been performed, what was the result?** The Osborne Association conducts ongoing internal evaluation of its services through pre and post-tests, surveys and focus groups and uses the data collected via these methods to enhance and expand its services.

**What level of recidivism was found within the program? How does it compare to the recidivism levels of individuals who did not participate in the reentry program?** They don't track recidivism because many of the participants are released years after completing the program.

**How many individuals participate in the program annually?** Family Ties serves an average of 40 women and their children annually.

**When was the program established? How is it funded?** Family Ties is funded through the New York State Department of Correctional Services.

**Does the program provide housing for the individuals involved? Does it provide (or help provide) employment?** No, Family Ties does not provide housing or employment as a program in and of itself; however, the umbrella organization, the Osborne Association, offers a variety of vehicles to assist people who are incarcerated or formerly incarcerated with job training and placement and referrals for emergency and transitional housing.

**Does the program work in cooperation or in conjunction with local community or faith-based organizations?** The program was not created in partnership with community or faith-based groups but in the past they have had volunteers from St. James' Church and there is a church in Rochester which hosts the project when they take the children to visit their mothers.

**Is the program located within the home community of the participating individuals?** No, most of the participants are from New York City and the prison is located in upstate New York near Canadian border. The portion of the program for the children of participating mothers is located in their community, serving the children of mothers from all five boroughs.

**NAME OF REENTRY PROJECT:** The Osborn Association: Family Resource Center (FRC)

**PROJECT WEBSITE:** [www.osborneny.org](http://www.osborneny.org)

**CONTACT NAME:** William Eric Waters

**CONTACT PHONE NUMBER:** 1 (800) 344-3314

**CONTACT EMAIL ADDRESS:** [wwaters@osborneny.org](mailto:wwaters@osborneny.org)

The Family Resource Center offers family and friends of people in prison a toll-free hotline staffed by formerly incarcerated individuals and family members, as well as support groups, information, and referrals to services during incarceration and following release.

**If a validation survey (or evaluation) of the program has been performed, what was the result?** The Osborne Association conducts ongoing internal evaluation of its services through pre and post-tests, surveys and focus groups and uses the data collected via these methods to enhance and expand its services.

**What level of recidivism was found within the program? How does it compare to the recidivism levels of individuals who did not participate in the reentry program?** They do not track recidivism rates for this program.

**How many individuals participate in the program annually?** The Family Resource Center serves 150 participants annually at our Brooklyn site and supports an average of 2500 people through our free Hotline for staffed by formerly incarcerated individuals and family members, as well as support groups, information, and referrals to services during incarceration and following release.

**When was the program established? How is it funded?** The program was created in 2002 and is supported by foundation and state funding.

**Does the program provide housing for the individuals involved? Does it provide (or help provide) employment?** No, the program does not provide housing, however, staff referrals both in-house and to outside agencies, are made where appropriate. Yes, the Family Resource Center helps provide help employment for the people we serve.

**Does the program work in cooperation or in conjunction with local community or faith-based organizations?**

Yes, the Family Resource Center works with local community and faith-based organizations to provide the widest collection of services for the people they serve.

**Is the program located within the home community of the participating individuals?**

Yes, most of the support group participants live in the five boroughs of New York City; however, the Hotline receives calls come from across the United States.

**NAME OF REENTRY PROJECT:** The Osborn Association: Queensboro ReEntry

**PROJECT WEBSITE:** [www.osborneny.org](http://www.osborneny.org)

**CONTACT NAME:** William Eric Waters

**CONTACT PHONE NUMBER:** (718) 637-6560

**CONTACT EMAIL ADDRESS:** [wwaters@oborneny.org](mailto:wwaters@oborneny.org)

Osborne operates a pilot project at Queensboro Correctional Facility, a state prison in New York City for men who are close to release, providing a family-focused reentry program to reconnect and prepare families for the challenges of returning home.

**If a validation survey (or evaluation) of the program has been performed, what was the result?** The Osborne Association conducts ongoing internal evaluation of its services through pre and post-tests, surveys and focus groups and uses the data collected via these methods to enhance and expand its services.

**What level of recidivism was found within the program? How does it compare to the recidivism levels of individuals who did not participate in the reentry program?** This is a new program and is in the process of collecting data for future improvement and comparison.

**How many individuals participate in the program annually?** An estimated 2400 men take classes through the Queensboro ReEntry program and 240 men receive discharge planning assistance annually.

**When was the program established? How is it funded?** The program was established in June 2009 with a grant from the U.S. Dept. of Justice administered through the New York Division of Criminal Justice Services.

**Does the program provide housing for the individuals involved? Does it provide (or help provide) employment?** Queensboro provides referrals for emergency and transitional housing and also for employment services.

**Does the program work in cooperation or in conjunction with local community or faith-based organizations?** Yes, Queensboro ReEntry serves as a hub for reentry services and so relies on community and faith-based organizations, which act as referral sources for our participants.

**Is the program located within the home community of the participating individuals?** Yes, Queensboro ReEntry is located in Queens and serves primarily Queens County residents.

**NAME OF REENTRY PROJECT:** Prisoner Reentry Project, Legal Services of New Jersey

**PROJECT WEBSITE:** [www.lsnj.org](http://www.lsnj.org)

**CONTACT NAME:** Lynette Siragusa

**CONTACT PHONE NUMBER:** (732) 572-9100

**CONTACT EMAIL ADDRESS:** [lsiragusa@lsnj.org](mailto:lsiragusa@lsnj.org)

The Legal Services of New Jersey instituted a Prisoner Reentry Project, which is designed to assist formerly incarcerated individuals with various civil matters, including consumer issues, expungement, family issues, drivers license restoration, public entitlements, employment discrimination and housing discrimination. They also represent incarcerated individuals with various civil issues including but not limited to child support suspensions, bankruptcies, and consumer issues.

**If a validation survey (or evaluation) of the program has been performed, what was the result?** No survey has been performed.

**What level of recidivism was found within the program? How does it compare to the recidivism levels of individuals who did not participate in the reentry program?** This information is not currently available.

**How many individuals participate in the program annually?** This information is not currently available.

**When was the program established? How is it funded?** The program was funded through grants from New Jersey State.

**Does the program provide housing for the individuals involved? Does it provide (or help provide) employment?** Yes, the program provides advices and support in both housing and employment. It also offers case management services to participants.

**Does the program work in cooperation or in conjunction with local community or faith-based organizations?** No.

**Is the program located within the home community of the participating individuals?** Yes.

**NAME OF REENTRY PROJECT:** Prison Families of New York, Inc.

**PROJECT WEBSITE:** [www.prisonfamiliesofnewyork.org](http://www.prisonfamiliesofnewyork.org)

**CONTACT NAME:** Alison Coleman

**CONTACT PHONE NUMBER:** (518) 453-6659

**CONTACT EMAIL ADDRESS:** [Alison.coleman@rcda.org](mailto:Alison.coleman@rcda.org)

PFNY is a loose statewide network of families and friends of NYS prisoners, formerly incarcerated people and their families, people of conscience who have approached them with the desire to improve the quality of life for prison families, educators who want to work better with children of prisoners, agencies and communities of faith that contact us to get more involved and state and county agencies that rely on the organization for accurate information about the population they represent and serve. PFNY travels statewide to help develop resources for prison families and re-entry. They run support groups, testify at hearings, provide talks, trainings, dinners, retreats and other special events that focus on prison families. They develop the prison family collective voice and also speak for those who cannot.

**If a validation survey (or evaluation) of the program has been performed, what was the result?** No validation survey has been performed.

**What level of recidivism was found within the program? How does it compare to the recidivism levels of individuals who did not participate in the reentry program?** This information is not currently available.

**How many individuals participate in the program annually?** Over 100.

**When was the program established? How is it funded?** The program was initially instituted in the 1980s, and was restarted in 2000.

**Does the program provide housing for the individuals involved? Does it provide (or help provide) employment?** The program does not provide housing, but it does provide some support in terms of finding employment.

**Does the program work in cooperation or in conjunction with local community or faith-based organizations?** Yes.

**Is the program located within the home community of the participating individuals?** Yes.

**NAME OF REENTRY PROJECT:** Project RIO (ReIntegration of Offenders)

**PROJECT WEBSITE:** <http://www.twc.state.tx.us/svcs/rio.html>

**CONTACT NAME:** John Ownby

**CONTACT PHONE NUMBER:** (512) 463-0834

**CONTACT EMAIL ADDRESS:** [john.ownby@twc.state.tx.us](mailto:john.ownby@twc.state.tx.us)

Project RIO is administered by the Texas Workforce Commission in collaboration with Local Workforce Development Boards, the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ), the Windham School District and The Texas Youth Commission (TYC). The project provides a link between education, training and employment during incarceration with employment, training and education after release. The program is designed to reduce recidivism through employment. Numerous studies have shown reduced recidivism rates for employed ex-offenders, so this organization focuses on employment opportunities. Services are offered to program participants pre- and post-release. An individualized treatment plan is developed to identify a career path for the offender and to guide placement decisions. Prior to release, a comprehensive evaluation is conducted to assess the needs of the offender and assist in the selection and placement in Windham, college, TDCJ and TYC programs. The evaluation process is a multi-step approach that includes information gathering, goal-setting, program placement and offender self-assessment.

**If a validation survey (or evaluation) of the program has been performed, what was the result?** A validation survey has been performed, and overall the projects has performed well. See page 445 of:

[http://www.lbb.state.tx.us/Performance%20Reporting/TX Govt Effective Efficiency Report 80th 0107.pdf#Page1](http://www.lbb.state.tx.us/Performance%20Reporting/TX_Govt_Effective_Efficiency_Report_80th_0107.pdf#Page1)

**What level of recidivism was found within the program? How does it compare to the recidivism levels of individuals who did not participate in the reentry program?** Recidivism rates have shown a considerable improvement over those who do not participate in any sort of reentry program.

**How many individuals participate in the program annually?** Over 60,000 ex-offenders participate in this program every year, and these numbers continue to increase.

**When was the program established? How is it funded?** The program was established as a Texas state initiative and through general revenue. It began as a pilot program in 1985, and has expanded considerably since its inception.

**Does the program provide housing for the individuals involved? Does it provide (or help provide) employment?** Housing is not currently internalized to Project RIO. Housing assistance is currently made available by referral to other governmental, community and faith based organizations where this resource is available in the reentry community.

**Does the program work in cooperation or in conjunction with local community or faith-based organizations?** Yes, on a referral basis in release community. There are also pre-release staff networks with faith-based organizations in the correctional environment.

**Is the program located within the home community of the participating individuals?** Pre-release components operate in state level correctional facilities (adult and youth) across the state. Post-release employment referral services are based in workforce center system (a.k.a. one stop, career centers) across Texas.

**NAME OF REENTRY PROJECT:** Reentry Employment Law Project, South Brooklyn Legal Services

**PROJECT WEBSITE:** [www.sbls.org/index.php?id=9](http://www.sbls.org/index.php?id=9)

**CONTACT NAME:** Nicole Salk

**CONTACT PHONE NUMBER:** (718) 237-5516

**CONTACT EMAIL ADDRESS:** [NSalk@sbls.org](mailto:NSalk@sbls.org)

The Re-Entry Employment Project is a new initiative of the Employment Law Unit to provide legal advice and advocacy to individuals facing illegal employment discrimination on the basis of past criminal convictions. Through partnerships with community-based organizations, they assist individuals with criminal backgrounds to correct errors on rap sheets, and to obtain Certificates of Relief from Disabilities and Certificates of Good Conduct. The Project is engaged in litigation against employers and licensing agencies to challenge illegal employment discrimination based solely on criminal convictions.

The Project works collaboratively with Brooklyn community-based reentry and job training programs including the Fifth Avenue Committee and the Hope Program. They conduct community education workshops at these sites to educate job training participants about their employment rights and how to address questions regarding criminal background as they seek employment.

**If a validation survey (or evaluation) of the program has been performed, what was the result?** No validation survey has been performed.

**What level of recidivism was found within the program? How does it compare to the recidivism levels of individuals who did not participate in the reentry program?** This information is not currently available.

**How many individuals participate in the program annually?** This information is not currently available.

**When was the program established? How is it funded?** The program is established through private funding and grants from the state.

**Does the program provide housing for the individuals involved? Does it provide (or help provide) employment?** The program does not provide housing or employment, but it does provide employment training.

**Does the program work in cooperation or in conjunction with local community or faith-based organizations?** Yes.

**Is the program located within the home community of the participating individuals?** Yes.



**NAME OF REENTRY PROJECT:** Reentry Law Project, Legal Aid of Western Michigan

**PROJECT WEBSITE:** <http://www.legalaidwestmich.org/reentryproject>

**CONTACT NAME:** Miriam Aukerman

**CONTACT PHONE NUMBER:** (616) 774-0672 Ext. 114

**CONTACT EMAIL ADDRESS:** [maukerman@legalaidwestmich.org](mailto:maukerman@legalaidwestmich.org)

For more than 30 years, Legal Services Corporation funded agencies in Western Michigan have provided free legal assistance to low income persons and seniors in non-criminal, non-fee generating matters. Legal Aid of Western Michigan currently serves people in 17 counties in the lower Western part of Michigan with offices in Big Rapids, Grand Rapids, Holland, Kalamazoo, Muskegon, Niles and St. Joseph. The administrative headquarters is located in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The organization generally helps out with counseling and representation, but it also has some reentry programs designed to help prisoners returning to the community.

**If a validation survey (or evaluation) of the program has been performed, what was the result?** No validation survey has been performed.

**What level of recidivism was found within the program? How does it compare to the recidivism levels of individuals who did not participate in the reentry program?** They do not currently keep track of this information, as the organization does not provide personal case management services.

**How many individuals participate in the program annually?** This information is not currently available.

**When was the program established? How is it funded?** The program is funded through state grants and some private funding.

**Does the program provide housing for the individuals involved? Does it provide (or help provide) employment?** No, these services are not provided.

**Does the program work in cooperation or in conjunction with local community or faith-based organizations?** No.

**Is the program located within the home community of the participating individuals?** Yes.

**NAME OF REENTRY PROJECT:** Rehabilitation Through the Arts (RTA)

**PROJECT WEBSITE:** [www.p-c-i.org](http://www.p-c-i.org)

**CONTACT NAME:** Ricky Gold

**CONTACT PHONE NUMBER:** (914) 232-7566

**CONTACT EMAIL ADDRESS:** [rgold@p-c-i.org](mailto:rgold@p-c-i.org)

Rehabilitation Through the Arts (RTA) is a program that works with about 200 prisoners in 5 New York State facilities by developing life skills through creative arts. Many of the participants are able to take on the challenge of a GED and college as a direct result of the confidence, self-discipline, cognitive and other skills they have developed through RTA. RTA has also opened the door to more open and honest dialogue with prisoner families and has had a significant impact on improved family relationships.

Although not a traditional reentry program, it would we qualify under NYS DOCS' new philosophy, that re-entry planning begins from the first day in prison. RTA runs year round. Its goal is to use theater arts to offer prisoners a safe and supportive structure in which to build skills, to develop leadership, community, and respect for self and for others, and to recognize a sense of achievement. In the often brutalizing and harsh prison environment, these are precious and rare attributes. The RTA program was founded in 1996 at Sing Sing Maximum Security Correctional Facility in Ossining, NY. This privately funded program was created to help fill the gap left after all publicly funded higher education and enrichment programs were withdrawn from the New York State Prison system. RTA runs year round. Its goal is to use theater arts to offer prisoners a safe and supportive structure in which to build skills, to develop leadership, community, and respect for self and for others, and to recognize a sense of achievement. In the often brutalizing and harsh prison environment, these are precious and rare attributes.

**If a validation survey (or evaluation) of the program has been performed, what was the result?** No validation survey has been performed.

**What level of recidivism was found within the program? How does it compare to the recidivism levels of individuals who did not participate in the reentry program?** N/A

**How many individuals participate in the program annually?** Approximately 200.

**When was the program established? How is it funded?** The program was established in 1996 and is privately funded.

**Does the program provide housing for the individuals involved? Does it provide (or help provide) employment?** N/A

**Does the program work in cooperation or in conjunction with local community or faith-based organizations?** N/A

**Is the program located within the home community of the participating individuals?** N/A

**NAME OF REENTRY PROJECT:** Rochester Rehabilitation Center's Reentry Program

**PROJECT WEBSITE:** [www.rochesterrehab.org](http://www.rochesterrehab.org)

**CONTACT NAME:** Jeffrey Dulko

**CONTACT PHONE NUMBER:** (585) 263-2690

**CONTACT EMAIL ADDRESS:** [j\\_dulko@rochesterrehab.org](mailto:j_dulko@rochesterrehab.org)

Rochester Rehab is mainly a rehabilitation organization, but it also works to ensure that ex-offenders have the tools they need to make a successful reentry into their respective communities. Their work begins after the individuals are released, and they help the individual participants to learn how to reenter and avoid making the same mistakes that led to their incarceration.

**If a validation survey (or evaluation) of the program has been performed, what was the result?** DOL Audit conducted and passed. Concerns were raised about receiving proper validation of some of the clients' criminal records.

**What level of recidivism was found within the program? How does it compare to the recidivism levels of individuals who did not participate in the reentry program?** 13 out of 200.

**How many individuals participate in the program annually?** Approximately 200.

**When was the program established? How is it funded?** Both programs were initiated in the early part of 2008.

**Does the program provide housing for the individuals involved? Does it provide (or help provide) employment?** It provides referrals for housing and listings of available apartments.

**Does the program work in cooperation or in conjunction with local community or faith-based organizations?** Yes, they work closely with the Catholic Family Center of Rochester, NY, who provides case management assistance and referrals. They also receive referrals from the county Dept of Human Services, Parole, and the Work Release Program (Rochester Correctional Facility).

**Is the program located within the home community of the participating individuals?** Yes.

**NAME OF REENTRY PROJECT:** Second Chance Community Legal Clinics, Ohio Justice and Policy Center

**PROJECT WEBSITE:** [www.ohiojpc.org/main.html](http://www.ohiojpc.org/main.html)

**CONTACT NAME:** Stephen JohnsonGrove

**CONTACT PHONE NUMBER:** (513) 421-1108

**CONTACT EMAIL ADDRESS:** [sjohnsongrove@ohiojpc.org](mailto:sjohnsongrove@ohiojpc.org)

The Second Chance Project works to reduce crime in the community by helping resolve problems that make it difficult for many former offenders to become gainfully employed, productive members of the community upon release from prison. This project helps provide free legal services to formerly incarcerated men and women through outreach legal clinics, held in local soup kitchens and community centers. They also offer juvenile-focused clinics that provide legal services to adolescents and young adults who have been through the juvenile justice system and face legal problems that make it difficult for them to productively reenter the community.

**If a validation survey (or evaluation) of the program has been performed, what was the result?** The program sends client satisfaction surveys at the close of each case and aggregate the data every six months. The surveys are gathered at different points during the process to evaluate participant satisfaction. Roughly 95% of the participants found the services very helpful.

**What level of recidivism was found within the program? How does it compare to the recidivism levels of individuals who did not participate in the reentry program?** This information is not currently available.

**How many individuals participate in the program annually?** 600, which includes both brief advice & information cases (~85%), as well as full client representation cases (~15%).

**When was the program established? How is it funded?** Established in November 2004. It is funded with local government dollars (community development block grant), other charitable grants, a small contract as a sub-grantee of a Department of Labor grant, and private donations.

**Does the program provide housing for the individuals involved? Does it provide (or help provide) employment?** No.

**Does the program work in cooperation or in conjunction with local community or faith-based organizations?** Yes.

**Is the program located within the home community of the participating individuals?** Yes.

**NAME OF REENTRY PROJECT:** Soul Solutions

**PROJECT WEBSITE:** N/A

**CONTACT NAME:** Samuel Williams

**CONTACT PHONE NUMBER:** (917) 838-6813

**CONTACT EMAIL ADDRESS:** [soulsolutions@optonline.net](mailto:soulsolutions@optonline.net)

Soul Solutions is a relatively new program that has begun helping ex-offenders in Westchester and Yonkers, NY. The program focus on the case management of recently released individuals, and helps them find ways to reenter society. Its primary focus is on helping the individuals find employment, and it also helps the individuals to gain new skills (such as computer skills and good interviewing techniques). Soul Solutions also focuses on helping women that have spent time in prison, as they view women as a group that has not received the same amount of support with regard to reentry programs.

The program is generally considered a faith-based initiative, although it is not associated with a particular religion. Rather, it focuses on spirituality and helping ex-offenders deal with their past mistakes and move forward with their lives. Although conceptually initiated in 2000, the organization has only recently begun working with ex-offenders on a larger scale.

**If a validation survey (or evaluation) of the program has been performed, what was the result?** No validation survey has been performed, as the program is still technically in its infancy.

**What level of recidivism was found within the program? How does it compare to the recidivism levels of individuals who did not participate in the reentry program?** These numbers are not available.

**How many individuals participate in the program annually?** The program hopes to begin helping individuals on a large scale, possibly by helping over 100 ex-offenders per year.

**When was the program established? How is it funded?** The program was established in 2000. It has been funded up to this point mostly through volunteer work, "in-kind" services, and donations. However, as the organization begins to expand, it will need greater resources and funding.

**Does the program provide housing for the individuals involved? Does it provide (or help provide) employment?** No.

**Does the program work in cooperation or in conjunction with local community or faith-based organizations?** Yes.

**Is the program located within the home community of the participating individuals?**

**NAME OF REENTRY PROJECT:** Trinity Program

**PROJECT WEBSITE:** N/A

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The Trinity Program is a faith-based initiative that provides reentry services to ex-offenders, including counseling, training, drug treatment, and other services. Through its efforts in Manhattan, the city was able to drastically reduce recidivism rates among many high-risk offenders.

**If a validation survey (or evaluation) of the program has been performed, what was the result?** A survey has been performed with favorable results.

**What level of recidivism was found within the program? How does it compare to the recidivism levels of individuals who did not participate in the reentry program?** As a direct impact of their services, Manhattan Parole reduced Recidivism by 7% and awarded them the Linda B. Mills Award for Reentry Services.

**How many individuals participate in the program annually?** This information is not currently available.

**When was the program established? How is it funded?** The program was established in 2007 as a pilot program. Is it currently a vendor of VESID and is seeking other funders.

**Does the program provide housing for the individuals involved? Does it provide (or help provide) employment?** The program both provides housing and employment for those involved.

**Does the program work in cooperation or in conjunction with local community or faith-based organizations?** Yes, the program does work with local organizations.

**Is the program located within the home community of the participating individuals?** No, the program is not located within the home community of most participants.