



The Cabinet-level Reentry Council is working to enhance community safety and well-being, assist those returning from prison and jail in becoming productive citizens, and save taxpayer dollars by lowering the direct and collateral costs of incarceration.

Overview

Each year, some 640,000 individuals are released from state and federal prisons. Another 11.6 million cycle through local jails. When reentry fails, the costs—both societal and economic—are high. More than two-thirds of state prisoners are rearrested within three years of their release; half are reincarcerated. High rates of recidivism mean more crime, more victims, and more pressure on an already overburdened criminal justice system. The United States now spends about \$80 billion annually on federal, state, and local corrections.



Inaugural meeting of the Cabinet-level Reentry Council

Our Mission:

The Federal Interagency Reentry Council represents 20 federal agencies, working to:

- *make communities safer by reducing recidivism and victimization;*
- *assist people who return from prison and jail to become productive citizens; and*
- *save taxpayer dollars by lowering the direct and collateral costs of incarceration.*

The Reentry Council, established by Attorney General Eric Holder in January 2011, represents a significant executive branch commitment to coordinating reentry efforts and advancing effective reentry policies. It is premised on the recognition that many federal agencies have a major stake in prisoner reentry. The reentry population is one we are already working with—not

only in our prisons, jails, and juvenile facilities, but in our emergency rooms, homeless shelters, unemployment lines, child support offices, veterans' hospitals, and elsewhere. When we extend out to the children and families of returning prisoners, the intersection is even greater.

A chief focus of the Reentry Council is to remove federal barriers to successful reentry, so that motivated individuals—who have served their time and paid their debts—are able to compete for a job, attain stable housing, support their children and their families, and contribute to their communities. Reentry Council agencies are taking concrete steps toward these ends, to not only reduce recidivism and high correctional costs, but also to improve public health, child welfare, employment, education, housing, and other key reintegration outcomes.

Reentry Council Agencies

U.S. Department of Justice
 U.S. Department of Interior
 U.S. Department of Agriculture
 U.S. Department of Labor
 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
 U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
 U.S. Department of Education
 U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
 Office of National Drug Control Policy
 U.S. Social Security Administration

Domestic Policy Council
 U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission
 Office of Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships
 Office of Personnel Management
 Office of Management and Budget
 Internal Revenue Service
 Federal Trade Commission
 U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness
 Small Business Administration
 Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency

For more information, please visit the Reentry Council website:

<http://csgjusticecenter.org/nrrc/projects/firc/>

Reentry Council Resources

Reentry MythBusters

Reentry MythBusters are designed to clarify existing federal policies that affect formerly incarcerated individuals and their families and to point them to helpful resources. <http://csgjusticecenter.org/nrrc/projects/mythbusters/>

Employment

- On the Federal Bonding Program
- On Hiring/Criminal Records Guidance
- On Federal Hiring Policies
- On the Work Opportunity Tax Credit
- On Criminal Histories and Background Checks

Housing

- On Public Housing

Juveniles

- On Juvenile Criminal Records
- On Medicaid Suspension vs. Termination for Juveniles
- On Youth Access to Education upon Reentry

Education

- On Federal Student Financial Aid
- On FERPA/Student Records

Access to Federal Benefits

- On Veterans Compensation Benefits
- On SNAP Benefits

Access to Federal Benefits (continued)

- On SNAP Benefits/ID
- On TANF Benefits
- On Social Security Benefits

Additional Reentry MythBusters

- On Voting Rights
- On Parental Rights
- On Child Support Modifications
- On Federal Tax Obligations and Benefits
- On Child Support/Drivers Licenses
- On Replacement Social Security Cards

Children of Incarcerated Parents Series

- On Child Welfare
- On Medicaid
- On Parental Arrests
- On Social Security
- On TANF Eligibility
- On SNAP Eligibility

Reentry Snapshots

Each Snapshot briefly describes the issue, summarizes Reentry Council accomplishments to date, lays out the Council's priorities moving forward, and points to key resources and links. <http://csgjusticecenter.org/nrrc/projects/firc/snapshots/>

- Employment
- Education
- Housing
- Public Safety
- Justice-Involved Veterans
- Child Support
- Women and Reentry
- Reentry in Reservation Communities
- Children of Incarcerated Parents
- Access to Health Care (forthcoming)
- Juvenile Reentry (forthcoming)

Selected Policy Documents and Additional Resources

National Reentry Resource Center

<http://csgjusticecenter.org/nrrc>

National Criminal Justice Initiatives Map

<http://csgjusticecenter.org/reentry/national-criminal-justice-initiatives-map/>

Reentry Funding Opportunities

<http://csgjusticecenter.org/nrrc/resources/funding-opportunities/>

What Works in Reentry Clearinghouse

<http://whatworks.csgjusticecenter.org/>

Attorney General Holder's Letter on Collateral Consequences

http://csgjusticecenter.org/documents/0000/1088/Reentry_Council_AG_Letter.pdf

National Inventory on the Collateral Consequences of Criminal Convictions

<http://www.abacollateralconsequences.org/>

Children of Incarcerated Parents Resource Page

<http://www.findyouthinfo.gov/youth-topics/children-of-incarcerated-parents>

SSA Benefits after Incarceration: What You Need to Know

<http://www.ssa.gov/reentry/>

HUD Secretary Donovan's Letter on HUD-assisted Housing

http://csgjusticecenter.org/documents/0000/1130/HUD_letter.pdf

EEOC Guidance on Use of Criminal Records in Employment Decisions

http://www.eeoc.gov/laws/guidance/arrest_conviction.cfm

DOL Training & Employment Notice

http://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/attach/TEN/ten2011/TEN08_11acc.pdf

HHS Office of Child Support Enforcement Reentry Resources

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/css/resource/reentry>