



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.

Juvenile Reentry

On any given day, approximately 60,000 youth are confined in juvenile detention and correctional facilities and hundreds of thousands more are on probation. This contact with the juvenile justice system has a significant impact on adolescents' development and their prospects for long-term success. As a result, juvenile reentry encompasses more than just aftercare for youth returning to the community from secure confinement, but is also a process that begins the moment youth come into contact with the juvenile justice system, helping them transition from system supervision to a crime-free, productive adulthood.

Youth typically face a host of challenges to making this transition successful, including receiving the necessary support from their families, peers, and communities; enrolling in an appropriate educational and/or vocational setting; maintaining a continuity of treatment for mental health and/or substance use disorders; and transitioning to adulthood and economic independence. Jurisdictions are more likely to reduce reoffending and improve other key outcomes for youth by adopting and effectively implementing the integrated set of policies and practices demonstrated by research as effective in helping youth to overcome these challenges. The Interagency Juvenile Reentry Committee is committed to supporting jurisdictions and the field at large to improve existing reentry efforts as well as the coordination and effectiveness of federal initiatives accordingly.

Accomplishments to Date

- The Department of Justice's most recent Second Chance Act solicitations are designed to maximize the impact of these grants by placing a greater emphasis on grantees' planning and implementing reentry improvement initiatives as well as comprehensive reentry systems reforms, and on the adoption, integration, and effective implementation of the policies and practices that research has demonstrated reduce reoffending.
- The Department of Labor supported a series of grant programs designed to provide job training and employment services for youth involved with the juvenile justice system, as well as for young adults who were formerly incarcerated. These grant programs include High-Poverty, High-Crime Communities, Training and Service Learning; Face Forward; and Characteristics Common to Female Ex-Offenders.
- The Attorney General and Secretary of Education jointly issued a letter focused on the need to provide high-quality educational opportunities to youth who are confined. The letter previews a guide to building high-quality educational programs in confinement facilities and lists the fundamental principles that will be developed within the guide. These principles are in the areas of institutional climate, resources, staffing, instruction, and transitional supports.
- The Department of Education and the Department of Health and Human Services published Reentry MythBusters on correctional education and Medicaid eligibility for youth in confinement. The MythBusters are designed to clarify key existing federal policies that impact the confinement and successful reentry of youth.
- The Department of Education hosted a Summit on Education in Correctional Facilities. After the Summit, key stakeholders engaged in eight listening sessions across the country to learn more about the challenges of providing quality correctional and reentry education and career/technical training for youth. Based on the feedback provided by summit participants, an

extensive [set of recommendations](#) was published for improving youth correctional and reentry education.

- The Office of Justice Programs hosted the Third Annual Summit on Youth Violence Prevention. Representatives from the 10 cities in the [National](#)

[Forum on Youth Violence Prevention](#) attended sessions designed to help participants advance a comprehensive, evidence-based approach to reducing youth violence, including upon returning to the community after confinement.

Agenda Moving Forward

Promote States' Efforts to Track Youth Outcomes

Reentry Council agencies will provide more robust standards and guidance on recidivism and other key youth outcomes that jurisdictions should track, and will help increase the capacity of jurisdictions to collect, analyze, report, and use this data to guide their reentry initiatives.

Highlight “What Works” to Reduce Recidivism and Improve Youth Outcomes

Reentry Council agencies will promote the core strategies proven by research to improve juvenile reentry outcomes, and provide tools to help jurisdictions to use these strategies to inform and effectively implement their own reentry policies and practices.

Address Reentry Knowledge and Resource Coordination Gaps

Reentry Council agencies will identify significant knowledge and resource coordination gaps that are impeding efforts to reduce recidivism and improve key youth reentry outcomes, and will collaboratively design and test research-based practice models to address these gaps.

Strengthen Policy and Funding Coordination

Reentry Council agencies will enhance their commitment to interagency coordination through joint funding initiatives that address priority reentry reform needs. As one example, the Departments of Education and Justice are partnering to fund a demonstration program to improve correctional education and post-release educational/vocational outcomes for juveniles.

Key Resources (Juvenile Reentry)

Reentry Council

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

Reentry MythBusters

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

National Reentry Resource Center—Juvenile Reentry

<http://csgjusticecenter.org/youth/juvenile-reentry/>

Five Emerging Practices in Juvenile Reentry

<http://csgjusticecenter.org/youth/posts/five-emerging-practices-in-juvenile-reentry/>

Crimesolutions.gov—Juvenile Justice

<http://www.crimesolutions.gov/TopicDetails.aspx?ID=5>