



NORTH CAROLINA  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**  
PREVENT.PROTECT.PREPARE

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# Rehabilitative Programs and Services

# **Justice Reinvestment Act of 2011**

- **Significantly altered North Carolina's sentencing laws and its corrections policies**
- **The purpose of JRA is to move North Carolina toward reducing its prison population and its spending on corrections, and to reinvest those savings into community-based programs**

# **Why Justice Reinvestment?**

**The Council of State Governments Justice Center began conducting a study in 2009 of North Carolina's criminal justice system. Among their key findings were:**

- North Carolina's prison population was projected to increase by 10 percent between 2010 and 2020;**
- Most felons (all Class F-I offenders, who account for 85 percent of all felons) had no community supervision upon release from prison;**
- More than half of new prison admissions were revoked probationers;**
- Community-based treatment programs were not allocated in an evidence-based way, and**
- North Carolina was unusual in the number of misdemeanants housed in its prison system instead of local jails.**

# Recidivism and Public Safety

Why is focusing on recidivism important?

- Public safety officials and experts know that reducing recidivism can have a profound impact on the long-term public safety of communities.
- In order to advance public safety it is critical to break the cycle of reincarceration for the thousands of individuals returning home from prisons every year.

# **What can community leaders and executive policymakers do to reduce recidivism?**

- In order for this to happen effectively, corrections administrators must develop formal partnerships with state agencies and community organizations in order to build sufficient capacity in the community to meet recidivism reduction goals.
- Make recidivism reduction a local priority.
- Identify key stakeholders from different local agencies and organizations that impact the reentry process in your community and hold them responsible for their role in advancing recidivism reduction goals.

# **What can community leaders and executive policymakers do to reduce recidivism? (con't)**

- Develop plans to implement policies and practices that research has shown to reduce recidivism.
- Fund evidence-based programs and services at levels that meet the needs of high-risk offenders and ensure that they are implemented effectively.
- Provide incentives to agencies for implementing practices that reduce recidivism and revocations.
- Strengthen and support non-profit groups focused on the reentry population.

# Community Needs Assessment Sites

- ✓ Mecklenburg County
- ✓ Wake County
- ✓ Buncombe County
- ✓ Durham County
- ✓ Forsyth County
- ✓ New Hanover County
- ✓ Pitt County
- ✓ Hoke, Robeson & Scotland Counties
- ✓ Nash, Edgecombe & Wilson Counties

# Community Needs Assessments

- Goal: Develop detailed analysis of assets or resources as well as gaps and barriers in reentry services
- Methodology:
  - Focus groups
  - Individual interviews
  - NCDPS County Resource Database

# Community Needs Assessments

- Findings:
  - Contacted 732 agencies, updated information for 554 agencies
  - Unmet Needs (identified by the agencies):
    - Housing
    - Employment
    - Lack of Transportation
    - Lack of Treatment Services
    - Lack of Vocational Training
    - Lack of Funding

# Community Needs Assessments

- Treatment Services
  - While MH and SA service are available, difficulty accessing or affording services
  - Released with some medications, difficult to get refills on time
  - Difficulty accessing services in rural areas due to fewer providers and transportation issues

# Establish Reentry Councils

- The most effective strategy for developing a relationship between prisons and the community, and to more effectively prepare and organize communities for the return of these former offenders, is to establish local reentry councils.
- The NC General Assembly designated the North Carolina Department of Public Safety/Rehabilitative Programs and Services Section as the single state authority responsible for the coordination and implementation of ex-offender reentry policy initiatives.
- A Local Reentry Council (LRC) consists of an organized network of individuals and agencies from different disciplines and backgrounds that have a role or significant interest in providing supervision and coordination of innovative responses to the reintegration of offenders/formerly incarcerated individuals at the local level.
- The purpose of the LRC is to bring together stakeholders who could offer assistance and resources to help offenders/formerly incarcerated individuals to become productive citizens, reduce recidivism and victimization.

# Roles and Responsibilities

Roles and responsibilities of each council include but are not limited to the following:

- Addressing service gaps with local resources individuals face in their communities.
- Developing a network of resources and service providers within their local communities.
- Developing and executing a public education plan to change public perception about individuals returning to communities.
- Identifying potential funding to support local reentry initiatives.

# Benefit to Communities

- Keep the reentry council members engaged and ensure everyone has a role in the reentry process.
- Engage local housing authorities about relaxing some housing restrictions for persons being released with certain offenses.
- Educate local employers about the importance of hiring persons with a criminal history
  - Possible tax credit and federal bonding
  - Public safety – working individuals are less likely to re-offend
  - Potentially highly skilled trained individuals

# Benefit to Communities (con't)

- Ensure local governmental agencies understand policies that relate to persons recently released from prison
  - DMV – Know what to ask for (TDE)
  - Social Services – Know what services are available based on criminal history.
- Educate and engage local District Attorneys and Judges on misdemeanor traffic violations and/or pending charges that could possibly be satisfied and/or dismissed during an individual's incarceration. Some of the benefits include:
  - Expediting the offender's transition process with obtaining their licensure/identification
  - Alleviating the local sheriff department's cost of transporting an individual from prison to the county due to pending charges

# Local Reentry Council Pilot Sites

- ✓ Mecklenburg County
- ✓ Buncombe County
- ✓ Pitt County
- ✓ Nash, Edgecombe & Wilson Counties
- ✓ Hoke, Scotland & Robeson Counties

# Local Governance Structure Overview

## Local Reentry Council



# Intermediary Agency

An intermediary agency is the entity that will provide the administrative support, coordination and implementation of the reentry policy initiative for formerly incarcerated individuals and those individuals under supervision.

This will include the following:

- Coordinating all aspects of the local reentry council
- Serving as the liaison between NCDPS (Rehabilitative Programs & Services) and the local reentry coordinators
- Working with other agencies in the community who wish to raise funds for LRC services

# Intermediary Agencies

- Mecklenburg: Mecklenburg County, Criminal Justice Services
- Buncombe: Buncombe County, RHA Health Services, Inc.
- Pitt: STRIVE
- Nash, Edgecombe, Wilson: NC Community Action Association
- Hoke, Scotland, Robeson: Robeson County Department of Public Health, Center for Community Action

# Local Reentry Coordinator

The primary role of the local reentry coordinator is to be the “point of contact” to coordinate the local reentry council.

This will include:

- Managing the local reentry council
- Recruiting and collaborating with service providers and criminal justice professionals
- Providing outreach to and education on the importance of reentry to the public
- Coordinating the community’s input in the implementation of a comprehensive plan.

# Local Job Placement Specialist

The primary role of the Local Job Placement Specialist (JPS) is to provide direct services that address the employment, vocational and training needs of formerly incarcerated individuals and those under supervision.

This will include:

- Cultivating and educating a pool of potential employers
- Providing employability training, job seeking resources and job coaching assistance to individuals
- Developing individual employment strategies or employment plans for individuals
- Working with existing Offender Employment Specialists and other workforce development staff designated to work with this targeted population.

# Information Technology

- NCDPS has proposed utilizing a web-based portal that enables the connection of individuals to services in the community based on their criminogenic needs profile.
- The proposed system would automate the correctional discharge planning and management process of individuals.
- This type technology would automate workflow capability and allow stakeholders the ability to build a custom discharge plan for each individual that matches the individual's needs for housing, education, employment, substance abuse and social services with the right Community Based Organizations (CBOs).

# Local Reentry Council Annual Estimated Budget

Line Item	Detailed Calculations	Estimated Budget
<b>Contracted Services</b>		
Local Reentry Coordinator	\$4,167 x 12 months	\$50,000
Job Placement Specialist	\$3,500 x 12 months	\$42,000
<b>Sub-Total</b>		<b>\$92,000</b>
<b>Administrative Services</b>		<b>\$30,000</b>
<b>Travel</b>		
Local Reentry Coordinator	\$.55 x 100 miles/wk x 52 weeks	\$2,860
Job Placement Specialist	\$.55 x 100 miles/wk x 52 weeks	\$2,860
<b>Sub-Total</b>		<b>\$5,720</b>
<b>Supportive Services for Clients</b>		
Employment, Housing, Substance Abuse, Transportation, Vocational Training, & Childcare		<b>\$27,000</b>
<b>Total Budgeted Amount</b>		<b>\$154,720</b>

# LRC Stats (Sept 2013-Sept 2014)

- Enrollments – 555
  - Education (e.g., GED) – 89
  - Vocational (e.g., training certificate) – 107
  - Job Search Assistance – 723
    - Job Placements – 161
  - Supportive Services – 739
    - Housing, Transportation, Child Care, Other (Food/Clothing)
  - Exits – 82
    - Re-arrest (jail/prison since April 2014) - 5

**Questions?**

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