

Northampton County Re-Entry Coalition

Problem Statement: Due to Northampton County's concern regarding recidivism, there is a need to create a plan for improved communication and coordination of re-entry services between offenders and the larger community.

Goal: To create a healthy, vibrant, community by preventing and reducing recidivism in Northampton County. To provide opportunities for returning citizens to rebuild their lives while transitioning back into society.

Rationale:

By functioning as a collective unit working for the same cause, the Northampton County Re-Entry Coalition is positioned to prepare offenders for successful reintegration into the community.



Assumptions:

- The county does not have sufficient funding or staff time to plan and implement successful transition strategies without the support and involvement of the community
- Through effective collaboration and coordination of services, returning citizens are better able to transition back into society
- Offenders are navigating multiple complex systems and often become lost or frustrated; this may lead them to commit crimes and re-enter the criminal justice system
- Positive family, community, and spiritual connections help offenders build a life on the outside
- The composition and needs of the jail population are changing; the system must change in response
- The underlying causes of crime must be addressed in order to reduce recidivism
- Local residents and businesses may be biased toward offenders and should be re-educated and engaged as active partners in the coalition
- Re-entry begins the day the offender enters the jail
- By implementing these changes, the burden on taxpayers will be reduced
- Activities must be coordinated with existing systems to be successful
- Children represent one of the most significant collateral consequences of the record prison population
- There is a connection between the economy and the crime rate



Resources:

Funding
 Resource coordinator
 Volunteers
 Technology
 Data/information
 Communication/cell phones
 Offenders
 Family and friends
 Northampton County Jail
 Easton Weed and Seed
 Faith-based community
 Medical professionals
 Colleges and universities
 School districts
 Public housing, shelters
 LANTA
 Social Security Administration
 Adult Probation
 Juvenile Probation
 Northampton County - MH/MR, D&A, CYF, VA, AAA, I&R
 Northampton County Assistance Office
 Community Education Center
 County Chiefs Association
 Domestic Relations
 District Attorney's Office
 Court system
 Pre-trial services
 Public defender's office
 State Parole
 Local community service agencies
 Mayors and other elected officials
 Law enforcement
 Local business
 Financial institutions
 CareerLink
 Employment office
 Local residents
 Coalitions in other communities
 National Reentry Resource Center



Activities:

- Outreach center
- Support groups
- Case management
- Mentoring by successful returning citizens
- Identification of support network
- Parenting education
- Public service applications prior to release
- Development of relationships between prison, community service, and public service staff
- Community resource directory
- Exit strategy/Re-entry plan with tangible step-by-step list
- Meetings/dialogue/media engaging and connecting prison and community
- Coalition meetings
- Therapeutic Community
- Volunteer recruitment
- Promote alternatives to incarceration



Outputs:

- Centralized resource information is updated and accessible
- Asset map created
- Coalition becomes part of larger county plan
- Resource coordinator/s hired
- Offenders surveyed to determine services that will meet their needs
- Data management system developed
- # sessions provided
- # people served
- # volunteers
- # referrals
- # jobs secured
- # families reunified
- # community meetings
- # attendees at community meetings
- # benefit applications
- decrease in parole violations
- Increase in employment opportunities
- Increase in affordable housing opportunities
- # bed days saved/tax payer dollars saved
- # of people who access incarceration alternatives
- Reduction in the county recidivism rate



Outcomes:

- Improvement in self-sufficiency of returning citizens
- Improvement in communication and collaboration between prison and social/public service providers
- Community is more open, welcoming, and accepting to offenders
- Successful family reunification



External Factors: Local, state, and federal budgets, Elected officials, Media, Geographic location, Transience, Availability of community resources, Technology changes, Education opportunities, Employment opportunities, Family circumstances, Gang presence, Criminal laws, Demand for services, Economy, Transportation, Housing availability, Medical care availability, Seasons/weather, individual self-esteem and intrinsic motivation