



Welcome to

New York Re-entry Today

This bi-monthly newsletter brings news, policy and program updates and best practice information to the 19 County Re-entry Task Forces (CRTFs) and stakeholders.

CRTFs are in the following counties:

- Albany
- Bronx
- Broome
- Dutchess
- Erie
- Kings
- Manhattan
- Monroe
- Nassau
- Niagara
- Oneida
- Onondaga
- Orange
- Rensselaer
- Rockland
- Schenectady
- Suffolk
- Ulster
- Westchester

Monthly Reporting Details CRTF Activity

According to monthly intake reports submitted by CRTFs to DCJS researchers, 1,644 Track 1 participants were admitted for case-managed services and programs between July 1, 2012 and Dec. 31, 2012. Track 1 designation refers to moderate-to high-risk persons released from state correctional facilities who are presumed eligible to participate in CRTF case-managed services and programs. Also included as Track 1 are special populations, such as female offenders, juveniles, impaired or severe medical cases, sex offenders and maximum expiration cases. Of the 1,644 Track 1 monthly intakes reported during this six-month period:

- 1,441 cases were assessed as moderate- to high-risk.
- 1,604 cases were under parole supervision.
- 1,536 were male, 95 were female and 13 were unknown.
- 648 were between the ages of 23 and 34; 479 were between 35 and 49; and 143 were 50 years or older.

Most commonly identified needs among Track 1 clients include employment, chemical dependency treatment, social service assistance, cognitive behavior therapy, and education / vocational programs. Needs most often unmet were mentoring, domestic violence accountability and sex offenders programs. By Dec. 31, 1,276 cases were discharged, of which:

- 792 participants successfully completed their programs.
- 277 persons were discharged due to a new arrest or a violation.
- 159 participants voluntarily discontinued their re-entry programs.

CRTF Webinar Series Continues

The next webinar, *CRTF Referrals: Using Supervision Levels / COMPAS Re-entry* is scheduled for 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Monday, June 24, 2013. This webinar will review the changes in the referral process when the DCJS Risk Scores are discontinued on July 1, 2013. Look for a save-the-date e-mail to be delivered by June 14.

Thinking for a Change Training Continues

OPCA offered four Thinking for a Change facilitator training classes in 2013, with a fifth scheduled for June in New York City. So far, 34 CRTF providers completed the training and received certificates. Classes also will be offered during fall 2013, with announcements of those trainings to be released during the summer. Meanwhile, all re-entry applicants who were unable to enroll in the spring classes are on a waiting list and will be notified of the fall class schedule. For more information about enrolling in the training, send an e-mail to Sonya.Gomes@dcjs.ny.gov.

The goal of re-entry efforts in NYS is to reduce recidivism by providing essential services that support behavioral change in those returning home from prison. CRTFs secure and case-manage services to moderate-high-risk parolees and provide access to cognitive behavioral therapies and employment services.



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2013 Annual Application and Progress Reviews

Since April, DCJS has conducted meetings with the CRTFs to review program progress under the performance-based contracts and their 2013-14 plans. By mid-June all meetings should be concluded and the process of preparing renewal contracts will begin. We gathered valuable information and thank all co-chairs and coordinators for their participation in these important meetings.

“Ban the Box” Passes in Buffalo

On May 28, the Buffalo Common Council passed “**Ban the Box**” legislation by a vote of 7-2. This legislation will remove the conviction question from applications from all employers located in the City of Buffalo. Now, people with a criminal record have an equal and better opportunity to obtain jobs they are qualified to perform. Small businesses with 15 or fewer employees and businesses that work directly with children, senior citizens, the disabled and law enforcement agencies are exempt.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT from State Ed...

A new GED® test series will begin on Jan. 1, 2014. After this date, scores from tests previously taken will be invalid and will not be combined with new test scores. Anyone who has taken the GED® test since Jan. 1, 2002 to the present and wants those scores to count must retake and fully pass the test before 2014.

Please Note: The GED® Tests are only given at official GED® Testing Centers approved by the New York State Education Department. There is no online or computer-based GED® testing available at the present time. For more information, go to: <http://www.acces.nysed.gov/ged/>.

Resources for Re-entry Professionals

The Council of State Governments Justice Center has released “Reducing Statewide Recidivism,” a series of checklists for policymakers, re-entry coordinators and state corrections administrators to assess state recidivism reduction policies and strategies. The recidivism reduction checklists are user-friendly sources of information on the many policies and practices that go into a comprehensive, effective re-entry initiative. There are three checklists, each tailored to a specific audience: Executive and Legislative Policymakers; State Re-entry Coordinators, and Corrections Administrators. The checklists are intended to help familiarize state leaders with key issues related to recidivism reduction, and to help them evaluate strengths and weaknesses in their re-entry efforts through enhanced communication and coordination. The checklists are available at <http://www.nationalreentryresourcecenter.org/recidivism-reduction-checklists>.