



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

DCJS Begins 2013-2014 CRTF Contract Renewal Process

The 2013-2014 renewal applications were released on March 15, 2013. This year's funding awards will support CRTFs from July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014. The simplified application is due on **April 4, 2013** via the Grants Management System (GMS). A webinar, which provided a presentation on the application process, was held on March 18, 2013. To access the recording of this webinar, go here: [03/18/13 - Livemeeting](#). Additionally, OPCA will be reaching out to the CRTFs to schedule individual meetings for an annual review during April and May 2013.

Sixteen CRTF Representatives Complete Thinking for a Change (T4C) Training

T4C is a cognitive-behavioral curriculum developed by the National Institute of Corrections, which focuses on changing the criminogenic thinking of offenders. Sixteen representatives from the 19 CRTFs completed *Thinking for a Change (T4C)* facilitator training in Albany on February 5-8, 2013. Due to the high demand for this cognitive behavior therapy training, additional T4C classes are scheduled for New York City. Also, OPCA currently is planning to hold a class in Erie County from May 14 through May 17, 2013. Registration and information for this class will be available soon. For additional information, contact Margaret Schieferstine at (518) 485-5157 or Margaret.Schieferstine@dcjs.ny.gov.

DCJS Announces Change in Re-entry Risk Assessment Instrument

Effective July 1, the start of the next contract period for CRTFs, DCJS will discontinue the distribution of its risk score instrument and support the use of the NYS Department of Corrections and Community Supervision's supervision scores based on COMPAS 8 Re-entry. COMPAS, the Correctional Offender Management Profiling for Alternative Sanctions, is a research-based, risk and needs assessment tool designed for criminal justice practitioners to assist them in the placement, supervision, and case management of offenders in community and secure settings. For additional information, contact Margaret Chretien at (518) 485-2494 or Margaret.Chretien@dcjs.ny.gov.

CRTF Monthly Intakes

A review of the CRTF monthly intake information provided to DCJS through January 2013 indicates substantial progress towards reaching performance-based milestones. Ten task forces achieved over 60% of their Track I Intake milestones, while five reached nearly fifty percent. Four CRTFs experienced important changes - either in leadership, referral processes or implementing agency, which account for a lag in reaching six-month milestones. Monthly intake data indicates an increased use of re-entry services as compared to 2011 and most CRTFs exceeded their half-year performance-based milestones.

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.



New York Re-entry Today is a publication of DCJS, Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives (OPCA).

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OPCA Continues CRTF Webinar Series

The Manhattan CRTF will present the next webinar, *Circles of Support: A Family-Focused Approach to Re-entry*, on April 30, 2013 starting at 1:00 pm. Look for a *Save-the-Date* email to be delivered in early April.

Offender Workforce Development Specialist Training Underway in Albany

OPCA is currently providing OWDS training in Albany at the NYS Department of Labor. Participants include county probation and Alternative-to-Incarceration (ATI) staff and County Re-entry Task Force representatives. Additional information will be provided about an upcoming training planned for Fall 2013.

Queries from the Field...

Q: How can we prepare for an audit of a performance-based contract?

A: An auditor will look at financial records of the operating budget, in addition to performance-based records. CRTFs need to maintain documentation of expenditures such as timekeeping records, subcontractor invoices and payments, and equipment purchases. An audit-ready file also includes reports submitted to DCJS, any grant adjustment request and approval, and documentation of individuals served by the CRTF.

GMS Updates

All DCJS contracts are currently distributed via the DCJS Grants Management System (GMS). It is important that the CRTF project information remains current in this system. Please ensure that personnel changes such as primary contacts or contract signatories are adjusted as needed. Changes may be reported to the GMS helpdesk at (518) 457-9787 or by emailing a request for change to dcjsfunding@dcjs.ny.gov.

Capital Region Prisoner Re-entry Conference 2013

Sage College of Albany will sponsor the Capital Region Prisoner Re-entry Conference on April 17, 2013.

The conference will run from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM and will include the following topics:

- Establishing a county re-entry task force.
- Finding employment for formerly- incarcerated individuals.
- Perspectives of formerly-incarcerated individuals.
- Re-entry services as a mechanism of enhancing community safety.
- Working with vulnerable populations.
- Future direction for re-entry in NYS.

OPCA will forward registration information to CRTFs when it becomes available.

Upcoming Webinar: April 10, 2013, 2:00pm -3:30pm

A Woman's Journey Home: Challenges for Reentering Women, hosted by The National Clearinghouse for the Defense of Battered Women. [Click here to register.](#)