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NCSL

Offender Reentry and Collateral Consequences

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Maximizing the Value of The Second Chance Act

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Bureau of Justice Assistance Overview

- **Department of Justice**
 - **Office of Justice Programs**
 - Bureau of Justice Assistance*
 - Bureau of Justice Statistics
 - National Institute of Justice
 - Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
 - Office for Victims of Crime
 - Community Capacity Development Office
 - Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking (SMART)



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BJA's Mission and Goals

- **BJA supports** law enforcement, courts, corrections, treatment, victim services, technology, and prevention initiatives that strengthen the nation's criminal justice system. BJA provides leadership, services, and funding to America's communities.
- **BJA recognizes** that legislators are leaders in public opinion and can spark important dialogue and guide and inform smart crime policy in your states.



Reentry

- Reentry from state prisons and local jails is one of the most complex challenges being faced by the criminal justice system.
- At least 95% of state prisoners will be released back to their communities at some point.
- More than 5 million individuals were on probation or parole at the end of 2008



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Dynamic risk factors in offender reentry

- Mental Health
- Substance Abuse
- Housing and Homelessness
- Health
- Education and Employment
- Families



Education and Employment

- Two in five prison and jail inmates lack a high school diploma or its equivalent.
- Employment rates and earnings histories of people in prisons and jails are often low before incarceration
 - Why?
 - limited education experiences, low skill levels, and the prevalence of physical and mental health problems;
 - incarceration only exacerbates these challenges.



Second Chance Act

- Provides unique opportunity for the development of evidenced-based reentry programs and collaborative efforts
- Close to every state has some level of SCA funding
 - In FY10, 188 grant awards
 - In FY09, 67 grant awards
 - Scope and scale may vary widely, impacting states differently

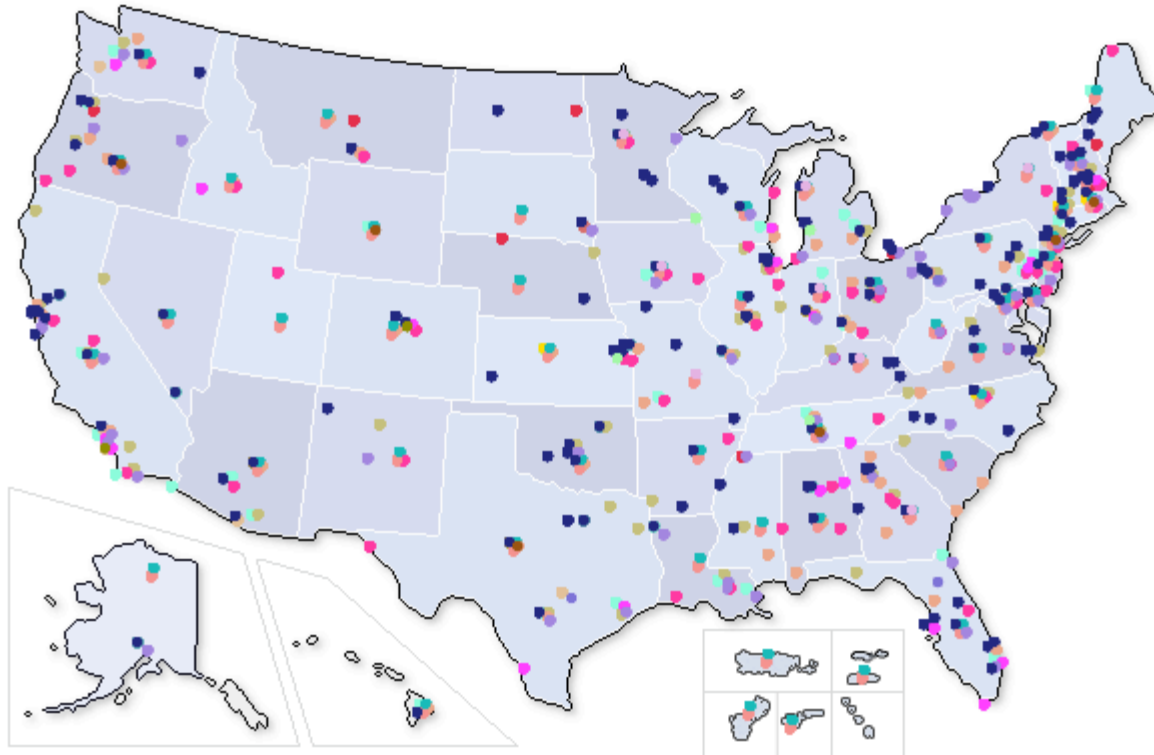


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National Criminal Justice Initiatives Map

Highlights national reentry and other criminal justice initiatives implemented throughout the United States and its territories.

Visit <http://www.nationalreentryresourcecenter.org>





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SCA Programs of Interest to Legislators

- State Level Demonstrations
- Mentoring grants w/transitional services
- Targeting offenders with co-occurring substance abuse and mental health disorders
- Family-based prisoner substance abuse treatment
- Evaluating and improving education in prisons, jails, and juvenile facilities
- Technology careers training demonstration grants for incarcerated adults and juveniles



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How are states using SCA funding to support services, education, and employment?



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Kansas Department of Corrections

- SCA grant will support two initiatives:
 - A permanent supportive housing reentry program in local community for high-end special needs offenders
 - Offender workforce development program which includes a boundary spanner or “bridge” position at the Kansas Department of Commerce



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Wisconsin Department of Corrections

- With a FY 2009 demonstration grant, implementing an expansion of Windows to Work model (assists with employment and housing services) used to integrate critical reentry supports.
- The Wisconsin Department of Corrections signed Memorandum of Understandings with both the Bay Area Workforce Development Board and the Milwaukee Area Workforce Investment Board to implement a Windows to Work Program in both areas.
- Expand One-Stop to provide family support services, drivers license obtainment, recovery referrals, child support workshops.



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State grants to address family-based substance abuse treatment

- Funded 23 projects (11 for state programs)
- Emphasis on high importance of the “family unit” as a positive factor in successful reentry reintegration back into society for ex-offenders



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How are state programs using these funds?

- Case management, transitional housing, child care assistance
- Pro-social supports and strategies to increase parental involvement
- Family reintegration, family-based services, and family stabilization programs
- Programs designed for incarcerated fathers with substance abuse needs and their children and families
- Specially designed curriculums for children of incarcerated parents
- Evidenced-based curriculums in effective parenting skills
- Financial literacy



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Technology careers training demonstration grants

- How we can better prepare offenders with foundational skills and career training?
 - Tech careers demonstration grants provides incarcerated adults and juveniles with paths to career opportunities in technology-based fields
 - States receiving grants include: Virginia, Texas, Florida, Indiana, Massachusetts
 - Funds can also be used to support basic skills (math and literacy) development, job readiness training, and career coaching



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State Program Examples

- The Texas Dept. of Criminal Justice entered into a collaborative partnership to develop and implement a braille/graphics instructional program.
- The Florida Dept. of Corrections will focus on training individuals in the renewable electrical technology industry.
- MA Dept. of Corrections will implement “New Clean/Green Energy Training Program”, where between 160 and 200 moderate to high risk participants will receive training and education to succeed in a green industry upon release.



Considerations for Policymakers

- Second Chance Act demonstration programs can show what is effective in changing behavior with offenders.
- SCA is not the only solution, but it offers a foundation of programs that can cause larger system change.
- Gain understanding of why it makes sense to invest in certain services:
 - Importance of investing in most effective services
 - Smart on crime policies
 - Focus on high and moderate risk offenders
 - Match interventions to individual risk and need



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Future funding of the Second Chance Act Anticipated FY2011 funding

- The President's Budget includes \$100 million for the Second Chance Act
- The Senate Mark is \$50 million
- Uncertain on House Mark and currently on CR



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Reentry Resources

National Reentry Resource Center

www.nationalreentryresourcecenter.org

Reentry Coaching Packets

<http://www.cepp.com/coaching.htm>

Elected Officials Toolkit for Reentry (forthcoming)

Building an Offender Reentry Program: Guide for Law Enforcement

http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/pdf/Reentry_LE.pdf



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