

Minnesota Collaborative Justice Initiative



PRO BONO
INSTITUTE



The Minnesota Collaborative Justice initiative brings together diverse stakeholders to collectively serve the needs of some of the most vulnerable in our society by implementing an agreed upon and measurable plan to reduce a persistent societal problem – the successful reentry of men and women released from federal and state facilities.

REENTRY: 25% of adults in Minnesota return to prison for a new felony conviction; 50% return for a technical violation.

OUR MISSION: *to dramatically improve the experiences and outcomes of formerly incarcerated men and women in Minnesota to enable them to lead full and productive lives in the community.*



Geography: While the project aims to have impact across the state, recent data shows that the majority of reentry occurs in **Hennepin and Ramsey Counties**. As such, the focus of the project's efforts, especially at the level of service provision, will be primarily there, impacting men and women who have been released from **federal and/or state facilities**.



Timeframe: Support is needed from the day confinement begins until many years after those formerly incarcerated are "off paper". Initially, efforts will focus on the timeframe beginning **12 months before release** and continuing to **5 years after**.



Issues: The reentry population faces many issues and obstacles. Gaining **housing and employment** are prioritized as two key issues to support. Undergirding these issues are **access to benefits** (especially related to health), **legal services**, opportunities to build **cognitive and non-cognitive skills** and the existence of a **support system of mentors**, family members, and people who can help navigate the complex reentry system.

GOAL: to reduce the number of formerly incarcerated men and women who return to prison for a new offense or a technical violation within five years from the day they were released from federal or state prison.

FOCUS: to achieve our goal the project has identified five inter-related topic areas to focus its efforts and has formed five working groups to develop and implement collaborative action plans.

TURNING THE MISSION INTO ACTION

- **Personalized Reentry Planning**
- **Individual Access to Housing, Employment, Benefits, and Legal Services**
- **Cognitive and Non-cognitive Skills Development**

- **Data and Knowledge**
- **State-wide and System-wide Policy and Advocacy**

STRUCTURE: the project is led by the Pro Bono Institute and an all-volunteer Steering Committee that includes representatives from corporations, law firms, government agencies, and non-profit organizations as well as men and women who were formally incarcerated.

GET INVOLVED: *The Minnesota Collaborative Justice Initiative is a project of*

Pro Bono Institute. To contribute your time, expertise and ideas, or to support this initiative, please contact Eve Runyon, President & CEO, at 202.729.6694, reentry@probonoinst.org

STEERING COMMITTEE

Our **all-volunteer** Steering Committee includes representatives from the following corporations, law firms, government agencies, and non-profit organizations:

3M Company
AccessAbility, Inc.
Adult Corrections Facility, Hennepin County
Amicus/Volunteers of America
Better Futures Enterprises
Community Representatives
Dorsey & Whitney
Faegre Baker Daniels
Fourth Judicial District, Hennepin County
Goodwill-Easter Seals Minnesota
Greater Twin Cities United Way
Legal Rights Center
Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid
Minnesota Supreme Court
Minnesota Department of Corrections
One Way Building Services, Inc.
St. Stephen's Human Services
Target Corporation
Urban Ventures
U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Minnesota
U.S. Probation and Pretrial Services

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