

Community-Based Residential Reentry: Essential for Recidivism Reduction

The criminal justice reform effort currently underway in Massachusetts can go a long way to enhancing the Commonwealth's public safety and justice system. Coupled with appropriate investments in effective community-based reentry services, it can reduce the State's high recidivism rates.

The Justice Reinvestment Working Group found that within three years of release, two-thirds of people leaving county houses of correction and over half of those leaving state prisons had new involvement with the criminal justice system.

Community-based residential reentry programs are proven to reduce recidivism and achieve better outcomes for returning citizens and for our communities. They provide evidence-based solutions to the many challenges faced by ex-offenders: a safe place to live, a job, case management, and behavioral or addiction treatment. Outcome studies show these community-based programs reduce recidivism by up to 25%.

Of the more than \$2.8 billion spent by Massachusetts for its public safety and justice systems, less than \$100,000 is reserved for community-based residential reentry services.

We must do better. As leaders on the front lines of criminal justice efforts in Massachusetts, we urge the legislature to support \$5 million in dedicated funding for community-based residential reentry programs that provide the tools and supports people need to be successful and prevent a return to the criminal justice system.

Boston Area Rape Crisis Center

Caritas Communities

Community Resources for Justice

Dorchester Bay Economic Development

**Ex-Prisoners and Prisoners Organizing for
Community Advancement (EPOCA)**

Gardiner Howland Shaw Foundation

Gavin Foundation

Haley House

Hays Companies

Heading Home Inc.

Hyde Square Task Force

InnerCity Weightlifting

MA Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers

MA Association for Mental Health

MA Communities Action Network

MA Council of Human Service Providers, Inc.

MassINC

**Massachusetts Organization for Addiction
Recovery (MOAR)**

National Association of Social Workers- MA

Newburyport Chamber of Commerce

Pine Street Inn

Progressive Massachusetts

Roca, Inc.

Strategy Matters

UTEC, Inc.

Year Up

YouthConnect

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