

Housing for a Second Chance: Family, Government and Community Partnerships for Housing People Involved in the Criminal Justice System

The Local Initiatives Support Corporation Community Safety Initiative (LISC CSI), in partnership with Family Justice Inc. and the U.S. Department of Justice Community Capacity Development Office, introduces a new training program to address the unique issues related to housing formerly incarcerated individuals and their families.

The day-long session brings together experts from the housing, social service, policing and corrections fields to work with organizations looking to safely and responsibly provide housing to this growing population. LISC CSI can perform on-site training customized for your organization or community group. In addition, the complete training curriculum and toolkit of presentation materials is available free-of-charge via CD-ROM.

Practical Tools and Strategies

The curriculum is tailored to address reentry issues in the local communities of participants. It uses an interactive, multi-disciplinary approach to learning that includes case studies, discussion and small group work. Training participants will:

- Discuss ways in which criminal history impacts access to housing;
- Learn the facts vs. perception of reentry in their community;
- Identify ways to assess prospective tenants and their families;
- Outline property management strategies:
- Discuss best-practices in crafting appropriate lease language;
- Identify community partners with whom they can work; and,
- Prepare an action plan for their organization and partners including service providers, CDCs and local law enforcement agencies.

The facilitator's guide and participant workbook on the CD-ROM offer a roadmap for these activities, along with pre-formatted slides, printerready handouts and evaluation materials.

Target Audience

The training program is designed for a wide range of professionals, including:

- Property Managers
- Housing Providers
- Community Developers
- Public Housing Authorities
- Police and Corrections Officers
- Weed and Seed Practitioners
- Service Providers

Participant Testimonials

- "I gained a new perspective on the challenges and obstacles that individuals with questionable criminal records face in applying and securing housing."
- "The most useful/helpful aspect of the training was the opportunity for property managers to sit down at the same table as reentry advocates and have both sides come to an appreciation of each other's concerns about tenants."
- "I will apply how my company enforces its Tenant Selection Criteria in renting affordable units with a more sensitive and flexible review approach to screening individuals with criminal backgrounds."

Bringing the Training to You

To discuss how LISC's on-site training can improve local reentry housing efforts in your area or to get a free copy of the training curriculum CD-ROM, please email csi@lisc.org.