



FEDERAL INTERAGENCY

# REENTRY COUNCIL

Working together for safer, healthier communities

## OVERVIEW

Each year, more than 700,000 individuals are released from state and federal prisons. Another 12 million cycle through local jails. When reentry fails, the costs—both societal and economic—are high. More than two-thirds of state prisoners are rearrested within three years of their release and half are reincarcerated. High rates of recidivism mean more crime, more victims and more pressure on an already overburdened criminal justice system. And in the past 20 years, state spending on corrections has grown at a faster rate than nearly any other state budget item. The United States now spends more than \$74 billion annually on federal, state and local corrections.

The Federal Interagency Reentry Council, established by Attorney General Holder in January 2011, represents a significant executive branch commitment to coordinating reentry efforts and advancing effective reentry policies. It is premised on the recognition that many federal agencies have a major stake in prisoner reentry. The reentry population is one we are already working with -- not only in our prisons, jails, and juvenile facilities, but in our emergency rooms, homeless shelters, unemployment lines, child support offices, veterans' hospitals, and elsewhere. When we extend out to the children and families of returning prisoners, the intersection is even greater.



*Inaugural meeting of the  
Cabinet-level Reentry Council*

### **The Reentry Council represents 20 federal agencies, working towards a mission to:**

- make communities safer by reducing recidivism and victimization;
- assist those who return from prison and jail in becoming productive citizens, and
- save taxpayer dollars by lowering the direct and collateral costs of incarceration.

A chief focus of the Reentry Council is to remove federal barriers to successful reentry, so that motivated individuals - who have served their time and paid their debts - are able to compete for a job, attain stable housing, support their children and their families, and contribute to their communities. Reentry Council agencies are taking concrete steps towards these ends, to not only reduce recidivism and high correctional costs, but also to improve public health, child welfare, employment, education, housing and other key reintegration outcomes.

# Reentry Council Resources

## Reentry Council Website

<http://www.nationalreentryresourcecenter.org/reentry-council>

## National Reentry Resource Center

<http://www.nationalreentryresourcecenter.org>

## National Reentry Initiatives Map

<http://www.nationalreentryresourcecenter.org/national-criminal-justice-initiatives-map>

## Reentry Funding Opportunities

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

## Attorney General Holder's Letter on Collateral Consequences

[http://www.nationalreentryresourcecenter.org/documents/0000/1088/Reentry\\_Council\\_AG\\_Letter.pdf](http://www.nationalreentryresourcecenter.org/documents/0000/1088/Reentry_Council_AG_Letter.pdf)

## HUD Secretary Donovan's Letters on HUD-assisted Housing

[http://www.nationalreentryresourcecenter.org/documents/0000/1126/HUD\\_letter\\_6.23.11.pdf](http://www.nationalreentryresourcecenter.org/documents/0000/1126/HUD_letter_6.23.11.pdf)

[http://www.nationalreentryresourcecenter.org/documents/0000/1344/3.30.12\\_MFamily\\_properties\\_Reentry\\_memo\\_6\\_2\\_.pdf](http://www.nationalreentryresourcecenter.org/documents/0000/1344/3.30.12_MFamily_properties_Reentry_memo_6_2_.pdf)

## EEOC – Updated Guidance on Use of Criminal Records in Employment Decisions

[http://www.eeoc.gov/laws/guidance/arrest\\_conviction.cfm](http://www.eeoc.gov/laws/guidance/arrest_conviction.cfm)

## DOL Training & Employment Guidance Letter No. 31-11

[http://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/corr\\_doc.cfm?DOCN=9230](http://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/corr_doc.cfm?DOCN=9230)

## Reentry MythBusters

Reentry MythBusters are designed to clarify existing federal policies that affect formerly incarcerated individuals and their families and point them to resources that would be helpful

[http://www.nationalreentryresourcecenter.org/documents/0000/1090/REENTRY\\_MYTHBUSTERS.pdf](http://www.nationalreentryresourcecenter.org/documents/0000/1090/REENTRY_MYTHBUSTERS.pdf)

### Reducing Barriers to Employment

- [On the Federal Bonding Program](#)
- [On Hiring/Criminal Records Guidance](#)
- [On the Federal Hiring Policies](#)
- [On the Work Opportunity Tax Credit](#)
- [On Criminal Histories and Employment Background Checks](#)

### Juveniles and Reentry

- [On Juvenile Criminal Records](#)
- [On Medicaid Suspension vs. Termination for Juveniles](#)
- [On Youth Access to Education upon Reentry](#)

### Access to Federal Benefits

- [On Public Housing](#)
- [On Veterans Compensation Benefits](#)
- [On Veterans Health Care](#)

- [On Federal Student Financial Aid](#)
- [On Medicaid Suspension vs. Termination](#)
- [On Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program \(SNAP\) Benefits](#)
- [On SNAP Benefits/Mailing Address](#)
- [On SNAP Benefits/ID](#)
- [On TANF Benefits](#)
- [On Social Security Benefits](#)

### Additional MythBusters

- [On Voting Rights](#)
- [On Parental Rights](#)
- [On Child Support Modifications](#)
- [On Federal Tax Obligations and Benefits](#)