

PROGRAM INTRODUCTION AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Statewide Reentry Council

Legislative Intent for the Statewide Reentry Council

"Develop collaborative and cooperative relationships between the criminal justice system, victims and their families, impacted individuals and their families, and service providers, to improve public safety and outcomes for people reentering the community from incarceration."

We strive to apply a race and gender equity lens to every policy we consider.

We are empowered to:

- Advise and make recommendations to the Governor, Legislature, and state agencies on how to improve Washington's reentry practices and outcomes.
- Meet with community providers, groups, and individuals to determine their needs and share them with key decision-makers.
- Direct individuals to state and community reentry service providers, organizations, and other resources.
- Report to the Legislature with our progress and recommendations every two years. Council Reports are available on our website, in Department of Corrections (DOC) libraries, or free on JPAY.

For individual matters involving DOC:

- Consider contacting the Office of Corrections Ombuds. Contact information is available at every DOC institution.

General reentry resources and systemic concerns:

- Contact us directly or utilize the Washington Reentry Guide, available online or in every DOC library.



Council member participants at the 2019 Council Hill Day

"Successful reentry occurs when internal healing and change is met with external opportunity"

-**Christopher Poulos**
Executive Director

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We strengthen communities

Council Legislative Progress

In 2018, the Legislature passed six Reentry Council Priority Bills:

- Fair Chance Employment (Chapter 38, Laws of 2018)
- Fair Chance Higher Education (Chapter 83, Laws of 2018)
- Ending Source of Income-Based Rental Discrimination (Chapter 66, Laws of 2018)
- Legal Financial Obligation Reform (Chapter 269, Laws of 2018)
- Creation of Independent Office of Corrections Ombuds (Chapter 270, Laws of 2018)
- Expansion of Graduated Reentry (Chapter 166, Laws of 2018)

In 2019, the legislature passed an additional six Reentry Council priority bills:

- New Hope Act (Chapter 331, Laws of 2019)
- Creation of the Criminal Sentencing Task Force
- Modifying of Juvenile Rehabilitation Confinement (Chapter 322, Laws of 2019)
- Expanding Arrest and Jail Alternatives (Chapter 378, Laws of 2019)
- Providing Felony Voting Rights Notices (Chapter 43, Laws of 2019)
- Supporting Internet use Inside Prisons to Further Higher Education (Chapter 397, Laws of 2019)

Council Executive Branch & Community Progress

- State ID's are now being issued to people leaving DOC custody.
- Three Phase Individualized Reentry Plans are now being developed for people in DOC custody.
- Grants from the legislature are being administered to community partners.
- State Government Reentry Work Group actively working to increase interagency collaboration.
- Held hundreds of reentry focused meetings and listening sessions with individuals and organizations.

Statewide Reentry Council Goals and Ongoing Efforts

- Address housing discrimination against people with criminal records.
- Reform our prisons and jails to be conducive to successful reentry.
- Reform community corrections to be strongly supportive of successful reentry.
- Expand secure internet access for people in jails and prisons.
- Pass statewide law automatically vacating criminal records under certain circumstances.
- Expand access to civil legal aid to help remove barriers to reentry.
- Expand voting rights to people on community supervision and end conviction-based disenfranchisement.
- Expand community and family involvement in the reentry process.
- Reform sentencing and post-conviction review to improve the likelihood of successful reentry.

Note: The above list of goals and ongoing effort is not exhaustive and is subject to change.