



Public Safety and Government Operations Committee

Council Bill 23-0416

Baltimore City Office of Returning Citizens

23-0416 Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement (MONSE) February 28, 2024

Presentation Overview

1. MONSE's Current Re-Entry Work

- Supporting Returning Citizens and Reducing Recidivism
- Returning Citizens Behind The Wall (RCBTW)
- Re-Entry Action Council (RAC)

2. Office of Returning Citizens

- Institutionalizing and Sustaining the Work
- Funding Opportunities

1. MONSE's Current Re-Entry Work

Re-Entry work focuses on supporting returning citizens and preventing recidivism

- The Mayor's Comprehensive Violence Prevention Plan (CVPP) includes a commitment to supporting residents returning home from prison through dedicated re-entry programming
 - Working with individuals prior to release
 - Rebuilding families
 - Providing wraparound services to returning citizens

Re-Entry Components

COMPONENTS OF SUCCESSFUL RE-ENTRY

Documentation
Housing
Employment
Health Care
Transportation
Mental Health Support
Amenities
Financial Support
Education
Community Support

Returning Citizens Behind The Wall (RCBTW)

RCBTW provides training and paid employment for people preparing to return to their communities, along with wraparound supports before and upon their return.

- ARPA-funded partnership with Maryland DPSCS, MONSE, MOED, and BCRP
 - Goal to expand program to additional City agencies
- Connects individuals who are incarcerated and eligible for work release (up to 18 months pre-release) with \$15/hour employment with the Recreation and Parks department
- Provides participants with career training and counseling in financial management and conflict resolution, among other services
- MONSE Re-Entry Coordinator meets with RCBTW once a month to put information discussed into action
- 24 active participants; 103 total participants since soft launch in Spring 2023

Re-Entry Action Council (RAC)

Baltimore's first-ever Re-Entry Action Council will work to coordinate government agencies and community-based organizations around Baltimore's Re-Entry Continuum of Care.

- 25-member council, including advocates, service providers, people with lived experience, business owners
- First bi-monthly meeting was held January 2024
- Ensure seamless coordination of services to address and reduce re-entry barriers
- Establish and implement evidence-based re-entry practices:
 - Access to effective workforce development training and programming
 - Address barriers to housing
 - Family reunification
 - Connectivity to holistic healthcare services including mental and behavioral health, substance use disorders, and co-occurring disorders

Safe Return Plans

- The collaborative work moving forward will include development of Safe Return Plans for all returning citizens to ensure successful re-entry and reduce recidivism/revictimization
- MONSE's Re-Entry Coordinator will begin working with returning citizens on Safe Return Plans approximately 18 months pre-release, in partnership with DPSCS and MOED case managers. The priorities include:
 - Focus on understanding and addressing the barriers each citizen faces post-release
 - Engage with familial and other support systems
 - Provide training and resources pre- and post-release, including connection with MOED's Mondawmin Re-entry Center

Re-Entry Coordination

Coordination among re-entry partners opens new avenues of support for returning citizens

- *Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement (MONSE)*
- *Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS)*
- *Maryland Department of Labor (MD DOL)*
- *Mayor's Office of Employment Development (MOED)*
- *Mayor's Office of Homeless Services (MOHS)*
- *Baltimore City Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD)*
- *Other City Agencies*
- *Community-Based Partners*

MONSE Re-Entry Grants (ARPA)

- **Michele's Haven CDC:** Love by Any Means Necessary - Connecting In-Custody Participants to Housing and Employment Resources for Promote Positive Living
- **PIVOT Baltimore:** Pivot Women's Reentry and Workforce Development Program - Provide Support and Resources for Justice-Involved Women to Rebuild Their Lives and Sustain Living-Wage Employment Post-Incarceration
- **No Struggle No Success:** Barrier Removal and Youth Diversion - Workforce Re-Entry Mentorship Programming and Resources
- **National Center on Institutions and Alternatives (NCIA):** Herbert J. Hoelter Vocational Training Center - Vocational Training Services
- **HTP Homes:** HTP Homes Building Second Chances Program (BSCP)
- **Each Teach Inc.:** 3 Steps In 5 Weeks Marginalized Workforce Engagement & Supports Program
- **Kerry Kares Foundation:** Kerry Kronies Program - Serve as Guide for Incarcerated Individuals to Regain Life Independence Through Honorable Work Housing and Other Life Necessities to Become Productive Members of Society

2. Office of Returning Citizens

The Office will institutionalize and help to expand and sustain MONSE's current re-entry work:

- Coordinate services, develop support networks, and advocate for Baltimoreans re-entering society
- Oversee Baltimore's Re-Entry Action Council (RAC)

Importance of Re-Entry Work

- Baltimoreans are severely impacted by mass incarceration
- It is vital that the work starts prior to release
- The success of returning citizens is a benefit for all Baltimoreans

Funding Opportunities

Pathway Home (5) Program – U.S. Department of Labor

- Program provides eligible incarcerated individuals with workforce services prior to release and continued services after release by transitioning the participants into reentry programs in the communities to which they will return.
- Job-driven grants that build connections to local employers and unions that will enable justice-involved persons to secure employment in good jobs, while advancing equity for individuals facing significant barriers to labor market reentry, including incarcerated women and communities of color.
- **Performance Period:** 42 months (including 3-6 month planning period, 24-27 month employment and training services, 12 month follow-up)
- **Funding Amount:** \$1 - \$4 million