

STATE-WIDE REENTRY NETWORK

THE SOLUTION TO RECIDIVISM



Chapter 122 of the Acts of 2022 (the General Appropriations Act) created the Ralph Gants Reentry Services Program at Community Justice Support Centers.

The **Criminal Justice Task Force (CJTF) at Northeastern University School of Law's Center for Law, Equity and Race** has helped to make Massachusetts the first state with a state-wide and state-funded reentry network that serves all individuals who are released from prison or jail, regardless of probation or parole status, and regardless of whether they are from a federal or state correctional facility.



By lobbying the Massachusetts Legislature, CJTF, in efforts led by Professor Deborah Ramirez, has secured a legislative mandate requiring reentry services to be sourced within and funded by the Office of Community Corrections towards comprehensive reentry services through the Community Justice Support Centers. However, the work does not end there. CJTF has crafted a proposal for Massachusetts and all states that outlines how to implement a successful reentry network, and what it entails.



Every person returning to the community has a place to go for help obtaining a state ID, housing, education, employment, or anything else that is a barrier to successful reentry.

19

State-wide
Reentry Offices

\$30

Million
in State Funds For
Reentry



The lack of investment in reentry efforts is directly correlated to the revolving door of recidivism. The proposal explains why addressing recidivism is vital to reducing economic spending, increasing public safety, and achieving social justice.

The Criminal Justice Task Force has proposed the following guidelines for implementing a state-wide reentry network that serves every individual reentering society from jail or prison:

- (1) A state-wide network that funds education, employment training, and other resources beginning inside prison or jail.
- (2) Community-based support through mentors and navigators.
- (3) Access to resources that promote staying on track.
- (4) Engaging formerly incarcerated individuals to enhance effectiveness of reentry networks.
- (5) Passing legislation that requires reentry planning to occur during incarceration, and that ensures access to an ID, training/potential for employment, housing, and access to mental health and substance use disorder treatment when an individual is released.
- (6) Building a jails to job pipeline through community partnerships, in order to disrupt the cycle of recidivism and provide stable employment for individuals upon their release from jail or prison.

For more information on the Criminal Justice Task Force's Reentry Reform work, please visit our website.

law.northeastern.edu/cjtf

