

Supportive reentry housing to reduce recidivism rates.

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Expand the availability of supportive transitional housing for formerly incarcerated individuals to reduce recidivism rates and increase reintegration in the community.

Access to food, water, and shelter are fundamental human rights and the building blocks that, once met, can lead to societal improvements. Access to housing is critical to an individual's success and can be even more of a linchpin for those reentering communities after incarceration. Studies have shown that "among people released from prison, best estimates suggest that most exit to live with parents, nearly one third experience some form of housing instability, and about 10% experience homelessness in the year following release" (Jacobs & Gottfried, 2020). Housing insecurity often leads to a return to criminal behavior as a way to survive or cope and is a pathway for many to be rearrested and reincarcerated. This revolving door of incarceration to housing instability back to incarceration is expensive to both the individual and society in fiscal and human costs. In an Ohio pilot program regarding supportive housing, reentry participants were found to be "40 percent less likely to be rearrested than the comparison group subjects" (Fontaine, et al, 2012).

Expanding and fully funding partnerships and programs within the community to truly support those reentering communities is a cost-effective and proven way to reintegrate individuals while simultaneously reducing recidivism rates. All persons leaving any form of incarceration should be paired with a trained housing navigator able to secure placement in

supportive transitional housing. Meeting the basic need for shelter is one of the steps that can help break multigenerational poverty, reduce jail and prison populations, and decrease overall crime levels.

Works Cited

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