

# THE PHILADELPHIA REENTRY COALITION

## HOME FOR GOOD YEAR 2: BUILDING FROM OUR FOUNDATION

OCTOBER 2016-2017

The Reentry Coalition brings agencies and organizations working on reentry in Philadelphia together to collectively reduce recidivism. Our shared plan, Home for Good, focuses on:

**Increasing Communication ✱ Facilitating Collaboration ✱ Building Capacity**

Our **103** members include local, state, and federal government agencies, community-based service providers, researchers, advocates, returning citizens, faith-based groups, and others who partner as Coalition members.

*Our shared vision is that every person released to Philadelphia from jail or prison succeeds as a productive member of the community.*

### FOSTERING VALUABLE COMMUNITY



In Year 2, the Coalition continued to create and take advantage of networking opportunities for member organizations to learn about and support each other's work, partner, and build the trust and relationships that will allow us to collaborate more deeply around reentry going forward.

**When Coalition members were polled recently,**

**93% made new connections as a result of their work with the Coalition**

**97% of those who participate in 1 or more subcommittees have made and strengthened partnerships as a result of their involvement with the Coalition**

### STRENGTHENING OUR BACKBONE

**Formalized a membership process:** by joining the Coalition, organizations agree to be actively involved in collaborative efforts based on an understanding that we all need to work together to achieve our shared goal of reducing recidivism.

**Started creating detailed short-term action plans** to guide subcommittees' work.

**Doubled our staff capacity** with a SERVE Philadelphia Americorps VISTA fellow joining the Coalition Director in the City of Philadelphia's Office of Criminal Justice, allowing us to develop stronger internal systems to plan and track key Coalition activities, communicate and share resources more effectively, and engage Coalition members more actively.

### ENGAGING MEMBERS

**450+ subscribers representing over 200 organizations** received more than **20 newsletter installments** with reentry resources, updates, and opportunities.

**More than 200 people** attended **Quarterly Stakeholder meetings**. An average of **~240 unique visitors/ month** totaled **13,000 unique page views** on our website.



### EDUCATING + TRAINING OURSELVES

**In February:** Info session on state corrections' referral process and new contracting system for reentry services

**In May and June:** A 3-part "brown bag lunch" training series on grant-writing for reentry

**Year-round Presentations in Subcommittees:** topics like working with adults with low literacy, health services behind the walls, and the greatest needs of people sentenced to life without parole as juveniles and now home

### ENGAGING THE PUBLIC



City Council passed a resolution making every June **Reentry Awareness Month** in Philadelphia. One of our first truly public-facing efforts was **#RethinkingReentry Art in City Hall Exhibit**, up throughout June and July, done in partnership with Mural Arts, Right of Return USA, Institute for Community Justice, Youth Art & Self Empowerment Project, the Reentry Think Tank, and the Reentry Project. Our **Women and Reentry: A Snapshot of Local Data and a Spotlight on Efforts in Philadelphia** was published in June 2017 to accompany the Women's Commission's report on the state of women and girls in Philadelphia.

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR SUBCOMMITTEES

**Community Engagement** surveyed formerly incarcerated leaders doing local reentry work to shape future plans, + continued to partner with the Reentry Think Tank. **Data and Metrics** completed its Unified Recidivism project.

**Education** worked on making education more accessible to returning citizens. **Employment** built excitement about developing shared referral frameworks for reentry and employment services.

**Funding** created a letter of support policy + strategized about facilitating more open dialogue about funding. **Health** and **Housing** launched.

**Juvenile Life w/o Parole** brought over 50 groups together to leverage resources + identify priorities to support those returning home.



# A UNIFIED RECIDIVISM RATE and a GOAL FOR 2021

In Home for Good, we committed to collectively reducing recidivism in Philadelphia by 25% over 5 years. Recidivism can be defined and measured many ways. Often recidivism is tracked by individual agencies that are only able to track people who are leaving or returning to their own system. The Reentry Coalition wanted to be able to analyze a more unified recidivism rate that would correspond to Philadelphians returning from incarceration regardless of whether they were in county, state, or federal jails and prisons. To track recidivism as a Coalition, the metric we selected was to look at one year re-arrest rates for people released by the Philadelphia Department of Prisons or the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections to Philadelphia. The Data and Metrics Subcommittee recently completed calculating the baseline for 2012-2015, from which to measure our shared reduction goal. The subcommittee was also able to analyze additional information including basic demographic information about people being released to Philadelphia annually, and will be releasing a full report in early 2018.

**34.2% → 25.7%**  
of adults returning to Philadelphia from Philadelphia Dept. of Prisons or PA Dept. of Corrections custody are re-arrested within a year.

Between 2012 and 2015, an average of **34.2%** of people returning to Philadelphia from county jail or state prison were re-arrested within a year. This means that **65.8%** of people returning to Philadelphia from county jail or state prison were not re-arrested within a year. With our shared goal of a 25% reduction in 5 years, our target is to reduce that rate to **25.7% by 2021**, so that at least **74.3%** of people who are released from county jail or state prison to Philadelphia are not re-arrested within a year.

## LESSONS LEARNED

**Meeting Expectations:** One of the Coalition's biggest assets is the range of organizations and agencies who are at the table. Operating the Coalition to simultaneously meet so many different needs and interests is challenging, and we need to manage expectations about what we are realistically able to do.

**Balancing Structure and Flexibility:** In Year 2 the Coalition's leadership experienced how challenging it is to balance a highly focused roadmap and goals while being flexible and adapting to members' needs. As we continually strive to understand how to most effectively support collective efforts to reduce recidivism, we have adjusted some timelines and projects (for example, moving away from some of the Home for Good objectives related to the Risk-Needs-Responsivity methodology).

**Adapting:** Realizing we did not have the capacity to support a subcommittee that could actively address policy issues across all of the other subcommittees, we dissolved our Policy subcommittee in order to empower other subcommittees to tackle policy issues in their respective areas.

## LOOKING AHEAD: YEAR 3 OF HOME FOR GOOD

- ✳ **Improving Communications with a New Website and Newsletter Design to Make Resources and Information About Reentry in Philadelphia Easier to Find**
- ✳ **Offering Ongoing Seasonal Training Series as Professional Development and Educational Opportunities**
- ✳ **Surveying Providers to Conduct a Comprehensive Inventory of Reentry Services in Philadelphia**
- ✳ **Starting an Annual Member Survey to Better Track Member Needs and Coalition Impact**
- ✳ **Building a Reentry Capacity Bank to Support Members**
- ✳ **Mapping Reentry Processes Within Criminal Justice Agencies**
- ✳ **Continuing Partnerships around Shared Frameworks for Employment and Reentry Referrals**
- ✳ **Increasing Dialogue and Transparency about Funding**
- ✳ **Making the Case for Education in Reentry and Making Education Easier to Access**
- ✳ **Sponsoring and Supporting Activities in Recognition of Reentry Month 2018**
- ✳ **Increasing Outreach for More Public Engagement and Education**
- ✳ **Continuing to Partner with RISE to Support the Kenney Administration's Reentry Efforts**

## THANK YOU

Thank you to our members and our leadership for continuing to believe that by working together, we can reduce Philadelphia's high recidivism rates and interrupt the harm they cause. Thank you for investing time and energy into the Reentry Coalition as we work towards having a greater impact together than the sum of our parts.

For more info, visit [www.philadelphiareentrycoalition.org](http://www.philadelphiareentrycoalition.org)