

Fact Sheet – Justice Department Strategic Plan for Supporting the Goals of the Federal Interagency Alternatives and Reentry Committee

As part of an all-of-government strategy set forth in the May 2022 [Executive Order on Advancing Effective, Accountable Policing and Criminal Justice Practices to Enhance Public Trust and Public Safety](#), the Justice Department’s newly released report, *Rehabilitation, Reentry, and Reaffirming Trust: The Department of Justice Strategic Plan* (Strategic Plan) represents its ongoing commitment to strengthening the safety of our communities, while advancing thoughtful, evidence-informed initiatives and reforms throughout the criminal justice system.

The Executive Order established the Federal Interagency Alternatives and Reentry Committee (Committee), chaired by the Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy and comprised of the Attorney General and the secretaries of more than a dozen executive agencies. The Committee has been focused on three goals: safely reducing unnecessary criminal justice interactions, supporting rehabilitation during incarceration, and facilitating reentry into society of people with criminal records. As required by the Executive Order, the Strategic Plan outlines a department-wide vision for promoting the Committee’s goals at the federal level, as well as ways the department can support those goals in state and local justice systems through grantmaking, guidance, and technical assistance.

1. Safely Reducing Criminal Justice System Interactions

The Executive Order calls for a strategy to safely reduce interactions with the criminal justice system. DOJ is committed to seeding, supporting, and strengthening approaches that reduce burden on law enforcement and strengthen public safety, including by:

- **Advancing comprehensive reform and providing critical resources to foster community trust and safety.** DOJ is pursuing the Accelerating Justice System Reform program, a new \$15 billion 10-year initiative proposed within President Biden’s Safer America Plan that would provide jurisdictions with critical resources to foster community trust and safety, reduce inequity and justice system involvement, and alleviate burdens on police. DOJ is also investing in research on racial and ethnic disparities in the criminal justice system, with the goal of identifying interventions with the potential to reduce disparate treatment.
- **Promoting community-based solutions for addressing less serious offenses.** DOJ has launched a new grant program to support community-driven models for addressing less serious and low-level offenses, as alternatives to traditional law enforcement mechanisms, easing burden on officers and strengthening public safety.
- **Supporting diversion and comprehensive continuums of first response.** DOJ is investing in the implementation and evaluation of co-responder models and diversion strategies that connect individuals with behavioral health disorders to community-based resources and alternatives to arrest or incarceration, in appropriate cases. DOJ will continue to leverage grantmaking authorities to foster innovation, promote knowledge exchange and dissemination, and deepen understanding of what works in alternatives to traditional police responses.

- **Investing in problem-solving courts.** DOJ’s grants support problem-solving courts that divert people with substance use disorders into judicially supervised treatment programs in appropriate cases, with a focus on promoting equity and mitigating disparate outcomes for participants.
- **Addressing the crack-to-powder sentencing disparity in the federal system.** DOJ is actively advancing equity in enforcement actions at the federal level, including by supporting the elimination of the crack-to-powder sentencing disparity.

2. Supporting Rehabilitation During Incarceration

The Executive Order emphasizes the need to ensure meaningful opportunities for rehabilitation during incarceration. DOJ is committed to bridging the gaps in opportunity for those incarcerated within BOP facilities, and to supporting our state and local correctional partners as they undertake the critical work of promoting rehabilitation in prisons and jails nationwide, including by:

- **Supporting correctional education and employment programs.** DOJ invests in state- and local-level correctional services that expand access to high school equivalent degrees, vocational training, and other certifications. DOJ is now supporting correctional and educational institutions as they scale up post-secondary educational opportunities in prisons, in preparation for the reinstatement of Pell Grant eligibility for incarcerated students in July 2023. BOP is also expanding access to Pell Grants within federal correctional facilities to help incarcerated students earn college credits and/or a college degree.
- **Delivering jail-specific solutions.** To address the unique challenges facing local jails, DOJ is launching the Jails and Justice Support Center, a national training and technical assistance hub to guide jail administrators in establishing safe and humane environments that effectively serve residents, visitors, and staff. DOJ is working to expand access to medications for opioid use disorder for people in federal custody, in state and local facilities through federal funding and guidance to support the effective management of substance withdrawal in local jails.
- **Reducing barriers for eligible voters.** To help protect the fundamental right to vote in jails, where most individuals are eligible to vote since jails are largely comprised of people awaiting trial or those serving misdemeanor sentences that do not preclude voting, DOJ will support the development of resources that combat misinformation on voter eligibility, explain state-specific voter rights for incarcerated persons, and promote strategies for expanding voter registration and access.
- **Expanding access to civil legal services.** To aid in the prompt resolution of pending civil legal issues – such as debt collection, access to benefits or child custody matters – that can help support successful reentry and promote public safety, DOJ is launching an innovative pilot program to provide civil legal services to incarcerated individuals in select BOP women’s facilities.

3. Facilitating Reentry for People with Criminal Records

The Executive Order calls for a strategy for facilitating successful reentry and lowering barriers to opportunity for people with criminal records, underscoring that such efforts are essential to reducing recidivism and reducing crime. DOJ is committed to facilitating successful reentry and lowering barriers to opportunity for people with criminal records, including by:

- **Reducing barriers to government-issued identification.** Because people often leave incarceration without a state-issued identification, a common pre-requisite to housing, employment, and other basic societal functions, BOP is developing a Release Identification Card that formerly incarcerated individuals could use to obtain a state-issued ID upon return to the community. Additionally, BOP is consulting with the Department of Homeland Security to develop a Release Folder containing all official documents providing reliable information necessary to obtain a REAL ID compliant identification from the state licensing agency where the formerly incarcerated person intends to reside.
- **Investing in correctional and reentry programs nationwide.** DOJ makes significant investments in programming for currently and formerly incarcerated individuals at the state, local, and Tribal levels. In support of these efforts, OJP has welcomed two Second Chance Fellows whose professional expertise and lived experience in the justice system will help inform DOJ's efforts to promote reentry success.
- **Improving health coverage and continuity of care.** DOJ will work with federal partners and stakeholders in the field to increase uptake and successful implementation of Medicaid 1115 demonstration authorities, a new opportunity for states to improve care transitions for certain individuals nearing release from incarceration, as well as other related tools for improving continuity of care pre- and post-release.
- **Improving community supervision outcomes.** DOJ will support the implementation and evaluation of community supervision models designed to reduce revocations for technical violations and will launch a training and technical assistance center to improve community supervision outcomes and reduce recidivism.
- **Addressing unjust and unlawful fines and fees.** DOJ issued a Dear Colleague Letter for state and local courts and juvenile justice agencies that addresses common court-imposed fines and fees practices and cautions against those practices that may be unlawful and unfairly penalize individuals who are unable to pay or otherwise have a discriminatory effect. DOJ will follow up on this letter by building a best practice guide and initiating new assistance for state and local efforts to rethink the use of fines and fees.