



AT THE INTERSECTION OF REENTRY AND PUBLIC SAFETY | Using the Reentry Toolkit to Promote Safer Communities

Every year in the United States, more than 400,000 people leave state and federal prisons and return to their communities.¹ When states and localities provide effective reentry programs and practices for people returning to society, it promotes healthier, safer communities. The National Reentry Resource Center's (NRRC's) *Building Second Chances: Tools for Local Reentry Coalitions* toolkit (reentry toolkit) and the tools within it offer local coalitions the opportunity to advance evidence-based reentry strategies that fit their local needs. A new initiative, the Local Reentry Community of Practice, provides an opportunity for communities to use the reentry toolkit in their own local context. The Local Reentry Community of Practice, consisting of five local jurisdictions, will use the reentry toolkit to promote public safety strategies in their local communities.



An Introduction to *Building Second Chances: Tools for Local Reentry Coalitions*

The NRRC's reentry toolkit is designed for city, county, and community leaders who want to improve reentry policy, practice, and outcomes within local jurisdictions. Within the two-part toolkit, leaders will find user-friendly publications, as well as examples of promising practices and foundational knowledge to advance and reinvigorate reentry strategies.

Part I introduces the Reentry Practices Capacity Assessment (RPCA). This assessment, currently being piloted by five Public Safety Partnership sites that comprise the Local Reentry Community of Practice, provides step-by-step guidance on using local data to incorporate systemic changes that support individuals reentering local jurisdictions from jail or prison. The RPCA is organized as follows:



SECTION 1 | Driving Systems Change focuses on designing comprehensive, strategic, and systemic reentry efforts.



SECTION 2 | Reducing Recidivism reviews essential elements of tracking and using evidence-based practices to reduce recidivism.



SECTION 3 | Enabling Personal and Community Transformation promotes ways to support people reentering their communities by connecting them with essential health and social service supports and advancing opportunities for economic mobility and prosocial networks.

¹ <https://bjs.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh236/files/media/document/p21st.pdf>

Part II, Tools for Change, guides local leaders through strategies to support linking and leveraging resources, changing policy and practice, and building broad community support by completing activities that build off one another. Activities in the reentry toolkit promote local leaders' ability to assess resources, develop local priorities and goals, complete a strategic reentry plan, cultivate buy-in, and develop a communication plan.

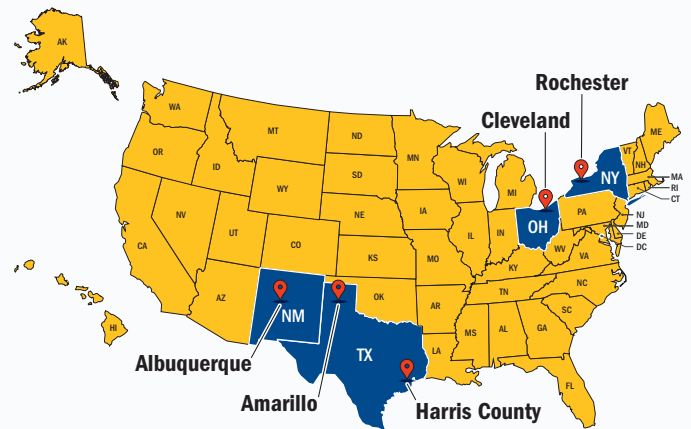
The reentry toolkit also includes [resources](#) that local reentry leaders can customize and apply to their coalition's specific needs.



Promoting Safer Communities Through the Local Reentry Community of Practice

Reducing recidivism is a priority for local coalitions because disrupting cycles of incarceration keeps people in communities and families together and avoids further harm and trauma to the community.²

As a result of this clear intersection between reentry and public safety, the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance, through the NRRC, is implementing the Local Reentry Community of Practice. The pilot program, in collaboration with five of DOJ's [National Public Safety Partnership](#) sites—Albuquerque, Amarillo, Cleveland, Harris County, and Rochester—is trailblazing the field by weaving reentry practices into public safety strategic plans. Through this initiative, the five pilot sites will partner across organizations—including corrections agencies, community supervision, community-based organizations, and key stakeholders—to strategically address reentry and public safety using the reentry toolkit and coaching support through the NRRC. The sites will share promising practices and lessons learned and will amplify strategies that are evidence based for reentry. At the end of the pilot program, the NRRC will share wisdom and insights built around taking a systemic approach to converging reentry and public safety strategies in local jurisdictions.



Using the Reentry Toolkit

The *Building Second Chances* reentry toolkit is one of many resources through the NRRC that promote safer neighborhoods, stronger reentry programs, research-based strategies, and policies that support thriving communities.

² <https://www.prisonpolicy.org/reports/pie2022.html>



To access the reentry toolkit, please visit the [NRRC](#).



You also can watch the [introduction video](#) for step-by-step instructions on how to use the toolkit for your reentry efforts.

About the National Reentry Resource Center
Funded and administered by the U.S. Department of Justice's [Office of Justice Programs](#), [Bureau of Justice Assistance](#), the NRRC is the nation's primary source of information and guidance in reentry.

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