



Assistance to Second Chance Act States: Strategic Planning for Prisoner ReEntry (SPPR)
In Partnership with the National Reentry Resource Center

Funded by the Public Welfare Foundation

PROJECT OVERVIEW
November 2010

Project Goal. The federal Second Chance Act has provided significant funding to states to support programming needed by individuals returning from prison to the community to enhance their ability to remain law-abiding citizens.

The Strategic Planning for Prisoner Reentry (SPPR) project provides resources to support strategic planning efforts in Second Chance Act-funded states, designated as state-level, adult demonstration sites, in order to increase the likelihood that additional program resources will be targeted effectively to reduce levels of recidivism as anticipated and required by the federal legislation.

The purpose of this project is to enhance the capacity of states to support comprehensive, strategic planning efforts that result in improved offender outcomes and the wise use of public resources.



Project Advisers

Bureau of Justice Assistance

John Jay College of Criminal Justice

National Institute of Corrections

National Reentry Resource Center

The Urban Institute



Project Activities/Core Tactics.

Using three core tactics, the project will work to enhance this capacity within 2009 and 2010 SCA Demonstration Grantees over the next 12 months:

Strategic Planning Tools. The project will develop a packet of reentry strategic planning tools and resources that will be used by project partners, state-based reentry leaders, and hopefully other technical assistance providers working with states on reentry.

Supporting On-Site Strategic Planning Events. The project will identify and invite agency leaders responsible for planning reentry efforts within their jurisdiction to work with the project team on-site to utilize the planning tools to effectively guide their reentry efforts and further hone their skills.

Continuing Technical Assistance. The project will provide on-going, on-site support for agency leaders as they launch and continue their strategic planning efforts.

The Four Phase Project Work Plan.

The project has four distinct phases:

- **Phase One: Development and Planning** (July through October 2010): The project management team (CEPP, Northpointe, NRRC) will develop a detailed work plan, reach out to its project advisory group for guidance and input, map parallel resources and assistance, and develop, in particular, a strategy for engaging Second Chance Act State grantees.
- **Phase Two: Synthesize and Disseminate Planning Tools** (October 2010 through January 2011): A strategic planning packet, including a project web cast, will be developed that states can use to strengthen reentry efforts. The framework for strategic planning will be grounded in the Action Planning process found in the TPC Reentry Handbook: Implementing the NIC Transition from Prison to the Community Model (USDOJ, NIC; August 2008).

This packet will be available on-line through the project partners' and others' web sites (CEPP, Northpointe, and the National Reentry Resource Center). The goal is to disseminate the packet broadly, maximizing its accessibility.

- **Phase Three: Supporting On-Site Strategic Planning Efforts** (January through May 2011): Targeted technical assistance will be provided to support each participating state's "core reentry team" in facilitated strategic planning retreats. This core reentry team will include leaders from key justice agencies and state, local, and community organizations charged with guiding their state's reentry effort.
- **Phase Four: Continuing Technical Assistance** (April through August 2011). As a result of these retreats, each of the states will develop an outline of their strategic plan and their preliminary goals for the continued assistance they will need in the months to follow. A Project Planning Coach will serve as a resource for the state to turn to as they further develop and implement their plan. He or she will work to support the planning efforts begun in phases two and three.

Engaging Second Chance Act Grantees. Information outlining how to request this assistance will be available to SCA states in early November.

Our strategy to encourage involvement in this effort will be to make the project widely known among the state SCA grantees, emphasize its importance in enhancing their ability to be successful in their reentry efforts over time. Specifically, we will emphasize the value of this technical assistance in enhancing the abilities of core reentry teams to:

1. Assure sustainability of reentry efforts over time;
2. Respond to the high expectations to demonstrate and measure successful offender outcomes;
3. Develop long-term partnerships and support of key stakeholders and the community at large; and
4. Hone skills that will be even more essential to secure future rounds of Second Chance Act funding.

Communication Strategy.

Now that the Bureau of Justice Assistance has provided formal notification of awards to adult state demonstration projects, the National Reentry Resource Center (NRRC) is sending a description of its role—especially around the issue of technical assistance—to the new grantees. NRCC’s introductory communication has included a description of the SPPR project and what it offers, as distinct from—but complementary to—the assistance from the NRRC. The assistance will also be discussed during NRRC’s initial orientation session which includes all of the Second Chance Act grantees via phone and web.

Following the NRRC orientation session, CEPP and Northpointe will provide a formal communication to all of the adult state demonstration sites inviting their participation how they can request assistance. It will specifically detail the assistance available, its long-term benefits to them, the expectations of participation by key leaders and staff from the core reentry team, and the time line.

Technical assistance from the project will begin once responses to this invitation have been received, communicating grantees’ desires to receive assistance, and their willingness to fully participate in the process.

The Bureau of Justice Assistance and the National Institute of Corrections, are serving as project advisers, and will be communicating further with SCA state adult demonstration sites, encouraging them to avail themselves of this resource. The Urban Institute and the John Jay College of Criminal Justice are also serving as project advisers.