



Safety and Justice

A RAND INFRASTRUCTURE, SAFETY, AND ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM

Improving Correctional Education for Incarcerated Adults and Juveniles

Study Overview

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Correctional Education (CE) Programs Can Help Address Recidivism Problem

- **Over 2/3 of inmates are rearrested and 1/2 reincarcerated within 3 years of release**
 - **Even if stay “clean,” often struggle to get foothold in labor market and to adjust to reentry**

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- **Education is hypothesized to be related to lower rates of recidivism**
- **90% of publicly operated institutions offer some form of CE**

Academic Training	Improves overall cognitive functioning and decisionmaking
Vocational Training	Teaches practical job skills to assist released offenders with employment

But We Need to Better Understand How Well CE Programs Work

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 - **Research is limited by methodological challenges**

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- Passage of Second Chance Act of 2007 directly supports CE programs and research

Second Chance Act of 2007

Public Law 110–199
110th Congress

An Act

To reauthorize the grant program for reentry of offenders into the community in the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, to improve reentry planning and implementation, and for other purposes.

Apr. 9, 2008
[H.R. 1593]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Second Chance Act of 2007: Community Safety Through Recidivism Prevention” or the “Second Chance Act of 2007”.

Second Chance
Act of 2007:
Community
Safety Through
Recidivism
Prevention.
42 USC 17501

“PART JJ—GRANT PROGRAM TO EVALUATE AND IMPROVE EDUCATIONAL METHODS AT PRISONS, JAILS, AND JUVENILE FACILITIES

Bureau of Justice Assistance, U.S. Department of Justice Has Awarded CE Grant

- **Grant objectives:**
 - **Provide comprehensive understanding of current state of CE and where it is headed**
 - **Identify which CE programs and practices are effective**
 - **Determine how effective programs can be implemented across settings**

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- **Grant awarded to RAND, who will work with Correctional Education Association (CEA)**



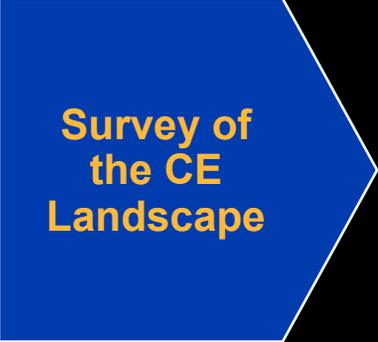
Nationally recognized non-partisan, non-profit public policy think tank



Non-profit professional association serving educators and administrators

We Will Achieve Objectives Through Six Tasks

Task 1



**Survey of
the CE
Landscape**

- **Conduct
telephone
interviews**
- **Conduct
focus
groups**
- **Administer
web-based
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Task 2

**Systematic
Lit Search
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Programs**

- **Search on-line databases**
- **Search unpublished literature**

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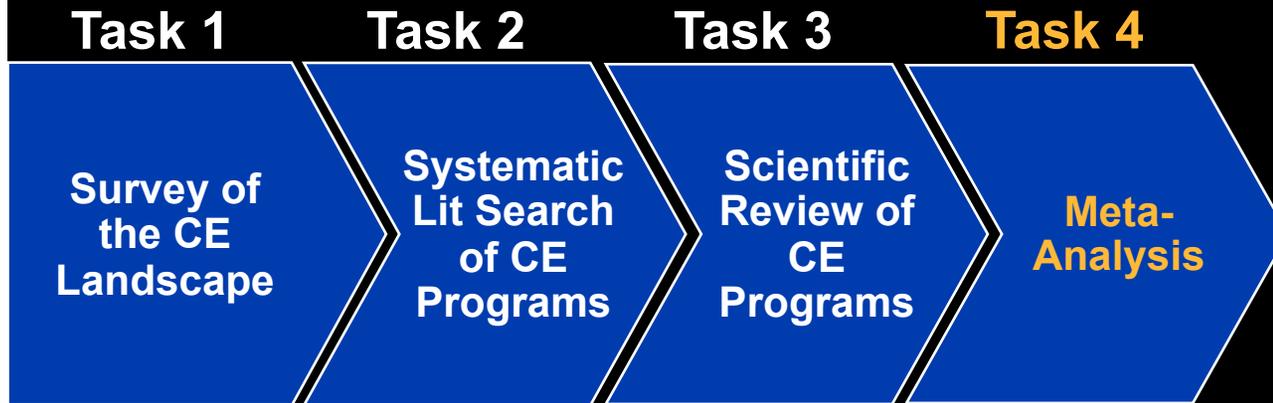
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Task 3

Scientific
Review of
CE
Programs

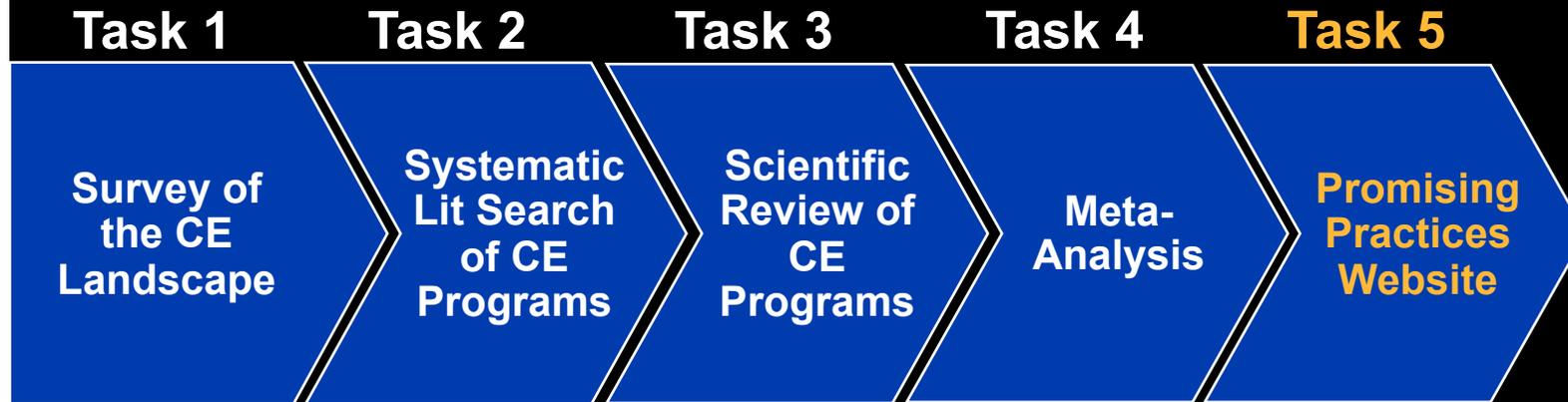
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- Apply scientific ratings to extant research & evaluations

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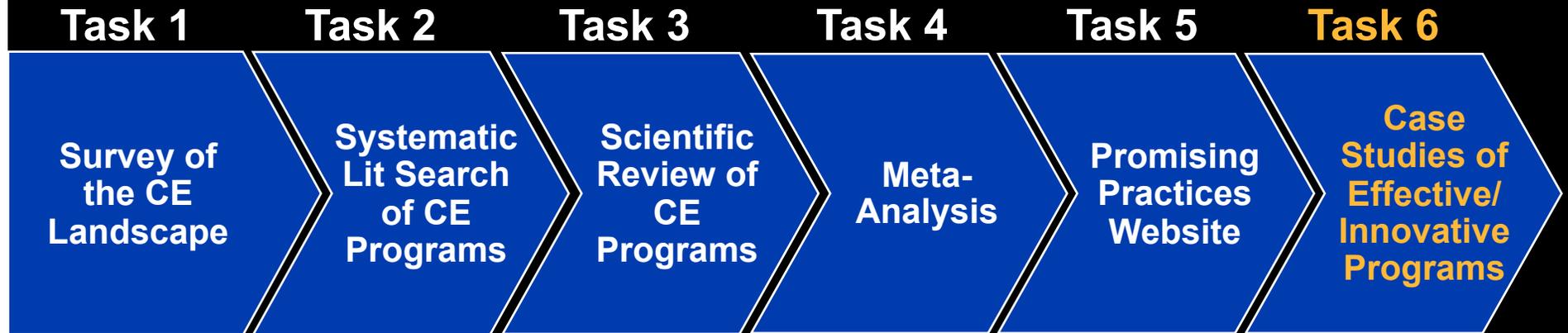
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- Collaborate with working group of CE specialists
- Develop website providing info & research-based recommendations

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- Interview teachers & inmates

- Observe programs

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- **Series of briefings and workshops at national conferences and leadership forums**

For More Information:

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