



COURT SERVICES AND OFFENDER SUPERVISION AGENCY  
for the District of Columbia

# CSOSA Fact Sheet

## REENTRY IN WASHINGTON, DC

**REENTRY** is the process through which an individual goes to prison and returns, trying to establish a crime-free life, reconnect with family, and contribute to his or her community.

Between 2009 and 2014, 2,166 reentrants on average have returned from prison to CSOSA's community supervision.

The core of CSOSA's mission is to increase public safety and prevent crime by reducing recidivism. To do this, CSOSA works to reduce rearrests, improve education levels, increase employment rates, and reduce drug use among the population it serves.

Pursuing these goals requires strategic coordination between CSOSA, other government agencies, and community-based organizations through three stages of reentry — prison, transition, and community integration.

**PRISON:** During the first stage of reentry, the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) incarcerates men and women from DC in facilities located across the United States. The BOP works to place these individuals within 500 miles of the District.

The BOP provides a number of reentry programs for eligible reentrants. Service areas include vocational training, substance abuse education and treatment, health and nutrition, employment, personal finance, consumer skills, community

resources, release requirements and procedures and personal growth and development. For more information, see [www.bop.gov](http://www.bop.gov).

To increase the opportunities for men and women returning to the District of Columbia, CSOSA conducts unique videoconferences called Community

Resource Days for those within 90 days of release from several BOP facilities. These videoconferences enable DC-based housing, healthcare, employment, and education providers to present information to those men and women who are soon-to-be released.

**TRANSITION:** Roughly half of DC reentrants from BOP custody to CSOSA supervision transition from prison to the community through a Residential Reentry Center, commonly referred to as a halfway house.

CSOSA Community Supervision Officers (CSOs) from its Transitional Interventions for Parole Supervision (TIPS) unit work with Residential Reentry Centers located in Washington, DC and operated under Bureau of Prisons contracts.

Community Supervision Officers assigned to TIPS begin assessment and case planning with reentrants prior to release. Transition through a Residential Reentry Center increases a reentrant's opportunity to develop a sound reentry plan and connect with necessary services in the community.

**COMMUNITY INTEGRATION:** The most intensive portion of CSOSA's direct role in reentry takes place after release from prison while these men and women are on parole or supervised release. CSOSA emphasizes reentrant accountability and opportunity through risk and needs assessment, close supervision, treatment and support services, and partnerships designed to increase CSOSA's resources to supervise reentrants and meet the diverse needs of the population.

### Risk & Needs Assessment

**CSOSA SCREENER & CASE PLANNING:** CSOSA assesses each reentrant's risk to the community and social needs. The results of the assessment comprise a supervision plan intended to guide the reentry process.

### Close Supervision

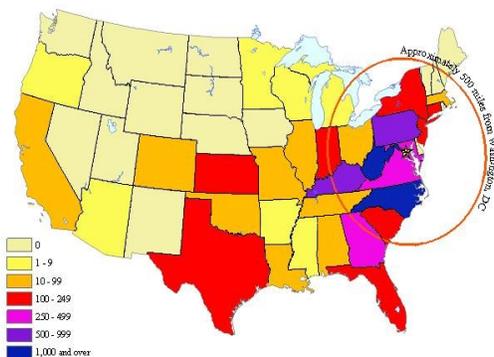
**HIGH LEVELS OF CONTACT:** Reentrant risk level, determined by the CSOSA Auto Screener, guides the frequency with which these men and women must report to Community Supervision Officers.

**CSOSA-LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIPS:** Community Supervision Officers and police officers (from the Metropolitan Police Department and the DC Housing Authority Police) routinely share information on high-risk reentrants, conduct Accountability Tours — in which a CSO and a police officer visit reentrants in the community, and host Mass Orientations — in which police and CSOs meet with men and women just released.

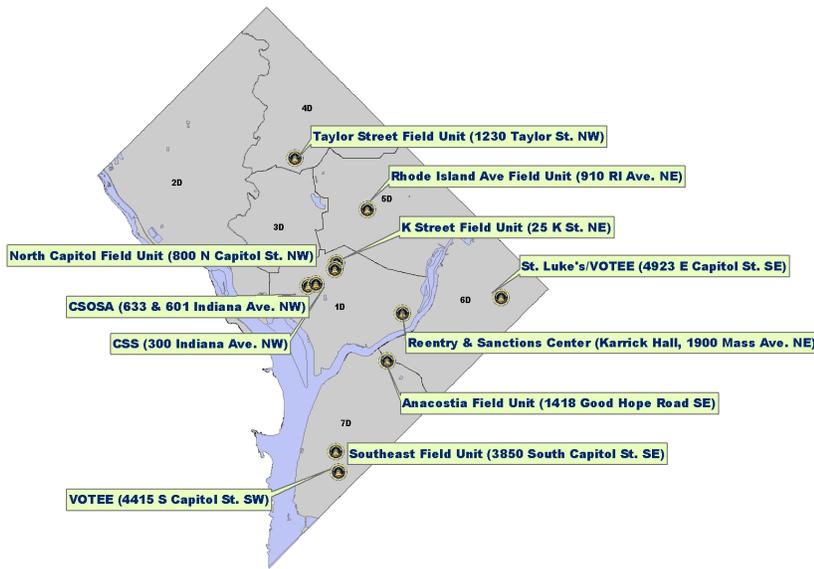
**SURVEILLANCE DRUG TESTING:** Frequent contact with CSOs is supplemented by drug testing, ranging from twice weekly to once monthly.

Released to CSOSA Supervision	
•	FY 2009 : 2,411
•	FY 2010 : 2,353
•	FY 2011 : 2,123
•	FY 2012 : 2,184
•	FY 2013 : 1,971
•	FY 2014 : 1,958

Distribution of District of Columbia Offenders in Federal Bureau of Prisons Facilities  
By State



# COURT SERVICES AND OFFENDER SUPERVISION AGENCY



*CSOSA Offices and Learning Labs by Police District*

**GRADUATED RESPONSES:** Swift and certain sanctions for rule breaking are a key to successful supervision. Sanctions include increased in-person contacts, day reporting, electronic and Global Position System (GPS) monitoring, increased drug testing, community service, and short-term residential placement.

**REPORTING VIOLATIONS:** New arrests and repeat violations of parole or supervised release conditions result in reports of alleged violations to the United States Parole Commission.

## **Treatment and Support Services**

**SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT:** CSOSA assesses high-risk reentrants' addiction severity to make clinically appropriate treatment placements. The agency's fiscal appropriation allows for CSOSA to meet 25% of the population's addiction treatment need. CSOSA refers lower-risk reentrants to the DC Department of Behavioral Health's Addiction Prevention and Recovery Administration (APRA), the agency primarily responsible for addressing the substance abuse treatment needs of eligible District residents.

**REENTRY AND SANCTIONS CENTER:** CSOSA opened its Reentry and Sanctions

Center in February 2006. The Reentry and Sanctions Center provides reentrants with a 28-day assessment and treatment preparation program prior to placement in residential or outpatient programming.

**VIOLENCE REDUCTION PROGRAM:** The Violence Reduction Program (VRP) is a three-phase treatment intervention for men, aged 18-35 with histories of violent, weapons, and/or drug distribution convictions; assessment and treatment readiness, cognitive-behavioral therapy and aftercare and community reintegration.

**EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT:** The Vocational Opportunities for Training, Education, and Employment (VOTEE) unit assesses and responds to the individual educational and vocational needs of reentrants. The unit also provides adult basic education and GED preparation courses at one of four learning labs staffed by CSOSA Learning Lab Specialists. In addition, VOTEE actively maintains partnerships with the Office of the State Superintendent of Education to provide literacy services. The DC Department of Employment Services provides employment training, and placement services.

## **Community-Based Support**

**COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND-SOCIAL NETWORKS:** The CSOSA Faith Community Partnership is designed to

provide mentors for reentrants and establish a network of faith-based institutions that may have housing, employment, substance abuse, or other resources that can benefit these men and women.

**RESIDENCE:** CSO's routinely counsel reentrants to seek a healthy residential environment and encourage them to move, if necessary. According to the National Low Income Housing Coalition, household income needs to reach almost \$60,240 per year (or \$28.96 per hour) to pay market rate rent (\$1,506) for a two-bedroom apartment in the District. Twenty percent of DC households report less than \$9,500 in annual income. The city has an affordable housing shortage that makes residential stability a significant challenge for those under community supervision.

**MENTAL HEALTH:** CSOSA refers reentrants to contract psychologists for mental health screening to determine need for more in-depth psychological evaluation and treatment. The DC Department of Behavioral Health provides mental health psychological screening and evaluations, counseling, and community-based support services for reentrants with diagnosed mental health disorders.

**IDENTIFICATION & BENEFITS:** CSOSA verifies a reentrant's address to assist him or her in obtaining non-driver's identification from the Department of Motor Vehicles. CSOSA also directs reentrants to appropriate DC Department of Human Services offices to apply for social services or healthcare insurance for self and/or family.

**PHYSICAL HEALTH AND DISABILITY:** CSOSA does not provide any direct health-related services. The agency does counsel reentrants to register for the DC Healthcare Benefits Exchange or Medicaid.

## **CSOSA FAITH COMMUNITY**

**PARTNERSHIP:** The CSOSA Faith Community Partnership is designed to provide mentors for returning supervised individuals, as well as probationers, through a network of faith and community partners. Network providers may have housing, employment, substance abuse, or other resources that can benefit the men and women under community supervision with CSOSA.

