

Comprehensive Reentry Strategy for Adults in the District of Columbia:

Action Plan

October 15, 2003

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Introduction

Five workgroups have established an action plan to implement the major recommendations contained in the *Comprehensive Reentry Strategy for Adults in the District of Columbia*. The Comprehensive Reentry Strategy is a detailed, long-range plan for an effective continuum of reentry services for DC offenders.

Like the Comprehensive Reentry Strategy, which is available on-line at www.CSOSA.gov, the corresponding Action Plan is the result of a community-based effort. A chronology of the Comprehensive Reentry Strategy's development is provided at the end of this summary. The workgroup action items provide a road map to address important public safety concerns by improving the planning and continuity of services that are necessary for offenders to return from prison and establish successful, productive lives in the community.

Each step is followed by a list of the key organizations that will need to collaborate to achieve implementation. The organization(s) that will convene the effort is underlined. The organization(s) with final decision-making authority to implement the step(s) is in boldface type. Some organizations may be underlined and in boldface type.

Respected leaders from criminal justice system and community-based organizations have prioritized action items that can be completed or should be launched in the six months following October 2003. The facilitator of each workgroup is listed below.

- **Pre-Release Planning** (Nancy Ware, Executive Director, Criminal Justice Coordinating Council)
- **Education/Employment** (Catherine Hargrove, formerly of the Marshall Heights Community Development Organization)
- **Public Education, Family, and Community Support** (Ivy Lange, DC Prisoners' Legal Services Project)
- **Short-term and Long-term Housing** (Claire Johnson, Pretrial Services Agency)
- **Legislative and Policy Issues** (Council Member Kathy Patterson)

Pre-Release Planning

- **Action Item 1: Convene a reentry team, which will consist of a Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) or DC Department of Corrections (DOC) case manager, a Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency (CSOSA) Community Supervision Officer, a family member and/or mentor, to complete an individualized Reentry Plan at the earliest practical moment during incarceration.**

Step 1: Continue the Assessment and Reentry Team Demonstrations at the Rivers Correctional Institute, Winton, NC. Implement a plan to expand this program to a women's facility. Lead Parties: Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency (CSOSA), **BOP**, and the United States Parole Commission (USPC).

Step 2: Advise attorneys and offenders as to the appropriate motions to file with District of Columbia Superior Court in order to waive child support and to address arrearages. Lead Parties: **Public Defender Service (PDS)**.

➤ **Action Item 2: Integrate case management and support services across agencies to assist offenders in obtaining needed services upon release.**

Step 1: Convene a meeting with the Mayor's Ex-offender Reentry Steering Committee to map out the connections between the Reentry Strategy and the Memorandum of Understanding guiding the use of funds granted to the City under the Serious and Violent Offender Reentry Initiative. Lead Parties: **CSOSA, Ex-Offender Reentry Steering Committee (established by Mayor Anthony Williams, October 2002).**

Step 2: Develop a seamless case management support system for supervised and non-supervised ex-offenders needing education, employment, housing, substance abuse, mental health, physical health or family support services regardless of their entry point into the D.C. government social service or criminal justice service network. Lead Parties: CSOSA, **Ex-Offender Reentry Steering Committee**.

Step 3: Develop a service coordination, utilization, and quality assurance committee and establish performance targets to guide service coordination efforts. Lead Parties: **Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC), CSOSA, Ex-Offender Reentry Steering Committee**.

Step 4: Establish an on-line resource directory that combines existing directories to provide a centralized repository of resources for housing, education and employment, substance abuse, mental health, identification and benefits, life skills, family and community support. Lead Party: On-line Resource Directory Committee (consisting of **CSOSA, DC Prisoners' Legal Services Project, PDS**).

➤ **Action Item 3: Ensure that inmates released from incarceration can access services or resources necessary for survival.**

Step 1: Encourage the Department of Corrections and the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to establish an agreement similar to CSOSA's agreement with DMV, which enables offenders to obtain non-driver's identification. Lead Party: **CJCC, DOC, DMV**.

Step 2: Propose a Rule in the *DC Municipal Register* allowing offenders a waiver from the 20% down payment to satisfy outstanding parking and traffic ticket fees for the purpose of obtaining a DMV ID card. Lead Party: **DMV**.

Step 3: Encourage the transition of 100% of eligible¹ offenders through a Community Correction Center. Lead Parties: **BOP**.

Education/Employment

➤ **Action Item 1: Utilize employment market data and ex-offender skill set data to guide job training and employer outreach.**

Step 1: Ensure that the employment needs and skill sets of ex-offenders are addressed in the Workforce Investment Council’s survey to analyze industry and business willingness to hire “hard to employ” populations. Lead Parties: Workforce Investment Council, **DOES**.

Step 2: Analyze ex-offender needs and skill sets to develop a strategy to reach out to small businesses or large employers who may hire ex-offenders. Lead Parties: CSOSA, Faith Advisory Council, Small Business Administration, Workforce Investment Council, DC Chamber of Commerce, and **DOES**.

Step 3: Implement CSOSA/Faith Community Partnership Workforce Development Plan, which in part encourages the development of training programs to build entrepreneurial skills. Lead Parties: **CSOSA**.

Step 4: Utilize employment market data in the development of job training and placement services at a new learning lab at the Bellevue (Home Buying) Counseling and Computer Resource Center. Lead Parties: CSOSA and **Redemption Ministries**.

Step 5: Incorporate employment market data into a promotional marketing strategy to educate potential employers (large and small) about the merits of employing and training offenders. Lead Party: **CSOSA**.

¹ The Federal Bureau of Prisons weighs a number of factors to determine inmate eligibility for CCC placement and the length of CCC transition from prison to the community. For example, inmates in the following categories shall not ordinarily participate in CCC Programs. Inmates who:

- a. Are assigned a “Sex Offender” Public Safety Factor.
- b. Are assigned a “Deportable Alien” Public Safety Factor.
- c. Require inpatient medical, psychological, or psychiatric treatment.
- d. Refuse to participate in the Inmate Financial Responsibility Program.
- e. Refuse to participate, withdraw, are expelled, or otherwise fail to meet attendance and examination requirements in a required Drug Abuse Education Course.
- f. Inmates with unresolved pending charges, or detainers, which will likely lead to arrest, conviction, or confinement.
- g. Are serving sentences of six months or less.
- h. Refuse to participate in the Institution Release Preparation Program.
- i. Pose a significant threat to the community.

These are inmates whose current offense or behavioral history suggests a substantial or continuing threat to the community. Ordinarily, inmates with a single incident of violence should not automatically be excluded from CCC placement.

Short-term and Long-term Housing

- **Action Item 1: Encourage individual inmates to begin the application process to place an additional family member's name on a public housing lease at least 90 days prior to release from incarceration.**

- **Action Item 2: Make the process to add a name to public and low-income housing leases more accessible to returning ex-offenders.**

Step 1: Explore issues related to releasing inmates to public housing – both prohibitive and facilitative. Lead Party: Mayor's Ex-Offender Reentry Steering Committee, DC Housing Authority (DCHA).

Step 2: Itemize and possibly modify CSOSA's procedures for assessment and case planning to address conditions of housing instability. Lead party: CSOSA.

Step 3: Develop housing remediation strategies as special training within CSOSA. Lead party: CSOSA.

Step 4: Develop liaison with DCHA for centralized communication/interaction between agencies. Lead parties: CSOSA, DCHA.

Step 5: Explore possibility of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with DCHA for coordinated, centralized, streamlined processing of offender applicants. Lead parties: CSOSA, DCHA.

- **Action Item 3: Encourage offenders to save in-prison and work release wages by establishing unique interest-bearing accounts for post-release expenses.**

Step 1: Encourage offenders to establish bank accounts and develop financial skills as part of Release Preparation Program. Lead party: **BOP**.

Step 2: Develop financial skills curriculum as a component of the enhanced life skills curriculum presented to returning offenders. Lead party: **CSOSA**.

Step 3: Develop a list of local banking institutions where ex-offenders have been successful in establishing bank accounts and make list available to BOP and other interested parties. Lead party: **CSOSA**.

Step 4: Explore MOU(s) with local financial institution(s) willing to accept "bulk" referrals of offenders who will open accounts and waive certain requirements (e.g., application fees, minimum balances, etc.). Lead party: **CSOSA, Ex-Offender Reentry Steering Committee, Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development**.

- **Action Item 4: Assist offenders in Community Corrections Centers (CCC) with finding housing, particularly individuals who may be released to the community without supervision.**

Step 1: Combine housing options repositories from various resource directories as part of the effort to create a combined service directory on-line. Lead parties: On-line Resource Directory Committee.²

- **Action Item 5: Create housing opportunities through single room occupancy facilities or subsidized transitional housing for newly released ex-offenders and for ex-offenders with custodial responsibility for children.**

Step 1: Collaborate with local non-profits to hold an offender transitional housing technical assistance event geared toward assisting local organizations that operate or plan to open facilities. Lead parties: CJCC, CSOSA.

Step 2: Examine local service-enriched transitional housing models (e.g., Blair House, Oxford House) to develop local best practices guide. Lead party: CSOSA.

Step 3: Develop a compendium of resources for housing services for special needs populations. Lead parties: On-line Resource Directory Committee.

Step 4: Encourage the Fannie Mae Foundation and the Urban Institute to include local representation at November Roundtable on Reentry & Housing. Lead party: CSOSA.

- **Action Item 5: Encourage disabled ex-offenders and those completing treatment to pursue programs that can help to defray housing expenses.**

Step 1: Increase awareness about Ryan White Fund to provide housing for offenders who are HIV positive. Lead parties: Mayor's Ex-Offender Reentry Steering Committee, **DOC**, **CSOSA**.

Step 2: Increase awareness about how to assist eligible offenders to obtain home and community-based waivers to secure housing support through the DC Mental Retardation and Developmentally Disabled Agency. Lead parties: Mayor's Ex-Offender Reentry Steering Committee, **DOC**, **CSOSA**.

Step 3: Increase awareness about how to assist eligible offenders to take advantage of Rehabilitation Services Agency or Veteran's Administration programs for housing and other needs. Lead parties: Mayor's Ex-Offender Reentry Steering Committee, **DOC**, **CSOSA**.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health

² See Action Item 2, Step 4 (page 3).

- **Encourage reentry teams to include a substance abuse treatment and/or mental health transition plan as part of the pre-release planning process.**

Note: Due to the on-going work of the Mayor’s Interagency Task Force on Substance Abuse Prevention, Treatment, and Control, the Reentry Strategy workgroups deferred detailed planning in the substance abuse treatment and mental health portions to the Mayor’s Task Force. Listed below are several steps that will contribute to the above action item.

Step 1: Factor the needs of ex-offenders into the Department of Mental Health’s and APRA’s development of a “Comprehensive, Continuous, Integrated System of Care.” Lead parties: Mayor’s Ex-Offender Reentry Steering Committee, **DMH, APRA, DOC.**

Step 2: Explore how Jail Medical Office Discharge Packets can be released to CSOSA, other law enforcement agencies, or a community-based organization with a requirement for the information. Lead parties: CJCC, **CSOSA, DOC.**

Step 3: Establish a comprehensive mental health screening system to ensure that individuals needing mental health services do not slip through the cracks. Lead parties: DMH, DOC, CSOSA.

Step 4: Pursue National Institute of Corrections Technical Assistance solicitation to improve the process through which offenders with chronic health or mental health diagnoses (i.e. – prescriptions for medication or continued counseling/care) receive health care or mental health services immediately upon release. Lead parties: **DMH, CJCC, DOC, CSOSA.**

Public Education, Community, and Family Support

- **Action Item 1: Encourage the development of support systems for the children and families of incarcerated parents.**

Step 1: Refer clients and generate awareness of funds or local programs to mentor or support children of incarcerated parents. (e.g., Big Brothers/Big Sisters' current mentoring program). Lead parties: **PDS, CSOSA, DC Prisoners’ Legal Services, Ex-Offender Reintegration Coalition of DC (ERC), Visitors’ Services Center.**

- **Action Item 2: Emphasize the relationship between public safety and successful reentry through the development of public education campaigns.**

Step 1: Organize a Reentry Summit targeting families and concerned community groups. Lead party: ERC.

Step 2: Encourage DOC and BOP to reach the community through public forums such as those held by the USPC. Lead parties: USPC, DOC, BOP.

Step 3: Promote a climate in the District for intentional discussion of what successful reentry is from the community perspective. Lead Parties: **Mayor's Ex-Offender Reentry Steering Committee, CSOSA, Visitor's Services Center, ERC.**

Legislative/Policy Issues

- **Action Item 1: Consider legislation to enhance public safety by addressing the need for an ex-offender housing continuum and the elimination of unnecessary barriers to successful reentry (all dates below are tentative).**

Step 1: September-October 2003: Investigate problems that may be addressed in a potential Reentry Bill. Lead Party: **Council Member Kathy Patterson.**

Step 2: November 2003: Introduce a reentry bill to the Council. Lead Party: **Council Member Kathy Patterson.**

Step 3: December 2003: Hold hearings on proposed bill. Lead Party: **Council Member Kathy Patterson.**

Step 4: Place the bill on the calendar for an initial mark-up in January 2004, first reading in March, and a second reading in April 2004. If a potential bill is approved in April, it could be referred to Congress and may become law by Summer 2004. Lead Party: **Council Member Kathy Patterson.**

- **Action Item 2: Make recommendations to CSOSA and reentry stakeholders regarding ways to resolve other policy issues through administrative options such as MOU's and written protocols that would be incorporated into DC's Reentry Strategy.**

NOTE: This workgroup has been constituted for the purposes of researching potential legislation. Once a bill is drafted, the group will conclude its work by submitting an updated implementation plan similar to the other four workgroups.

Background: *Comprehensive Reentry Strategy for Adults in the District of Columbia*

The goal of the *Comprehensive Reentry Strategy for Adults in the District of Columbia* is to provide a detailed, long-range plan for an effective continuum of reentry services for DC offenders during incarceration, transition from incarceration to the community, and life in the community during and after supervision. In addition, the strategy proposes an agenda for reentry service provider quality assurance, community education about the relationship between public safety and effective reentry, and legislative priorities.

The evolution of the strategy and its implementation has resulted from teamwork among District, federal, and community-based organizations.

- On July 24, 2001, CSOSA and the Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice hosted a citywide Reentry Symposium at the Washington Council of Governments. Participants identified issues and gaps in reentry services.

- On December 5, 2001, CSOSA and the Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice hosted a Reentry Service Provider Forum at the Wilson Building. Community-based service providers addressed city and federal officials about their organization's history, successes, and value to the offender reintegration process in the District of Columbia.
- Between December 2001 and April 2002, a group of community advocates, community-based service providers, and government agency representatives worked together to craft a comprehensive reentry strategy for adult offenders returning from incarceration to the District of Columbia community. The primary participants in this process included:
 - Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency (CSOSA),
 - Office of the Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice (DMPSJ),
 - Office of the Corrections Trustee,
 - DC Prisoners Legal Services Project,
 - DC Department of Corrections (DCDC),
 - DC Department of Mental Health (DMH), and
 - Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP).
- During Spring 2002, CSOSA provided extensive consultation to the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice's successful application for a \$2 million award under the United States Department of Justice "Serious and Violent Offender Reentry Initiative." The Reentry Strategy influenced the city's application for the grant.
- On June 12, 2003, CSOSA and its partners held a formal workshop to announce the strategy and discuss responses from stakeholders who had been invited to respond to the *Comprehensive Reentry Strategy for Adults in the District of Columbia* during April and May.
- At the June 12 event, participants were invited to join one of five workgroups to develop an Action Plan for the Reentry Strategy, emphasizing steps that are achievable between October 1, 2003-March 31, 2004.

Chapter 1

Pre-Release Planning, Transition, and Case Management Action Items

NOTE: Recommendations from the *Comprehensive Reentry Strategy for Adults in the District of Columbia* are numbered and introduced in boldface type. Proposed action steps developed by one of five workgroups are presented in tables.

Pre-Release Planning

1. Emphasize collaboration and comprehensive data sharing among correctional and community correctional personnel to conduct case planning prior to release.³ An effective assessment and pre-release planning system combines offenders’ personal goals with an objective assessment of offenders’ risk and needs factors that are based on statistically verifiable predictors of recidivism (Gendreau, Little, and Goggin, 1996; Andrews and Bonta, 1994; Andrews, 1994).

Table 1-1 (Item 1).

Implementation Steps	Responsible Party(ies)	Start Date	Projected End Date	Status
Explore how the Jail Medical Office Discharge Packets can be released to CSOSA, other law enforcement agencies, or a community-based organization with a need to know.	<u>CJCC Reentry Subcommittee</u> , DOC, CSOSA, US Parole Commission [USPC]	7/22/03	1/31/04	To be implemented
Establish a DC Reentry Workgroup to ensure effective coordination for exchanging assessment information and program history between BOP and CSOSA.	<u>BOP, CSOSA, DOC</u>	8/1/03	8/1/03	Completed (workgroup is established)
Improve exchange of medical information through one of two options: a) BOP’s enhanced program review; or	<u>BOP, CSOSA</u>	8/22/03	8/1/04	Underway
b) Establish an agreement between CSOSA and BOP Health Division to provide CSOSA Transitional Intervention Parole Services access to medical information in SENTRY.	<u>BOP, CSOSA</u>	8/22/03	8/1/04	To be considered
Demonstrate Inmates Skills Development assessment tool. ⁴	<u>BOP</u>	7/1/03	12/31/03	Underway
Ensure that CSOSA can access results of the established protocol when it is used on DC Code inmates.	<u>BOP, CSOSA</u>	12/31/03	On-going	Underway

2. Convene a reentry team for each offender upon entrance to the BOP and the DOC.⁵ A reentry team comprised of the offender, a BOP or DOC case manager, and, if available, a family member or

³ *Comprehensive Reentry Strategy for Adults in the District of Columbia*, p. 6.

⁴ BOP is currently testing a demonstration version of the Inmate Skills Development assessment tool at FCI Beckley, FPC Bryan, FDC Philadelphia, FCI Tucson, FCC Coleman, USP Terra Haute.

mentor should form and support the development of an individualized Reentry Plan prior to an inmate's transition from prison to the community. In situations in which DOC houses the inmate, the reentry team should have a plan in place no later than 30 days after entrance. Currently, BOP case managers begin reentry planning for offenders when they enter BOP facilities. Until recently, direct collaboration between BOP case managers and CSOSA's Community Supervision Officers (CSO's) has been limited to the period of Community Corrections Center (CCC) transition. Pre-release offenders who are the beneficiaries of this collaboration are limited to only those offenders eligible for CCC transition.⁶ Models of earlier collaboration between the BOP and CSOSA for reentry planning are developing. For example:

- In Spring 2003, CSOSA began a Pilot Teleconferencing Project with the Rivers Correctional Facility in Winton, NC, a BOP contract facility that houses approximately 1,000 DC Code offenders. In the demonstration, the reentry team developed case plans for 24 offenders and matched them with mentors through the CSOSA/Faith Community Partnership.
- BOP has launched a pilot initiative, the Inmate Skills Development Plan, at six locations (FCI Beckley, FPC Bryan, FDC Philadelphia, FCI Tucson, FCC Coleman, FL; USP Terra Haute, IN). The plan emphasizes improved needs assessment, needs-based program placement, and uninterrupted service delivery in critical needs areas while offenders transition from prison to the community.

Table 1-2 (Item 2).

Implementation Steps	Responsible Party(ies)	Start Date	Projected End Date	Status
Send CSOSA Team to Rivers to recruit and assess inmates for Phase II of demonstration.	<u>CSOSA</u> , BOP (Rivers/Wackenhut)	8/18/03	8/19/03	Completed
Schedule videoconferencing events to match mentors for Phase II.	<u>CSOSA</u> , BOP (Rivers/Wackenhut)	8/18/03	10/31/03	Underway
Develop process evaluation plan for Phase II of demonstration.	<u>CSOSA</u> , BOP (Rivers/Wackenhut)	8/18/03	10/31/03	To be developed
Encourage the BOP and DOC to involve family members or other appropriate community support persons (in person or via videoconference) in an offender's reentry team and his/her case plan development during incarceration.	<u>CJCC Reentry Committee</u> , DC Prisoners', BOP, CSOSA, DOC	10/1/03	3/31/04	To be considered
Include a recommendation in the PSI to identify a positive family member(s) or other support person(s) who could be included in the reentry team and case planning process during incarceration.	<u>CJCC Reentry Committee</u> , DC Prisoners', BOP, DOC, CSOSA, PDS, DOC	10/1/03	3/31/04	To be considered

⁵ *Comprehensive Reentry Strategy*, p. 6.

⁶ See Footnote 1.

3. Create a reentry plan that addresses critical areas of needs and that stays with a person through incarceration, community supervision (if any), and independent life in the community.⁷ The reentry team will develop a reentry plan to target and prioritize necessary interventions that will enable offenders to work toward personal goals for sustained independent living, utilize their individual strengths, and address risk factors and needs predictive of recidivism. The plan should focus on the following areas:

- Housing
- Education and Employment
- Substance Abuse
- Mental Health
- Identification and Benefits
- Life Skills
- Family and Community Support (including Child Support and Family Reunification issues)

4. Encourage inmates to take advantage of the District of Columbia Fatherhood Initiative service network upon release.⁸ Under the auspices of the DC Department of Human Services, a consortium of private and public agencies provides a range of assessment, family reunification, employment, education, housing, and other services to eligible fathers, including ex-offenders.

Table 1-3 (Items 3-4).

Implementation Steps	Responsible Party(ies)	Start Date	Projected End Date	Status
Identify a viable segment of the DOC population that will benefit from assessment and discharge planning. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How long does a person need to stay in DOC custody in order to complete a discharge plan? • Of approximately 18,000 individuals processed each year, how many people will be released to the street without supervision? • What is the distribution of lengths of stay (for example, what percentage of people released from the jail each year stayed seven days or less, eight days to three months, three to six-months, six-months to one year, or one year or greater)? 	<u>Ex-Offender Reentry Steering Committee, DOC</u>	10/1/03	3/31/04	To be implemented
Meet with DOC to consider use of CSOSA risk/needs assessment tool at DOC facilities for sentenced misdemeanants who will be released to probation supervision provided by CSOSA.	DOC, <u>CSOSA</u> , CJCC	10/1/03	3/31/03	To be implemented

⁷ *Comprehensive Reentry Strategy*, p. 7.

⁸ *Comprehensive Reentry Strategy*, p. 15.

Implementation Steps	Responsible Party(ies)	Start Date	Projected End Date	Status
Enhance CSOSA Risk/Needs Screener, which is used to guide post-release supervision.	<u>CSOSA</u>	10/1/03	2/28/03	Underway
Train staff on “What Works in Community Corrections” (Philosophy and best practices)	<u>CSOSA</u>	9/1/03	12/31/03	Underway
Include a recommendation in Pre-Sentence Investigations to petition the court for a waiver to stop accumulation of child support arrearages if offender is sentenced to incarceration.	<u>CSOSA</u> , PDS, OCC	10/1/03	3/31/04	To be considered

5. Ensure that the reentry plan for women is gender specific.⁹ The path to criminality for women is often different than it is for men. For many women criminal involvement is a matter of survival, poverty, and or substance abuse. Many incarcerated women became involved in property crime, prostitution, and or drug use after trying to escape physical or sexual abuse perpetrated by a family member or intimate associate. Others are entrapped in domestic violence situations in which their partners abuse them if they fail to provide them with drugs. In many of these cases, abused women exchange sex for a place to stay. Since the majority of women in the criminal justice system are mothers, incarceration places an additional level of burden on women that often manifests itself in co-occurring mental health and substance abuse problems. Developing reentry plans and programs that are sensitive to these realities are important to putting women in a position where they can make positive life changes.

⁹ *Comprehensive Reentry Strategy*, p. 7.

Table 1-4 (Item 5).

Implementation Steps	Responsible Party(ies)	Start Date	Projected End Date	Status
Expand the Assessment and Reentry Team Demonstration to additional facilities, including a woman's facility.	<u>CSOSA</u> , BOP , and USPC	10/31/03 or when feasible	To be determined (TBD)	Consider after completion of Assessment and Reentry Team Demonstration.
Include a woman's institution (FPC Bryan, TX) in pilot test of the Inmate Skills Development assessment tool.	BOP	5/1/03	12/31/03	Demonstration of the assessment is scheduled to run through 12/31/03.
Release eligible ¹⁰ women through the Fairview (Washington Halfway Homes) to address women's reentry issues.	BOP	Already started	On-going	Underway

6. Improve life skills by encouraging behavioral change and improved decision-making while addressing tangible needs for housing, personal and mental health care, substance abuse, education and employment, or other skill sets.¹¹ Gendreau, Little, and Goggin (1996) maintain, "The design of effective offender treatment programs is highly dependent on knowledge of the predictors of recidivism." Because attitude, peer association, personal belief systems, and family relationships are among the greatest predictors of criminal risk, interventions need to promote behavioral change while addressing various areas of need or skill development (Andrews and Bonta, 1994; Gaes and Kendig, 2002).

Table 1-5 (Item 6).

Implementation Steps	Responsible Party(ies)	Start Date	Projected End Date	Status
Based on assessment of individual needs, ¹² arrange for appropriate placement after release to CSOSA: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Substance Abuse Treatment Branch • Vocational Opportunities for Training, Education & Employment • Mental Health Supervision Teams 	BOP , <u>CSOSA</u> , DOC	Already started	On-going	Underway

¹⁰ See Footnote 1.

¹¹ *Comprehensive Reentry Strategy*, p. 7.

¹² Assessment may occur through Inmate Skills Development assessment tool, CSOSA Risk/Needs Assessment, or other viable means.

Implementation Steps	Responsible Party(ies)	Start Date	Projected End Date	Status
Identify an enhanced life skills curriculum (including a component on finding and maintaining housing) for individuals released to CSOSA.	<u>CSOSA</u>	No start date	3/31/04	To be implemented

Transition Planning and Case Management

1. Re-assess risk and needs (at least every 180 days) to adjust the intervention strategies in the Reentry Plan.¹³ Key aspects of an ex-offender’s risk and needs are dynamic. Reentry plans require adjustment to account for positive change, such as diminished alcohol or drug use, changed attitudes and behavior patterns, improved education levels, and enhanced job skills. All offenders, whether they shall be released to supervision or not, should receive the benefit of and guidance from the planning process.

[Completed, implementation of enhanced version scheduled for February 2004].

2. Provide offenders, regardless of whether they will be supervised in the community, with a resource package that addresses their fundamental survival needs for a thirty-to-sixty day period.¹⁴ As ex-offenders are released from BOP facilities, they need a road map that specifies where to go and whom to see for the interventions laid out in his or her reentry plan. The individual should have personal identification, Medicaid, DC Healthcare Alliance registration, or some other form of insurance at the time of release. If the person has prescribed medication for a physical or mental illness, he or she should have a sixty-day supply, provided that quantity is safe for the offender to possess. These types of resources are of heightened importance for ex-offenders released without community supervision and those who are not being released through halfway houses. Ex-offenders released by DOC should at minimum have a “Release Resource Booklet” provided at the time of their entrance to DOC facilities, and assistance from case managers to make calls to programs or potential employers. Sentenced misdemeanants who resided in DOC facilities for 30 days or more should have a resource package upon release similar to that recommended for the Bureau of Prisons. It is common knowledge that nothing frustrates a released ex-offender more than to be referred to a resource that no longer exists. Therefore, all resource media, electronic and hard copy must be updated and kept current.

3. Establish community-based wrap-around services to execute a reentry plan for the approximately 15 to 20 percent of ex-offenders released without supervision.¹⁵ While wrap-around case management services are available for women who may return to the community without supervision, no comparable services for men exist in the District. Government agencies and community-based organizations should collaborate to fund and provide technical assistance to develop a one-stop reentry service for non-supervised ex-offenders.

4. Provide resources for community-based wrap-around services to ex-offenders who are no longer under parole or probation supervision.¹⁶ If a need for intervention continues beyond the period of supervision, one-stop reentry services for non-supervised ex-offenders ideally would have the capacity to address needs remaining on the reentry plan.

¹³ *Comprehensive Reentry Strategy*, p. 13.

¹⁴ *Comprehensive Reentry Strategy*, p. 13.

¹⁵ *Comprehensive Reentry Strategy*, p. 16.

¹⁶ *Comprehensive Reentry Strategy*, p. 17.

Table 1-6 (Items 1-4).

Implementation Steps	Responsible Party(ies)	Start Date	Projected End Date	Status
Develop service coordination, utilization, and quality assurance committee to identify community-based programs capable of addressing offender needs.	<u>CJCC Reentry Subcommittee</u> , CSOSA, PDS, BOP, USPC, DC Ex-Offender Reentry Steering Committee, DOC	10/1/03	On-going	To be implemented
Establish an On-line Resource Directory Committee to develop a “unified” on-line DC reentry services guide	On-line Resource Directory Committee (CSOSA, DC Prisoners’ Legal Services Project, PDS).	9/15/03	12/31/03	To be implemented
Develop a two-page list of services for returning offenders, focusing on how to obtain <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food and clothing, • Rights, • Necessary medication, • Primary & mental health services, • Overnight, short-term, or long-term housing, etc., or • Institutional records. 	PDS, DC Prisoner’s Legal Services Project, DOC	7/22/03	12/31/03	To be implemented
Study current release planning and release practices at DOC.	<u>CJCC Reentry Subcommittee</u>	10/1/03	3/31/04	To be implemented

5. Provide identification and appropriate benefits prior to release to expedite placement of offenders into treatment programs and in obtaining employment.¹⁷ Delays in providing proper identification and other benefits cause undue stress on the offender, limit his/her ability to take advantage of treatment resources, diminish employment opportunities, and impede the reentry process. Desirable identification and other benefits include but are not limited to a birth certificate, social security number, driver’s license or valid non-driver’s identification card, Medicaid, DC Healthcare Alliance enrollment, or other entitlements if eligible.

Table 1-7 (Item 5).

Implementation Steps	Responsible Party(ies)	Start Date	Projected End Date	Status
Encourage an agreement between CSOSA and the DC Department of Motor Vehicles to provide offenders with a DMV ID Card.	<u>CSOSA, DC Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV)</u>	February 2003	July 10, 2003	Agreement Completed

¹⁷ *Comprehensive Reentry Strategy*, p. 11.

Implementation Steps	Responsible Party(ies)	Start Date	Projected End Date	Status
Propose a rule that will allow CSOSA supervised offenders to participate in a payment plan with no minimum down payment to satisfy outstanding parking and traffic ticket fees, but only for the purpose of obtaining a DMV ID Card.	DMV	July 10, 2003	TBD	To be implemented
Encourage an MOU between DMV and DOC similar to CSOSA agreement (From Legislative and Policy Workgroup, p. 48).	DOC & DMV, Ex-Offender Reentry Steering Committee	July 8, 2003	March 31, 2004	To be implemented

Housing Items Related to Pre-Release Planning

1. Transition 100 percent of eligible¹⁸ BOP releases through a Community Corrections Center (CCC).¹⁹ During the last quarter of fiscal year 2002, BOP transferred sixty-six percent of eligible inmates through a CCC prior to release. Nationally, the BOP releases approximately 75 percent of its eligible inmates after a CCC transition period. While eligibility considers a number of factors, some common exclusions include offenders with a “sex offender public safety factor,” pending charges, unfulfilled sentence requirements in other jurisdictions, and sentences of less than six months. Ideally, all eligible offenders, including those who will be released to the community without supervision, should transition through a CCC. Expanding this resource to all returning offenders increases an inmate’s opportunity to develop a sound reentry plan and connect with necessary services in the community.

Table 1-8 (Item 1).

Implementation Steps	Responsible Party(ies)	Start Date	Projected End Date	Status
Review and consider changes to responses to technical violations during CCC stays.	BOP, CJCC	10/1/03	12/31/03	Underway
Explore factors that maximize the use of CCC placement for all offenders.	CJCC or the Correctional Information Council	10/1/03	3/31/03	To be implemented
In cases where a CCC placement is not designated prior to release, consider a Public Law placement ordering the offender into a CCC during first weeks of parole or supervised release a special condition of release.	USPC	8/5/03	On-going	Underway

2. Place Community Supervision Officers from CSOSA’s Transitional Intervention Parole Services (TIPS) into Community Corrections Centers.²⁰ TIPS officers will take responsibility

¹⁸ See Footnote 1.

¹⁹ *Comprehensive Reentry Strategy*, p. 13.

²⁰ *Comprehensive Reentry Strategy*, p. 13-14.

for convening the reentry team when an offender moves into a District-based CCC prior to release to the community. During this phase, the CCC case manager and the TIPS officer will collaborate to reassess individual risk and needs, conduct substance abuse assessments, arrange for further educational or employment assessments and interventions, and implement other aspects of an offender's reentry plan.

[Completed]

Chapter 2

Education/Employment Action Items

Recommendations during Incarceration (BOP)

1. Increase the number of offenders who receive education programs during incarceration.²¹ BOP inmates who participate in education programs have a recidivism rate 15.7 percent lower than those who do not take advantage of education programs (Harer, 1995). The BOP requires inmates without a high school education or General Educational Development (GED) diploma to attend 240 hours of literacy training.

2. Encourage DC Code offenders to access the BOP’s Inmate Placement Program and/or prison industries programs.²² The Inmate Placement Program conducts mock job fairs and posts job openings. The program stresses the importance of inmates taking responsibility to begin preparations for employment at least eighteen months prior to release. The program ensures that about to be released inmates prepare an employment folder including a social security card, resume, education transcript, and achievement certificates and other documents critical for post-release employment. Additional vocational and on-the-job training through institution job assignments are also available to enable inmates to develop marketable job skills. The BOP’s prison industries program provides another option for a small percentage of offenders. Because less than twenty-five percent of all BOP inmates participate in vocational and the prison industries program, placement is based upon wait lists, based on seniority and individual needs assessments.

3. Continue to allow CCC-placed inmates work release passes to see CSOSA education and employment specialists or bring CSOSA education and employment specialist on-site.²³ By bringing assessment and job readiness programs to CCC facilities, DOC and BOP may increase the number of inmates who can benefit from earlier employment intervention. Working with the CCC employment specialist required by BOP contracts, CSOSA education and employment specialists will gain an improved position to ensure continuity of services as the person is released to the community. Placing these services on site will allow inmates to become more stable before venturing out into the community to look for sustainable employment. This strategy may limit some of the public relations risk involved in releasing inmates from CCC’s on work passes during the day.

Table 2-1 (Items 1-3).

Implementation Steps	Responsible Party(ies)	Start Date	Projected End Date	Status
Analyze CSOSA Functional Assessment Data gathered during the Assessment and Reentry Plan Demonstration at Rivers to identify significant trends related to DC offenders’ job skills, employment readiness, and other employability indicators.	BOP, CSOSA, CJCC	10/1/03	3/31/03	To be implemented

²¹ *Comprehensive Reentry Strategy*, p. 8.

²² *Comprehensive Reentry Strategy*, p. 8.

²³ *Comprehensive Reentry Strategy*, p. 14.

Implementation Steps	Responsible Party(ies)	Start Date	Projected End Date	Status
Meet with BOP's DC Reentry Workgroup to discuss findings and consider feasibility of developing an employment readiness program as part of Release Preparation Program at Rivers (and possibly other BOP institutions with a large number of DC Code Offenders).	BOP, CSOSA, CJCC	10/1/03	3/31/03	To be implemented
Provide the Bureau of Prisons with a list of the 25 largest employers of offenders under CSOSA supervision.	CSOSA	10/1/03	12/31/03	To be implemented

Recommendations during Incarceration (DC Department of Corrections):

- 1. Establish literacy, adult basic education, and GED programs in the DOC Central Detention Facility.²⁴** Literacy is a prerequisite for successful advancement in adult basic education and in earning a GED. The Correctional Treatment Facility (CTF), which operates on a DOC contract, offers adult basic education courses and a GED course.

- 2. Establish vocational training for DOC inmates.²⁵** Currently, the jail provides no vocational training, other than janitorial work. The CTF does provide a range of adult basic education, life skills, and GED courses. In addition, the CTF offers vocational training in computer literacy, graphic arts, interior renovation and floor care, barbering, and commercial cleaning.

- 3. Require DOC to develop an employment readiness program for sentenced misdemeanants and pretrial detainees.²⁶** Coordination between DOC and the DC Department of Employment Services to fill this need would be an ideal objective for each agency's performance scorecard during the next year. Offenders need to learn how to create a resume, interview for positions and know how to handle the fact that they have a criminal record during an interview. Many returning men and women lack good telephone skills or social graces when it comes to inquiring about the availability of programs. A short training on telephone skills should be made available. Men and women need to be prepared for the prejudice of employers who do not want to hire ex-offenders. They need to learn how to handle an interview or ask for an application. Such prejudice can attack their self-esteem or even anger them. It is essential to be prepared. Men and women need job readiness programs to maintain employment. Job readiness programs can assist ex-offenders in developing "soft skills," such as getting to work on time, learning how to take criticism and not be angry, and dressing appropriately.

- 4. Encourage DOC inmates (sentenced misdemeanants, pretrial detainees, or parole violators) to visit a DC Department of Employment Services One-Stop Career Center immediately upon**

²⁴ *Comprehensive Reentry Strategy*, p. 8.

²⁵ *Comprehensive Reentry Strategy*, p. 8.

²⁶ *Comprehensive Reentry Strategy*, p. 9.

release.²⁷ Each of the nine, neighborhood-based One-Stop Career Centers can provide valuable resources on finding a good job, locating suitable education or training programs creating effective resumes and cover letters, planning personal finance, and finding benefits for which reentrants may be eligible. DOC, on its own or in collaboration with a community-based organization, needs to create a brief resource pamphlet that provides address and contact information about the One-Stop shops, or develop an additional resource pamphlet to circulate among its inmate population, emphasizing how to access Washington area resources for housing, healthcare, substance abuse and mental health services, education and employment programs, and other resources. DOC will make the material part of the orientation package received by each system entrant. DOC should also take responsibility for developing the booklet in English, Spanish, and video or another appropriate format to make the information available for individuals with poor literacy skills or visual impairment.

Table 2-2 (Items 1-4).

Implementation Steps	Responsible Party(ies)	Start Date	Projected End Date	Status
Assess DOC capacity to provide education and employment services or establish a viable link to post-jail education and employment services.	<u>Mayor's Ex-Offender Reentry Steering Committee,</u> DOES, DOC, CJCC	8/22/03	3/31/04	To be implemented
Identify current literacy, adult basic education, GED preparation, vocational training, and employment readiness programming or resources currently available through the DOC, including the Central Detention Facility and the Correctional Treatment Facility.	<u>Mayor's Ex-Offender Reentry Steering Committee,</u> DOES, DOC, CJCC	8/22/03	3/31/04	To be implemented
Consider bringing other DC governmental agencies or community-based programs on-site at DOC to begin assessment and referral process to provide literacy, adult basic education, GED preparation, vocational training, and employment readiness immediately following release.	<u>Mayor's Ex-Offender Reentry Steering Committee,</u> DOES, DOC, CJCC	8/22/03	3/31/04	To be implemented
Itemize barriers to enhancing education and employment programming and resources at the DC Department of Corrections.	<u>Mayor's Ex-Offender Reentry Steering Committee,</u> DOES, DOC, CJCC	8/22/03	3/31/04	To be implemented

²⁷ *Comprehensive Reentry Strategy*, p. 8-9.

Enhance educational and employment programming and resources where necessary to expand the capacity for eligible pretrial defendants and sentenced misdemeanants.	<u>Mayor's Ex-Offender Reentry Steering Committee</u> , DOES, DOC, CJCC	8/22/03	9/30/04	To be implemented
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Recommendations after Incarceration (CSOSA, DOES, Community-based Organizations):

1. Reassess employment skills to continue education and employment services in the community without interruption.²⁸ Within a week of direct release to the community or arrival at the Community Corrections Center, the ex-offender should meet with his/her CSO to review the education and employment components of the re-entry plan. Within fifteen days of release or arrival, the individual should be employed or enrolled in a job-training program.

2. Expand the capacity of the existing educational and employment support network for ex-offenders, regardless of whether they are under supervision.²⁹

Table 2-3 (Items 1-2).

Implementation Steps	Responsible Party(ies)	Start Date	Projected End Date	Status
Implement CSOSA/Faith Community Partnership Workforce Development Plan.	<u>CSOSA</u> , Faith Advisory Board	9/1/03	9/30/04	Underway
Encourage the development of job-training programs that develop entrepreneurial skills (e.g., Jobs Partnership).	<u>CSOSA</u>	9/1/03	On-going	To be implemented
Collaborate with the DC Small Business Administration, and the DC Chamber of Commerce to identify small businesses who may be likely to hire ex-offenders.	<u>CSOSA</u> , <u>Small Business Administration</u> , <u>Workforce Investment Council</u> , <u>DC Chamber of Commerce</u>	9/1 /03	3/31/04	To be implemented
Encourage pastors & leaders in the CSOSA-Faith Partnership to survey congregations for members who may own their own business or work for organizations willing to hire ex-offenders.	<u>CSOSA</u> , <u>Faith Advisory Board</u>	9/1/03	12/31/03	To be implemented
Establish a new learning lab at the Bellevue Heights Community Services Center.	<u>CSOSA</u> , <u>Redemption Ministries</u>	10/1/02	9/30/03	Completed

²⁸ *Comprehensive Reentry Strategy*, p. 14.

²⁹ *Comprehensive Reentry Strategy*, p. 18.

3. Establish affordable daycare and or subsidized daycare for returning inmates.³⁰ Many middle class families make a determination that with two or more children it is cheaper to have one parent stay home than it is to pay for daycare. Single moms or dads returning from prison or jail do not have such a luxury. If daycare is unavailable, they are unemployable.

Table 2-4 (Item 3).

Implementation Steps	Responsible Party(ies)	Start Date	Projected End Date	Status
Itemize what is available as part of effort to establish an Internet Resource Directory Committee to a “unified” on-line DC reentry services guide.	<u>On-line Resource Directory Committee</u>	10/1/03	12/31/03	To be implemented

Recommendations Requiring Outreach & Public Education

1. Educate employers on the benefits of hiring ex-offenders, such as the Work Opportunity Tax Credit and the Federal Bonding Program.³¹ The Work Opportunity Tax Credit can provide businesses with a 35 percent tax credit on the first \$6,000 paid to an ex-offender hired into a business or trade for least 180 days. The Federal Bonding Program can provide employers protection against theft. The program provides bond coverage to employers hiring ex-offenders based on the level of financial risk the job entails. The BOP’s Inmate Placement Program helps to transform employers’ initial concerns about hiring ex-offenders by involving company recruiters in mock job fairs. The National Institute of Corrections, Office of Correctional Job Training and Placement also provides technical assistance to state and local training and employment agencies to help educate employers on the special needs of someone returning to the work force after spending an extended period of time in an institution where nearly every aspect of daily living is regulated. Employers need to be trained to have extra patience in the first few weeks of employment as ex-offenders develop the “soft skills” needed to maintain employment.

2. Enlist the Greater Washington Board of Trade, the DC Chamber of Commerce, or other business groups to encourage employers to create career opportunities for reentrants.³² The city should advocate among employers and the community at-large to create career opportunities for reentrants.

Table 2-5 (Items 1-2).

Implementation Steps	Responsible Party(ies)	Start Date	Projected End Date	Status
Recommend to the Mayor's Office on Boards and Commissions that CSOSA be added to the Workforce Investment Council.	CSOSA, <u>Workforce Investment Council</u> , DOES, CJCC	8/5/03	9/30/03	Keith Mitchell, Chair of the WIC confirmed plans to include CSOSA.
Develop, obtain, and disseminate an asset map depicting the location of	<u>Workforce Investment</u>	1/1/03	8/31/03	Underway

³⁰ *Comprehensive Reentry Strategy*, p. 7 and 18.

³¹ *Comprehensive Reentry Strategy*, p. 9.

³² *Comprehensive Reentry Strategy*, p. 18.

Implementation Steps	Responsible Party(ies)	Start Date	Projected End Date	Status
federal funds coming to local entities for workforce development and job training.	<u>Council</u>			
Analyze ex-offender needs and skill sets and strategically approach industries in metro area where ex-offenders can apply their skills.	<u>Workforce Investment Council</u>	8/1/03	On-going	Underway
Complete area employer survey to analyze industries and businesses willing to hire "hard to employ" populations and encourage job training and skill development in appropriate areas.	<u>Workforce Investment Council</u>	8/1/03	12/31/03	Underway
Contact DC's 25 largest employers; the 25 largest employers of CSOSA offenders; and targeted occupations and industries for CSOSA offenders.	<u>CSOSA</u>	8/5/03	On-going	Underway
Assemble a marketing strategy to communicate and educate potential employers of the merits of employing and training CSOSA offenders.	<u>CSOSA</u>	8/5/03	12/31/03	Underway
Meet with DOES to define DOES capacity to serve CSOSA clients and DOES financial/manpower/programming commitment to CSOSA clients.	<u>CSOSA, DOES</u>	8/5/03	12/31/03	Underway
Meet with DC Chamber of Commerce and Workforce Investment Council to discern best avenue of programs to solicit offender employment and training opportunities from area employers.	<u>CSOSA, Chamber of Commerce, Workforce Investment Council</u>	8/5/03	On-going	Underway
Approach area colleges and universities to establish education and employment programs geared towards eligible offenders.	<u>CSOSA, DOES</u>	11/01/03	06/01/04	To be implemented

Chapter 3

Housing Action Items

1. Encourage individual inmates to begin the application process to place an additional family member’s name on a public housing lease at-least 90 days prior to release from incarceration.³³

Many offenders are likely to return to a family member who lives in public housing or subsidized housing. To remain in compliance with District of Columbia Housing Authority rules,³⁴ the additional adult family member must apply for the addition of his or her name to the lease. The application, review, and grievance process, if necessary, can take 90 days or longer. BOP, CSOSA, and DOC will make documentation available to offenders and make them aware of their personal responsibility to follow appropriate procedures in establishing post-release housing plans.

Table 3-1 (Item 1).

Implementation Steps	Responsible Party(ies)	Start Date	Projected End Date	Status
Explore issues related to releasing inmates to public housing – both prohibitive and facilitative.	Ex-Offender Reentry Steering Committee, CJCC , CSOSA, DCHA , USPC, BOP, PDS	10/9/03	12/31/03	To be implemented

³³ *Comprehensive Reentry Strategy*, p. 8.

³⁴ (Source: District of Columbia Municipal Register, Chapter 61) Federal regulations allow DCHA the authority to deny housing to applicants (whether applicant or the applicant’s family member) with criminal backgrounds, though DCHA policy states, “It is not the Housing Authority’s intent to exclude persons, even those convicted of felonies, from public housing.” DCHA policy seeks to prevent any persons admitted from interfering with other residents’ peaceful enjoyment of the premises or adversely affecting other residents’ health, safety, or welfare.

Despite the intent, DCHA reserves the right to deny admission to public or assisted housing to any applicant or the adult family member of any applicant who has been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor. The conviction may involve destruction of property, violence against another person, the distribution or manufacture of illegal drugs or controlled substances. The Housing Authority may also deny admission if the applicant or family member has been involved in documented criminal activity for which he or she has not been convicted.

Admission may be granted when criminal records emerge if the applicant or appropriate family member adequately demonstrates his or her rehabilitation through completion of training programs, admission of culpability, substance abuse treatment, and if necessary, completion of other therapy programs.

Many offenders are not fully aware of the applicant review and grievance process (District of Columbia Register, Chapter 63), or even that they have the right to file a grievance, if DCHA’s Applicant Review Committee (ARC) rejects a housing application. The length of time for the initial application process is unclear. The ARC process must be completed within 60 days, and the Housing Authority then has another 10 days to notify the applicant of the ARC decision. The applicant then must file a grievance within 15 days of the notice of rejection. But by this policy, a person could still be without an approved application 85 days or longer since he or she applied.

Federal law prohibits persons evicted from public housing for drug-related criminal activity from reapplying for a lease for three years. This period can be shortened for individuals who demonstrate that they are receiving treatment or seeking treatment.

Convicted sex offenders are ineligible for all public, Section 8, and other federally supported housing programs.

2. Make the process to add a name to public and low-income housing leases more accessible to returning ex-offenders.³⁵ The DC Housing Authority policy does not intend “to exclude persons, even those convicted of felonies, from public housing” but attempts to balance this against the needs of the other residents. DCHA has the discretion to reject applicants who have conviction or arrest histories involving the destruction of property, violence, or drug manufacture or sale. Individuals with conviction or arrest histories and current substance abuse patterns can be excluded as well. Entire families can be evicted if a member of the household is involved in the manufacture or sale of illegal drugs. While applicants can file a grievance to appeal rejections, many returning ex-offenders have limited knowledge about how to navigate this process.

Table 3-2 (Item 2).

Implementation Steps	Responsible Party(ies)	Start Date	Projected End Date	Status
Itemize and possibly modify CSOSA’s procedures for assessment and case planning to address conditions of housing instability. ³⁶	CSOSA	6/26/03	2/28/04	Underway
Develop Housing remediation strategies as special training within CSOSA.	<u>CSOSA</u>	3/31/03	1/31/04	Underway
Develop liaison with DCHA for centralized communication/interaction between agencies.	<u>CSOSA, DCHA</u>	10/1/03	3/31/04	To be implemented
Explore possibility of MOU with DCHA for coordinated, centralized, streamlined processing of offender applicants.	<u>CSOSA, DCHA</u>	10/1/03	3/31/04	To be implemented
<i>See Legislative and Policy Action Items Regarding Housing, pages 45-47.</i>				
<i>See Pre-Release Action Item Regarding an Enhanced Life Skills Curriculum, page 17.</i>				

Workgroup Facilitator’s Note: *The discussion on institutionally based efforts focused on improving access to public housing and encouraging the financial stability that is essential for obtaining and sustaining housing.*

³⁵ *Comprehensive Reentry Strategy*, p. 17-18.

³⁶ Listed below are the steps that CSOSA CSO's follow to assess and address returning offenders’ housing situation.

- Review proposed housing plan
- When housing plan involves a family member or a significant other, invite to “Family/ Community Support Meeting” to gauge role of family in reentry process; educate family on supervision process
- Investigate the proposed home location and assess suitability
- Maintain collateral contact and home verification, to ensure continued stability
- If inmate is not already on the list, or if family is not willing to add him or her, CSOSA will seek short-term housing (SRO or other transitional service) and work on developing a long-term housing plan. Locate Transitional Housing (through a community-based provider) such as:
Women: New Endeavors for Women, Hannah House, Harvest House, Mt. Carmel House, House of Ruth.
Men: Emery House, Gospel Missions, La Casa, Davidson House, Samaritan Inn, Webster House, Blair (SA History), MLK, CCNV
- Encourage at least 120-day stay

With regard to reviewing the current procedure for housing planning, emphasis was put on accounting for long-term and short-term planning, and better tailoring assessment and planning to be appropriate for different types of offenders. Specifically, assessment should better account for whether public housing is a viable option by looking at an inmate's family with regard to housing status, whether rent is paid, number of other people already on the lease, etc.

In addition to the assessment and case planning protocol that is used for most returning inmates, consider the possible need for special training to handle special populations, as well as cases where offenders are released without two weeks notice to prepare properly. Recommendation was made for establishing point CSO or "crash team" to which such cases are referred.

DCHA centralized liaison was considered important for ensuring reliable and consistent information, exchanging information b/w agencies, CSOSA participation in public planning sessions held by DCHA, and ultimately developing a streamlined process for offender applicants.

3. Encourage offenders to save in-prison and work release wages by establishing unique interest-bearing accounts for post-release expenses.³⁷ Many offenders are unable to obtain housing upon release because they do not have the funds for a security deposit. The accounts, coupled with access to jobs that pay a living wage, would help offenders gain access to the private housing market.

Table 3-3 (Item 3)

Implementation Steps	Responsible Party(ies)	Start Date	Projected End Date	Status
Encourage offenders to establish bank accounts and develop financial skills as part of Release Preparation Program.	BOP	6/26/03	On-going	Underway (already part of Release Preparation Program)
Develop financial skills curriculum as a component of the enhanced life skills curriculum presented to returning offenders.	CSOSA	9/1/03	3/1/04	To be implemented
Develop a list of local banking institutions where ex-offenders have been successful in establishing bank accounts and make list available to BOP and other interested parties.	CSOSA	8/14/03	12/31/03	To be implemented
Explore MOU(s) with local financial institution(s) willing to accept "bulk" referrals of offenders who will open accounts, and waive certain requirements (e.g., application fees, minimum balances, etc.)	CSOSA, <u>Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development</u> , Chamber of Commerce, local non-profit	10/1/03	9/30/04	To be implemented
<i>See Pre-Release Action Item Regarding an Enhanced Life Skills Curriculums, page 17.</i>				

³⁷ *Comprehensive Reentry Strategy*, p. 8.

Workgroup Facilitator's Note: For this action item, there was some discussion about its appropriateness in the housing section. Given the critical role of financial stability in obtaining and sustaining housing, this item was considered as directly relevant to addressing the housing needs of offenders. It was noted that this item must be associated with issues addressed in the Education/Employment Work Group.

BOP has had arrangements with banks in the past to enable inmates to open accounts, but this practice has changed under different management. In addition to factors that might be considered disincentives to banks, there are various administrative obstacles that have caused BOP to discontinue this practice. The group refocused the discussion of establishing accounts while incarcerated to establishing accounts after release as part of the CSOSA reentry protocol. Presumably, once inmates are released, the administrative issues would be eliminated as offenders open accounts as independent customers; and a special arrangement with one or two financial institutions might be considered as a more attractive entrepreneurial opportunity. Also, the MOU could include a local non-profit to facilitate the process.

Also, the group noted a distinction between encouraging offenders to open accounts and making it an expectation/requirement of their reentry process; and developing a formal and separate financial skills curriculum rather than making financial skills merely a part of another curriculum.

4. Assist offenders in CCC's with finding housing, particularly individuals who may be released to the community without supervision.³⁸ Men and women returning from the Federal Bureau of Prisons through Community Corrections Centers may need support in searching for permanent housing. The staff of the centers should be able to assist in the search for affordable housing. Affordable housing also depends on sustainable employment at living wages.

Table 3-4 (Item 4).

Implementation Steps	Responsible Party(ies)	Start Date	Projected End Date	Status
Combine housing options repositories from various resource directories as part of effort to create a combined service directory on-line.	On-line Resource Directory Committee	9/15/03	12/31/03	Underway

³⁸ Comprehensive Reentry Strategy, p. 14.

5. Create subsidized transitional housing for newly released ex-offenders.³⁹ Ex-offenders face the same shortage of affordable housing that other low-income residents face. Apartments are difficult to find. Waiting lists for subsidized housing are long. A large percentage of single ex-offenders without family support face homelessness. Eleven percent of arrestees in the District in 1999 reported a shelter or no fixed address as a resident at the time of arrest. Nationally, in 1999, 12 percent of all parolees reported being homeless at the time of arrest (Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2001). For these men and women, as well as men and women who were not earning living wages at the end of their 120 to 180 days at a community corrections center, transitional housing programs can help make the difference between successful reentry and homelessness and a return to crime. Ninety to 180 days or more of transitional housing can assist ex-offenders in finding employment, access to substance abuse and mental health programs, education and vocational training. As they establish employment, house members would be required to commit a portion of their income to house utility and food costs. An additional portion would be committed to ex-offender savings accounts that could later be used to apply to security deposits for longer-term housing. House rules should also require participants to abstain from alcohol or illegal drug use or face expulsion by their housemates.

6. Establish subsidized transitional family housing for ex-offenders with custodial responsibility for children.⁴⁰ Transitional housing programs for ex-offenders and their families are also needed. Mothers whose children have been placed in foster care or kinder care will need a program that allows mothers and children to become reacquainted while searching for employment, education, job training, substance abuse and or mental health treatment. Parenting classes would be helpful for many ex-offenders. Daycare and after-school care offered by a transitional program is essential to helping parents get off to a good start as they reintegrate into the community. Access to subsidized daycare is almost as limited as access to subsidized housing. It is crucial that as a parent begins to reenter his or her community that he or she has a safe, caring, and affordable place for his or her children so that he or she may concentrate on finding permanent housing as well as improving himself or herself.

Table 3-5 (Item 5-6).

Implementation Steps	Responsible Party(ies)	Start Date	Projected End Date	Status
Collaborate with local non-profit to hold an offender transitional housing technical assistance event geared toward assisting local organizations that currently or plan to operate facilities.	CSOSA, CJCC, <u>ERC</u>	10/15/03	3/31/04	To be implemented
Examine local service-enriched transitional housing models (e.g., Blair House, Oxford House) to develop local best practices guide.	<u>CSOSA</u>	10/15/03	3/31/04	To be implemented
Develop a compendium of resources for housing services for special needs populations.	<u>On-line Resource Directory Committee</u>	10/15/03	3/31/04	To be implemented
Encourage the Fannie Mae Foundation and the Urban Institute to include local representation at November Roundtable on Reentry & Housing	<u>CSOSA</u>	9/1/03	10/30/03	To be implemented

³⁹ *Comprehensive Reentry Strategy*, p. 17.

⁴⁰ *Comprehensive Reentry Strategy*, p. 17.

7. Create more subsidized housing throughout the city.⁴¹ Waiting lists for public housing or Section 8 housing are long and frustrating. With the housing market improving, the *Washington Post* has reported more and more landlords are looking to end rent control over their apartment units – especially in neighborhoods that are being “gentrified.” Legislation to increase the amount of subsidized housing is crucial to all low-income residents in the District of Columbia and needs to be developed. Contracts to build new housing units in the District of Columbia should also include a number of units for low-income families and individuals.

Table 3-6 (Item 7).

Implementation Steps	Responsible Party(ies)	Start Date	Projected End Date	Status
See Legislative and Policy Action Item Regarding Housing, pages 45-47.				

Workgroup Facilitator’s Note: *To achieve stability in the community, the primary housing issue is that the availability of transitional housing for offenders must be increased. The majority of Action Items focus on actually establishing such facilities, and some emphasis was placed on identifying resources that would enable offenders to access housing resources that already exist.*

For the conference, emphasis was on need for direct TA for organizations that are already started or definitely planning to establish/operate transitional housing. Topics should have local perspective and relevance, and include funding vehicles/opportunities, dealing effectively with the community, exploring property options (e.g., new building, rehabilitation of old, leasing, etc.), and regulatory requirements (e.g., zoning, permit), among others.

For the tasks associated with examining best practices and developing a compendium of resources, members of the group wanted to include reviewing recent local research to see if there are useful findings to be included (e.g., Howard University School of Social Work Urban Survey, Urban Institute’s recent Reentry Housing survey, DC Community Corrections Facility Siting Advisory Commission’s final report).

8. Create housing opportunities through single room occupancy facilities.⁴² For single ex-offenders, this type of housing offers affordable arrangements for low-income workers, students, or vocational training participants. During the hiring boom by the federal government during and after World War II, this type of housing flourished. Single Room Occupancy buildings were also well kept and safe, not flop houses. In this type of housing a person pays a lower rent for a room or two rooms for personal use and shares a kitchen or sometimes a bathroom with others. The demand for such housing exists. It needs to be filled.

Table 3-8 (Item 8).

Implementation Steps	Responsible Party(ies)	Start Date	Projected End Date	Status
Establish single-room and ex-offender specific housing (e.g., Pilgrim Baptist, New Commandment).	Faith-based organizations, CBO's, CDC's	1/1/03	To be determined	To be implemented

9. Encourage disabled ex-offenders and those completing treatment to pursue programs that can help to defray housing expenses.⁴³ Take advantage of Home First II for ex-offenders with disabilities.

⁴¹ *Comprehensive Reentry Strategy*, p. 18.

⁴² *Comprehensive Reentry Strategy*, p. 18.

⁴³ *Comprehensive Reentry Strategy*, p. 18.

Pursue Shelter Plus Care Funds to defray housing expenses not typically covered by insurance for persons receiving or completing mental health, substance abuse, or other forms of residential treatment.

Table 3-9 (Item 9).

Implementation Steps	Responsible Party(ies)	Start Date	Projected End Date	Status
Increase awareness about Ryan White Fund to provide housing for offenders who are HIV Positive.	<u>CSOSA</u> , DOC, Ex-Offender Reentry Steering Committee	8/22/03	On-going	Underway
Increase awareness about how to assist eligible offenders to obtain home & community-based waivers to secure housing support through the DC Mental Retardation and Developmentally Disabled Agency.	<u>CSOSA</u> , DOC, Ex-Offender Reentry Steering Committee	8/22/03	On-going	Underway
Increase awareness about how to assist eligible offenders to take advantage of Rehabilitation Services Agency or Veteran's Administration programs for housing and other needs.	<u>CSOSA</u> , DOC, Ex-Offender Reentry Steering Committee	8/22/03	On-going	Underway

Chapter 4

Public Education & Support Action Items

Provide Support for Families of Incarcerated Individuals

1. Utilize relevant technology to enable inmates to maintain contact with family members during incarceration.⁴⁴ District offenders’ ability to maintain family or positive ties with advocates in the community is severely limited by the high cost of telephone services in correctional facilities and the dispersion of District offenders. Male prisoners who maintain strong family ties during imprisonment have higher rates of post-release success (Hairston, 1988, 1991). Family relationships also have a significant influence on relapse prevention among parolees who have completed substance abuse interventions during incarceration (Slaght, 1999). Because constructive communication between ex-offenders and family contributes to rehabilitation and personal growth, utilizing relevant technology can assist offenders’ families in overcoming great physical distances that prohibit regular contact.

Table 4-1 (Item 1).

Implementation Steps	Responsible Party(ies)	Start Date	Projected End Date	Status
Form a subgroup to identify methods through which currently incarcerated individuals could maintain family/pro-social community contact (e.g. letter writing efforts with family or mentors, e-mail, toll-free phone numbers, other media).	<u>RAP, Inc., Alliance of Concerned Men, CSOSA/Faith Community Partnership</u>	7/1/03	12/31/03	To be implemented
Expand other video conferencing initiatives throughout the city (ex: Hope House, a fatherhood project uses video-conferencing to keep families connected).	<u>CSOSA, Ex-offender Reintegration Coalition of DC (ERC)</u>	10-1-03	3-31-03	Hope House model can be duplicated
<i>See Pre-Release Planning and Case Management Item regarding Assessment and Reentry Team Demonstration, page 13.</i>				

2. Encourage family members to participate in the larger community.⁴⁵ Family members can strengthen their immediate neighborhoods by participating in organizations of all kinds – faith institutions, neighborhood associations, parent-teacher associations, and so on.

Table 4-2 (Item 2).

Implementation Steps	Responsible Party(ies)	Start Date	Projected End Date	Status
Encourage inmates’ family members to attend civic, ANC, PSA, and other meetings.	<u>CSOSA</u>	8/5/03	On-going	Underway

3. Take advantage of mentors from CSOSA’s Faith Community Partnership to establish support groups for offenders’ families.⁴⁶ A support network should help family members negotiate the systems

⁴⁴ *Comprehensive Reentry Strategy*, p. 11.

⁴⁵ *Comprehensive Reentry Strategy*, p. 12 and 20.

necessary to stay in touch and to prepare family members for the inmate’s eventual return. Family members need to realize that they are not alone. In addition, family members benefit from encouragement to address potential housing, employment, education, substance abuse, or mental or physical health needs if they exist.

4. Create secular support groups for families not involved with the faith community.⁴⁷ Not all family members participate in religious organizations. They may not feel comfortable seeking support from an institution of which they do not wish to be a part.

5. Support families at the moment of reentry.⁴⁸ The days and weeks immediately following release can be very stressful for the ex-offender and his or her family. While family members should be active participants in the development of an offender’s reentry plan, a network of support is necessary for family members who will reconnect or resume immediately or gradually.

6. Maintain support groups for family members of recently released individuals.⁴⁹ Members of these support groups can also lend advice and support to family members of persons still incarcerated.

Table 4-3 (Item 3-6).

Implementation Steps	Responsible Party(ies)	Start Date	Projected End Date	Status
Invite family members or significant others to attend Offender Mass Orientations.	<u>CSOSA</u>	8/5/03	On-going	Underway
Use models such as the Successful Families Initiative ⁵⁰ to promote services for families.	<u>Marshall Heights Community Development Organization</u>	9/1/03	On-going	Underway
Observe, evaluate, and consider encouraging replication of programs such as Successful Families Initiative for replication in the community.	<u>MHCDO, CJCC</u>	10-1-03	4-1-04	To be implemented
Promote awareness about the services that children and family members of incarcerated individuals in Wards 7	<u>On-line Resource Directory</u>	9/1/03	On-going	Underway

⁴⁶ *Comprehensive Reentry Strategy*, p. 12.

⁴⁷ *Comprehensive Reentry Strategy*, p. 12.

⁴⁸ *Comprehensive Reentry Strategy*, p. 15.

⁴⁹ *Comprehensive Reentry Strategy*, p. 20.

⁵⁰ The Successful Families Initiative (SFI) is a service coordination and data-sharing project that seeks to improve the economic self-sufficiency of low-income families in Ward 7 by coordinating their services among several community-based organizations (CBO’s). The initiative uses Efforts to Outcome (ETO) software to track each family’s progress and, with the family's permission, share relevant data with each of the SFI community-based organizations. The five CBO’s participating collaborative are: Marshall Heights Community Development Organization, East River Family Strengthening Collaborative, East Capitol Center for Change, Davis Elementary, East Capitol View CDC. Contact Phyllis E Kaye, pkaye@ix.netcom.com, 202-216-0170.

Implementation Steps	Responsible Party(ies)	Start Date	Projected End Date	Status
and 8 could gain from the National Center for Children and Families. ⁵¹	<u>Committee</u>			
Make DC Prisoners' publication, <i>Families First</i> , more widely available (<i>Families First</i> provides info on contacting family in DC & BOP). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post links websites • Make copies available through (ex: CURE, CSOSA, PDS) 	<u>DC Prisoners'</u> , CSOSA, PDS (Spanish translation)	10/1/03	5/31/04	Available on DC Prisoners' website: www.deprisonerhelp.org Some hard copies available through DC Prisoners' Spanish translation pending
Support, through client referrals and generating awareness of funds, local efforts to mentor or support children of incarcerated parents (e.g. Big Brothers Big Sisters).	PDS, CSOSA, DC Prisoners' <u>ERC</u>, Visitors' Services Center	10/1/03	5/31/03	To be implemented
Identify additional CBO's providing mentoring services to children.	PDS, CSOSA, DC Prisoners', <u>ERC</u>	10/1/03	5/31/04	To be implemented
Collaborate with US Parole Commission to enhance family awareness during the USPC semiannual community forums.	USPC, CSOSA, BOP, <u>ERC</u>, DOC	10/4/03	5/31/05	To be implemented beginning with upcoming forum on Oct. 4, 2003
Include DOC in the next USPC Community Forum on Reentry in an effort to promote understanding of policies and management at both DOC and BOP.	USPC, BOP, DOC, CSOSA, <u>Ex-offender Reintegration Coalition</u>	10/1/03	12/31/03	To be implemented
Train families of incarcerated people in advocacy:	<u>ERC</u>, CJCC	10/1/03	5/31/04	To be implemented

⁵¹ The National Center for Children and Families (NCCF) has been serving at-risk children and their families in the District of Columbia and Maryland since 1915 and has been a presence in the District's Wards 7 and 8 for over five years. In recent years, NCCF workers have noticed an increasing number of children separated from a parent due to incarceration. Out of concern for the social and developmental needs of the children of prisoners, NCCF joined with National Institute of Corrections (NIC), the Child Welfare League of America (CWLA), the National Council on Crime and Delinquency and fifteen local service providers to develop a model program to help these children. NCCF is a collaborative community partnership to develop and deliver comprehensive services for children in the District's Ward 7 and 8 who are separated from a parent because of parental incarceration.

Implementation Steps	Responsible Party(ies)	Start Date	Projected End Date	Status
-Refer people from member constituencies -Convene a meeting to explore need -Develop training mechanism				
Explore issues related to families of incarcerated and formerly incarcerated people, both prohibitive and facilitative (e.g. need for transportation to facilities).	CJCC, <u>ERC</u>	10/1/03	5/31/04	To be implemented
Encourage additional transportation services to BOP facilities with large numbers of DC Code inmates.	<u>Mayor's Steering Committee</u>	8/5/03	Long-term	To be implemented

Establish a Positive Social Support Network for Offenders

1. Establish a community-based and/or faith-based network of mentors to support offenders during incarceration.⁵² Mentoring does not have to wait for an offender to be released. By incorporating teleconferencing technology into distant BOP facilities, DC inmates and mentors from CSOSA’s Faith-Based Partnership or other mentoring groups can establish a virtual relationship prior to release. The offender will gain a positive social contact and advocate capable of providing advice and support prior to the critical first days and weeks after release.

2. Ensure that a family member and/or a mentor from CSOSA’s Faith-Based Partnership are an active member of the ex-offender’s reentry team at the time of release.⁵³

Table 4-4 (Items 1-2).

Implementation Steps	Responsible Party(ies)	Start Date	Projected End Date	Status
<i>See Pre-Release Action Items regarding Assessment and Reentry Team Demonstration, page 13.</i>				

Community Education⁵⁴

In addition to the three phases of reentry that apply directly to the ex-offender, a coordinated community education campaign is necessary to increase public awareness about the correlation of sound reentry services and public safety. The District government and its federal partners must clearly define its reentry plan for District residents to both prevent ex-offenders from re-offending and to involve the community in the process.

- Clearly define for citizens the District-Federal partnership for corrections and community corrections.** The District government must be able to explain to the community how the Revitalization Act of 1997 split the criminal justice system between the federal government and the District government. Communities need to understand why sentenced felons are in distant

⁵² *Comprehensive Reentry Strategy*, p. 12.

⁵³ *Comprehensive Reentry Strategy*, p. 15.

⁵⁴ *Comprehensive Reentry Strategy*, p. 20-22.

federal prisons and why a federal agency, CSOSA, supervises men and women on probation, parole, and supervised release. Citizens need to know that the U.S. Parole Commission makes decisions on who is returned to the Federal Bureau of Prisons and why they are not returned to the DC Department of Corrections. Finally, communities need to know what role the DC Department of Corrections plays in reentry and how to meet the needs of men and women returning from its custody.

- ❑ **Community involvement is needed for successful reentry.** Avenues for community involvement exist through CSOSA's Community Justice Advisory Networks (CJAN's) and the DC Prisoners' Legal Services Project's Study Circles. Each forum provides the opportunity for community stakeholders to develop public safety goals and strategies that center on offender reintegration issues. These forums also focus on the creation of partnerships to help ensure that the interests of the community, service recipients, and the programs converge to enhance the ability of ex-offenders to reintegrate into the community.
- ❑ **Create a speaker's bureau to conduct educational outreach.** The bureau should include successful ex-offenders, family members of ex-offenders, and other professionals/community members who have worked with ex-offenders or reentry issues. These teams will be trained on the issues confronting the community, stereotypes and stigma that create barriers to reentry, the communities to which ex-offenders return, myths about programs for ex-offenders, and other relevant issues. These teams can also educate communities on the fact that ex-offenders are part of a family as well.
- ❑ **Create a network of successful ex-offenders to educate communities and support current ex-offenders in earlier stages of the reentry process.** Community members need to feel safe. The notion of ex-offenders returning often heightens fear of violent and other types of crime. Community members rightfully expect returning offenders to take responsibility to change as a way to repair the harm caused by crime. The voices of successful reentrants who have developed the skill sets for independent living could help ease fears and create deeper understanding about how public safety can improve by establishing communities that support reentry.
- ❑ **Create Reentry Program Partnerships to usher in new community-based services.** As a program prepares to find a location and begin services, the partnerships address community concerns and develop safety protocols that meet the community needs.
- ❑ **Educate the legal community.** Lawyers representing criminal defendants will need training on issues that occur during the adjudication process that can affect their clients during incarceration and reentry. For example, ex-offenders can move to suspend child support payments during incarceration. Too often, they fail to do so, leaving the ex-offender with overwhelming arrears that are garnished from any wages he or she may report. Failure to pay can also result in a warrant for a person's arrest while the arrearages continue to accumulate. Also, attorneys can ensure that the Presentence Investigation Report has a good psychosocial evaluation that can be used for the delivery of mental health services in prison or jail and upon reentry. Lawyers representing incarcerated men and women in family court need education as well.
- ❑ **Consider restorative justice and other community corrections alternatives.** A reentry strategy should explore community corrections alternatives to incarceration. Now that men and women are sent to distant federal prisons, these prisons should be treated as scarce resources for limited numbers of ex-offenders. Explore restorative justice alternatives that keep men and women home, address individual needs that contribute to criminality, and make victims whole.

Many of the same needs occur at the “front end” of the criminal justice system as occur during reentry. If an ex-offender can be provided quality community corrections alternatives that treat the reasons for criminal activity – e.g., attitude, peer association, unemployment, and substance abuse problems – then this person will remain free from the criminal justice system and maintain his or her role as a productive member of society.

Table 4-5 (Community Education Items)

Implementation Steps	Responsible Party(ies)	Start Date	Projected End Date	Status
Organize a Reentry SUMMIT to target decision makers, ex-offenders and their families. Summit will be educational with participants who can answer families’ questions.	<u>ERC</u> , Prince George’s County (if held close to the border), Coalition of Howard University Students	8/22/03	2/28/04	To be implemented
Investigate possibilities of placing Howard University Student volunteers in governmental or non-profit agencies with reentry projects.	<u>ERC</u> , Howard University Sociology Department.	10/1/03	12/31/2003	To be implemented
Promote an ongoing climate in which to discuss a "reasonable community member standard" of what successful reentry is; i.e. what the reasonable person in the community expects of a man or woman about to re-enter the community.	Visitors’ Service Center, DC Prisoners’, Prisons Foundation, ERC, (CBO’s), CSOSA, USPC <u>Mayor’s Steering Committee</u>	9/29/03	On-going	First steps: survey by CSOSA at 9/29/03 meeting, incorporate into the SUMMIT
Develop slogan or campaign upon which to build further reentry initiatives and change community attitudes.	Visitors’ Service Center, DC Prisoners’, Prisons Foundation, ERC, (CBO’s), CSOSA, USPC <u>Mayor’s Steering Committee</u>	9/29/03	On-going	First steps: survey by CSOSA at 9/29/03 meeting, incorporate into the SUMMIT

Implementation Steps	Responsible Party(ies)	Start Date	Projected End Date	Status
Promote the slogan through such forums as the Reentry SUMMIT; newsletters of criminal justice/reentry service providers; Community Justice Advisory Networks, the proposed Reentry Speakers' Bureau and other outlets.	Visitors' Service Center, DC Prisoners', Prisons Foundation, ERC, (CBO's), CSOSA, USPC <u>Mayor's Steering Committee</u>	9/29/03	On-going	First steps: survey by CSOSA at 9/29/03 meeting, incorporate into the SUMMIT
Create a Reentry Speakers' Bureau with a "Go To" list of diverse individuals who could help reinforce the relationship between public safety and effective reentry.	<u>DC Prisoners'</u>	9/2/03	12/31/03	Currently under development
Educate attorney's about how to apply for waivers from child support arrearages and recommend inmate participation in the Residential Drug Abuse Treatment Program at BOP.	<u>Public Defender Service</u>	9/1/03	Fall 2003	This fall's Criminal Practice Institute will focus on civil consequences of criminal prosecution
Educate attorneys, judges, clerks, legal services providers on the criminal justice system. Specifically, the federal/local problem in reentry; parole; and impact of certain sentencing procedures.	PDS, <u>ERC</u> (SUMMIT)	10/1/03	5/31/04	To be implemented

Chapter 5

Legislative and Policy Action Items

OVERALL GOALS:

To remove obstacles to successful offender reentry through the researching and drafting of legislation to be presented to the DC Council during the upcoming legislative session, and to make recommendations about ways to resolve other policy issues through administrative options (such as MOU’s and written protocols) that would become standard operating procedure for DC’s reentry strategy.

The Legislative and Policy Workgroup established a committee consisting of representatives from the Judiciary Committee of the DC Council, the CRA Committee of the DC Council, the Department of Corrections, Our Place for Women DC, the Open Society Institute, the Sentencing Project, and DC CURE. Throughout the tables below, the committee is referred to collectively as the “Workgroup.”

LEGISLATIVE TIMETABLE:

Research all issues and draft initial bill: 9/2/03 - 10/31/03
 Introduce bill to DC Council: 11/4/03
 Bill referred to Judiciary Committee: 11/5/03
 Judiciary Committee holds public hearing: 12/03
 Bill mark-up: 1/27/04
 First reading: 3/04
 Second reading:..... 4/04
 Bill approved/referred to Congress:..... 4/04
 Bill becomes law:.....Summer, 2004
 (Congressional approval occurs 30-60 days, depending on bill’s substance)

LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

A) HOUSING ISSUES:⁵⁵

1. Explore the development of rules that allow for the return of ex-offenders with criminal histories to public housing on a probationary basis.
2. Ease zoning board limitations on siting new community corrections programs.
3. Create tax credits that encourage the creation of low-cost housing with supportive services for ex-offenders or their families.

Table 5-1 (Items 1-3).

Implementation Steps	Responsible Party(ies)	Start Date	Projected End Date	Status
Meet with DCHA’s Executive Director (Michael Kelly) to determine what policies can be changed regarding Section 8 housing and other housing options for ex-offenders.	Workgroup	8/27/03	9/15/03	Letter requesting briefing sent 8/28/03; meeting scheduled for 10/2/03

⁵⁵ *Comprehensive Reentry Strategy*, p. 22-23.

Implementation Steps	Responsible Party(ies)	Start Date	Projected End Date	Status
Meet with Mary Ann Luby (Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless Outreach Coordinator) prior to Kelly meeting for background.	Workgroup	9/2/03	9/15/03	
Explore best practices elsewhere (Rhode Island Coalition for the Homeless, Open Society Institute Baltimore, NACRO, London, Tampa, Miami).	Workgroup	9/2/03	10/15/03	
Review New York's Legal Action Center report on housing/ex-offenders (including Riker's program).	Workgroup	9/2/03	9/30/03	
Contact Department of Justice/Bureau of Justice Assistance (DOJ/BJA) (Betsy Griffin) regarding Reentry Initiative's focus on housing options.	Workgroup	9/2/03	9/30/03	
Review zoning regulations and procedures to ensure they facilitate community consideration of halfway house siting issues (Recommendation #9 from the Halfway House Siting Commission Report).	Workgroup	9/2/03	9/30/03	
If Council cannot amend zoning ordinances, explore other options (Sense of the Council Resolution to Zoning Commission; use of Comprehensive Plan, etc.).	Workgroup	10/1/03	11/30/03	
Research Representative Danny Davis' Bill (H.R. 3701) and meet with Davis staffers to determine feasibility of a local bill (to provide tax credits to encourage the creation of low-cost housing with supportive services for ex-offenders and families).	Workgroup	9/2/03	9/30/03	
Talk with Legal Action Center; Washington Legal Clinic.	Workgroup	9/2/03	9/30/03	
Meet with Open Society Institute (OSI) regarding their current legislative efforts.	Workgroup	9/2/03	9/30/03	
Meet with Philip Mangano, Executive Director, Federal Interagency Council on Homelessness, regarding their current efforts.	Workgroup	9/2/03	10/14/03	Mtg. Scheduled for 10/14
Investigate Housing Production Trust Fund and Maryland's Inclusionary Zoning Program for ex-offender set asides/options.	Workgroup	9/2/03	9/30/03	

Implementation Steps	Responsible Party(ies)	Start Date	Projected End Date	Status
Talk to Nan Roman, National Alliance on Homelessness.	Workgroup	9/2/03	9/30/03	

B) FAMILY ISSUES:⁵⁶

1. Arrearages of child support incurred while incarcerated need to be reversed. Arrearages incurred prior to incarceration need to be considered as well. The District should contemplate a program where arrearages can be erased if a person is working for two years.
2. Kinship care payments and foster care payments need to continue to be provided if the parent, as part of the reunification procedure, must reside with the foster care provider prior to taking full custody of his or her child or children.

Table 5-2 (Items 1-2)

Implementation Steps	Responsible Party(ies)	Start Date	Projected End Date	Status
Meet with Corporation Council's Office (OCC) regarding their perspective on easing arrearages while offenders are still in prison.	Workgroup	9/2/03	9/30/03	
Investigate prospects for OCC's Child Support Enforcement Division (CSED) to lower liability instead of going to court; to consider percentage reductions or waivers based on objective criteria.	Workgroup	9/2/03	10/31/03	
If OCC's CSED demonstration grant is funded (HHS), recommend that CSOSA monitor it for future replication purposes.	Workgroup	1/1/04	3/31/04	
Investigate child support arrearage initiatives nationwide.	Workgroup	9/2/03	9/30/03	
Discuss establishment of application process with Pre-Release Planning Workgroup.	Workgroup	10/1/03	10/31/03	
Meet with CFSA (Child & Family Services Agency) regarding how kinship and foster care payments and placements work locally.	Workgroup	9/2/03	9/30/03	
Look at Federal legislation regarding termination of parental rights.	Workgroup	10/1/03	10/31/03	

C) OFFENDER ISSUES:⁵⁷

1. Extend the sentence reduction benefits for US Code offenders contained in 18 USC 3621(e) to DC Code offenders. According to federal law, the BOP can reduce the incarceration time of US

⁵⁶ *Comprehensive Reentry Strategy*, p. 22-23.

⁵⁷ *Comprehensive Reentry Strategy*, p. 22-23.

Code offenders who successfully complete the Residential Drug Abuse Treatment Program (RDAP) by up to one year by moving the inmate to a CCC to receive transitional substance abuse services. All BOP contracts for CCC programs require the site to provide transitional drug education services. This stipulation does not currently apply to DC Code Offenders. Federal law [18 USC 3621(e)] allows federal judges to recommend participation in this program as a component of sentencing. While DC Superior Court justices can currently recommend placement in the RDAP, the sentence reduction benefits available to US Code offenders do not apply.

2. Encourage BOP and DOC to lift restrictions on toll free numbers to providers.
3. Improve identification for offenders being released.

Table 5-3 (Items 1-3).

Implementation Steps	Responsible Party(ies)	Start Date	Projected End Date	Status
Based on feedback from DC Sentencing Commission, consult with Council's Office of General Counsel regarding amending DC code to offer sentence reduction benefits.	Workgroup	9/2/03	9/30/03	
Investigate other sentence reduction benefits in US Code to adopt locally, and any other options for sentence reduction including Truth in Sentencing.	Workgroup	9/2/03	9/30/03	
Determine status of DOC's proposed inmate phone system; determine if legislation is warranted.	Workgroup	9/2/03	9/30/03	
Consult with CURE and BOP regarding establishing a debit calling system within private prisons that contract with BOP; consider existing program at Rivers as a pilot.	Workgroup	10/1/03	10/31/03	Maybe make it contract requirement
Isolate existing problems with ID's following designated inmates from DC Jail into Federal system; propose solutions.				This is an implementation issue
Encourage MOU between DOC and DMV to provide ID's for inmates released without supervision.	Workgroup	10/1/03	12/31/03	
Follow up with DMV (Anne Witt) regarding issuing non-drivers' license ID's to non-CSOSA supervised ex-offenders without residences.	Workgroup	11/1/03	11/30/03	
Investigate status of DOC's "inmate release gratuity" program.	Workgroup	9/2/03	9/30/03	
Consult with DOJ/BJA regarding using Reentry Initiative funding for special housing, employment, or other subsidies and/or in-kind services.	Workgroup	9/2/03	9/30/03	

D) OTHER COLLATERAL CONSEQUENCES:⁵⁸

1. Improve implementation of voting rights for current and ex-offenders.
2. Improve ex-offenders' rights to serve on juries.
3. Improve access to Federal financial aid for drug offenders.

Implementation Steps	Responsible Party(ies)	Start Date	Projected End Date	Status
Meet with Board of Elections regarding implementing increased access to voting in DC Jail.	Workgroup	9/30/03	10/31/03	
Consult with CURE (Charlie Sullivan) regarding status of voting rights campaign within BOP.	Workgroup	9/2/03	9/30/03	
Work with BOP to further develop and disseminate voting rights information.	Workgroup	10/1/03	12/31/03	Add to BOP meeting agenda
Consult with Court regarding possibility of shortening 10-year wait for ex-offenders to serve on juries.	Workgroup	10/1/03	11/30/03	
Investigate denial of federal financial aid for misdemeanor or felony drug charges and propose solutions.	Workgroup	10/1/03	11/30/03	

E) EMPLOYMENT ISSUES:⁵⁹

1. Remove barriers to hiring of ex-offenders.

Implementation Steps	Responsible Party(ies)	Start Date	Projected End Date	Status
Meet with DC Employment Justice Center regarding possible legislative fixes, including record sealing, lifting occupational bans, etc.	Workgroup	9/2/03	9/30/03	
Research "Second Chance" legislation and certificates of rehabilitation in New York.	Workgroup	9/2/03	9/30/03	

⁵⁸ *Comprehensive Reentry Strategy*, p. 22-23.

⁵⁹ *Comprehensive Reentry Strategy*, p. 22-23.

Implementation Steps	Responsible Party(ies)	Start Date	Projected End Date	Status
Meet with DOES regarding their participation in Labor's Federal Bonding Program; coordinate with Employment/Education Workgroup regarding future protocols.	Workgroup	9/2/03	10/31/03	Refer to existing MOU between CSOSA, DOES, and PSA
Research financial incentives like Work Opportunity Tax Credit Program (through Dept. of Labor).	Workgroup	9/2/03	9/30/03	

F. HEALTH/HEALTH CARE:⁶⁰

Implementation Steps	Responsible Party(ies)	Start Date	Projected End Date	Status
Explore various health/healthcare issues (drug treatment, mental health, Medicaid, HIV, other public health issues, etc.) for possible inclusion in bill.	Workgroup	9/8/03	9/30/03	

G. OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:⁶¹

1. Develop strategies to address victims' needs.
2. Create a Victims Services Advisory Board to develop a process that allows victims' input on the reentry process.

Implementation Steps	Responsible Party(ies)	Start Date	Projected End Date	Status
Reassign these 2 recommendations; Leg/Policy Workgroup consensus was that they are not relevant to the group's focus.	Workgroup Coordinators	9/8/03	9/8/03	As of 9/17/03, these 2 recommendations were reassigned to the Public Education/Support Workgroup

⁶⁰ *Comprehensive Reentry Strategy*, p. 22-23.

⁶¹ *Comprehensive Reentry Strategy*, p. 22-23.