



This newsletter shares information, policy and program updates and best practice information to 20 County Re-entry Task Forces and community stakeholders.

- Albany
- Bronx
- Broome
- Dutchess
- Erie
- Kings
- Monroe
- Nassau
- Niagara
- New York
- Oneida
- Onondaga
- Orange
- Queens
- Rensselaer
- Rockland
- Schenectady
- Suffolk
- Ulster
- Westchester

The [New York State Council on Community Re-entry and Reintegration](#) aims to reduce barriers for New Yorkers with criminal convictions.

**Spotlight: Albany CRTF “Move-In Kits”**

Each of the 20 CRTFs provide some level of service coordination as it relates to housing, specifically with obtaining transitional, temporary, or permanent housing. The Albany CRTF provides each of their re-entry participants with establishing stable and permanent housing with a “Move-In Kit” and an opportunity to “shop” at the Capital Region Furniture Bank. The “Move-In Kit” includes household items such as bedding, dishes, knives, silverware, as well as various personal care items, and a gift card to a grocery store. Individuals who already have permanent housing can also utilize the Capital Region Furniture Bank and request items within a “Move-In Kit”.



**Spotlight: Broome & Schenectady CRTFs Bring Employers to Ready, Set, Work!**

Research supports the utilization of Cognitive Behavioral Interventions and Employment Readiness programs to address criminal thinking, negatively influencing peers, low academic achievement, little to no employment skills or experience, substance abuse issues and family discord/communication issues because they have shown to reduce recidivism and increase likelihood of sustaining and mainlining employment. Community-based organizations, businesses and volunteers are often invited to either present or meet with **RSW!** students. The Broome CRTF staff met with 15 local employers who have been finding it difficult to identify quality employees. The CRTF invited all 15 employers, eight attended, to the September **RSW!** graduation to meet the graduates and discuss any potential job opportunities. The graduates were prepared with their resumes and were dressed in interview clothes. The Schenectady CRTF has also invited several employers such as 48forty solutions, Special Quality Packaging, Home Depot, Nationwide Maintenance and Price Chopper to their **RSW!** classes to talk to the students about the opportunities available and how to apply for a job at their company.

**Fundamentals of Community Corrections (FCC) Training**

DCJS-OPCA will be delivering a three-day virtual FCC training. FCC is an evidence-based curriculum designed especially for community correction professionals; specifically, those at the beginning of their careers, but suitable for all. The curriculum provides students with the skills required to help engage program participants and target their criminogenic needs to change their behavior and lead law-abiding lives. In addition, students will receive training on Risk-Need-Responsivity, Client Engagement, and Race & Equity, among many other relevant topics. Stay tuned for more information!

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For more information on any of the topics mentioned within, to report any difficulties you may have experienced receiving this email, or if you have any information you would like included in the next issue, please contact [Taylor Alfred](mailto:Taylor.Alfred@dcjs.ny.gov).

Past issues of *New York Re-Entry Today* are available on the [DCJS website](http://www.dcss.ny.gov). Bookmark the link!

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## **Save the Date**

### **County Re-Entry Task Force Regional Forums**

DCJS-OPCA and the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS) are pleased to announce a series of regional County Re-Entry Task Force Forums during November and December. These forums are designed to provide a “virtual” venue to openly discuss topics relevant to re-entry services for returning citizens. Each forum will include a discussion on how County Re-Entry Task Forces are currently operating as well as best practices and promising programs available in their region. Our goal at DCJS-OPCA is to receive feedback from Coordinators on the CRTF program model as well as on going service coordination amidst COVID-19.

- **Capital Region:** Monday, November 22, 1PM to 2:30PM
- **NYC Region:** Monday, November 29, 9AM to 10:30AM
- **Hudson Valley Region:** Thursday, December 9, 9AM to 10:30AM
- **Long Island Region:** Monday, December 13, 9AM to 10:30AM
- **Western NY Region:** Monday, December 20, 1PM to 2:30PM

### **Community Based Residential Programs (CBRP) – Grant Opportunity**

DOCCS is in the process of releasing a [Request for Application](#) for the Community Based Housing Program in January 2022. The contracts are five years in length (October 1, 2022 -September 30, 2027) and for community organizations who want to provide immediate transitional housing to individuals releasing from NYS DOCCS. The assigned case managers will work with the clients for up to 120 days with a goal of securing permanent housing and employment.

## **New Legislation**

On October 4, Governor Kathy Hochul, [signed legislation](#) establishing a statewide Restaurant Meals Program as part of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The legislation mandates the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance to apply for USDA approval to authorize the program, which would allow homeless, elderly, and disabled SNAP recipients to use their benefits for prepared or hot food from participating restaurants. Once approved by USDA, SNAP recipients would be able to use their benefits for prepared or hot food from participating restaurants and delis.

[Legislation passed in June](#), by the New York City Council, significantly increases the ability for individuals who are homeless to find housing through the City’s rental voucher program (CityFHEPS). The voucher rates will rise to \$1,945 for an individual and \$2,217 for families and eliminates the program’s current five-year cap for vouchers.

The [Gender Recognition Act](#) removes longstanding barriers to equality under the law and ensuring expanded protections for transgender and non-binary New Yorkers. The law allows New Yorkers to use "X" as a non-binary sex designation on New York State driver's licenses. It also ensures that New Yorkers will be able to have their gender identity on official documents and provides protections to reduce discrimination against nonbinary and transgender New Yorkers by permitting name change and sex designation changes to be sealed more easily. Finally, the legislation will provide New Yorkers the ability to amend their birth certificates and use a designation of mother, father, or parent for the first time. allows New Yorkers to use "X" as a non-binary sex designation on New York State driver's licenses, state IDs and birth certificates.