



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

2023-2024 Contract Year – Increased Funding & Enhanced Services

DCJS has increased funding and extended contracts for the 20 County Re-Entry Task Forces for 2023-24, effective Oct 1. Funding increased from \$3.8M to \$8M for the new year, providing the CRTFs with state assistance to secure and increase staffing capacity and enhance the delivery of essential stabilization services. Enhanced services include a) securing proper personal identification documents; b) transportation supports, such as bus passes or Uber gift cards; c) housing assistance, including rental application fees; d) necessities such as clothing, hygiene supplies and nutritional support; e) proper attire and footwear for employment; and f) employment training certification fees; and cell phones to enable clients to communicate with services and engage in CBI/Employment readiness virtually.

Re-Entry Task Force Coordinators and Staff Training held Oct. 18-19

Over 35 individuals from the state’s 20 Task Forces attended staff training in Albany from Oct. 18 to 19. The workshop provided opportunities to collaborate, network and receive a refresher on the Task Force workplan and key aspects of the model. DCJS and the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision staff facilitated the workshop, which covered core workplan objectives, client engagement, trauma, program and intervention fidelity, as well as building relationships with co-chairs and the Department Of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS).



Re-entry an Important Part of the Public Safety Symposium Sept 27-29.

This year’s Public Safety Symposium brought together more than 900 law enforcement and criminal justice leaders at the Empire State Plaza Convention Center in Albany. The Symposium convened public safety executives, police command staff, prosecutors, crime analysts and others to share innovative ideas, evidence-based strategies and updates on police reform and reinvention collaborations. OPCA conducted a workshop titled, “**County Re-Entry Task Forces: Supporting Successful Reintegration into the Community.**” The workshop was led by OPCA re-entry staff and included representatives from DOCCS and the Task Forces, as well as one former client. The rich discussion addressed all aspects of the CRTF workplan as well as experiences providing services to individuals returning home from incarceration. The workshop was very well attended.

Thank you to our panelists!

- DOCCS Re-Entry Operations Manager Christine Robinson-Cooley
- Rockland County District Attorney’s Office Director of Programs Judy Rosenthal
- Rockland County Re-Entry Task Force (BRIDGES) Coordinator Nicole Prais
- Schenectady County Re-Entry Task Force (Center for Community Justice) Coordinator Tim Staples
- Former CRTF Participant Lesly Holmes

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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](#).

Past issues of *New York Re-Entry Today* are available on the [DCJS website](#). Bookmark the link!

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Client Testimonial – Onondaga CRTF

In May of 2023 Mr. Robert R. returned home to Onondaga County, after serving 15 years of state incarceration. Originally from Pennsylvania, Robert was undomiciled and began his term of community supervision in a local shelter. However, he was motivated to succeed and quickly engaged with Onondaga County Re-entry Task Force, successfully completing “**Ready, Set, Work!**” “Thinking for Change Booster,” and “Interactive Journaling.” Today, Robert is gainfully employed, living in transitional housing and, in his free time, has enjoyed rebuilding relationships with his children and grandchildren.

*“I was released on May 18th and sent to a very bad situation and had to stay in a shelter. I was depressed and with a lot of anxiety. PO Dixon helped me to get into Freedom Commons, and Re-entry Task Force has helped me with my appointments, getting me ready for employment, etc.... I completed **RSWI**, ‘Thinking for Change’ and ‘Interactive Journaling.’ Now, I have two jobs, one as a dialysis technician and at Apex Bowling Alley at the mall. I don’t use drugs. I don’t drink. I am moving to my own apartment very soon, and the Task Force will help me with the security deposit.” – Mr. Robert R.*

Best Practice – Community Corrections Database System (CCDS) Data Entry

CRTF grantees are required to submit monthly case specific data using the CCDS application on the IJ Portal. Monthly data submissions are due by the 10th day of the following month (i.e., data for November are due December 10th). Automated reports will be available through the CCDS application to summarize monthly and quarterly program activity. It is best practice for each grantee to run a monthly report after submission to ensure all data entry is correct. For assistance on how to complete the data entry program staff are also encouraged to refer to the Required Data Entry Fields in Community Corrections Data Submission Application. Reminder, programs with new employees responsible for data entry must submit an Application B to their assigned OPCA representative so the employees can obtain access to the IJ Portal.

OPCA Delivers Two Employment Related Webinars

Career University Webinar – Advancing to the Next Level

More than 30 professionals attended The Career University – Advancing to the Next Level webinar on Sept. 25. This training assists staff and qualifies certified workforce development specialists and in facilitating groups participating in Career University – Advancing to the Next Level, a comprehensive career curriculum for youth ages 14 to 24, who are, or have been, involved with the criminal justice or juvenile system. It builds on evidence-based curricula and resources from DCJS, the Department of Labor, several local probation departments and community-based organizations with frontline experience working with this population in New York State.

Ready, Set, Work! Technical Assistance Refresher

More than 75 professionals attended the **Ready, Set, Work!** Technical Assistance refresher training hosted by OPCA on Sept. 29. The purpose of the webinar was to provide a refresher course for all certified workforce development specialists (WDS) in the facilitation of “**Ready, Set, Work!**” groups. This webinar provided specific technical assistance on how to conduct these groups with fidelity to the model. Fully certified specialists were provided an opportunity to refresh their skills to enable them to fully utilize the certification credentials they have earned.

Please contact Monica Luciani, Community Correction Representative 1, at Monica.Luciani@dcjs.ny.gov with any workforce development specialist related questions. OPCA plans to host a WDS training in January 2024! Stay tuned for more information!

Governor Announcements

On Sept. 27, Governor Hochul signed into law a legislative package that expands the number of members and time served on the New York State Interagency Task Force on Human Trafficking to ensure continuity. Governor Hochul also signed legislation that ensures transportation hubs across the state display information on services available to victims and survivors of human trafficking. Additionally, Governor Hochul highlighted \$2.3 million awarded to contractors across the state that provide services to survivors and victims of human trafficking. Read more [here](#).