



“By investing in substance abuse programs, mental healthcare, job training opportunities and similar initiatives, we are making the re-entry process safer for everyone involved. This is all about making New York a stronger and more secure place to live and work, and I am proud to be supporting our partners across the state.” -- Governor Andrew M. Cuomo

This newsletter shares news, policy and program updates and best practice information to 20 County Re-entry Task Forces (CRTFs) and community stakeholders. Funded by DCJS and in collaboration with the state Department of Corrections and Community Supervision, Task Forces operate in the following counties:

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

**DCJS Hosts Information Exchange Webinar**

DCJS recently hosted an online information exchange session for the 20 County Re-Entry Task Forces funded by the agency to discuss the programmatic changes occurring as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. More than 90 re-entry professionals across the state participated, including Task Force co-chairs and coordinators, as well as staff from DCJS and the state Department of Corrections and Community Supervision.

Led by DCJS Community Correction Representative 3 Michele Clarke, the webinar offered guidance and information on alternate methods that Task Forces could use to continue providing services while adhering to federal, state and local directives in response to the outbreak. DCJS Staff Taylor Vogt and Melinda Vick presented comprehensive information on technology platforms that allow re-entry professionals to continue providing services that address the stabilization and criminogenic needs of individuals returning to their communities after incarceration. The webinar explored:

- Using available video technology: WebEx, GoToMeeting, Skype, G-Suite, Google Duo & FaceTime, in addition to telephone conference calls to engage with participants;
- Centralizing incoming calls through voice mail by providing a phone number where individuals can leave messages;
- Designating or creating a specific email address where anyone can ask questions or voice concerns; and
- Communicating through social media platforms and/or websites, among other strategies.

*“The world is facing unprecedented times due to COVID-19 and as criminal justice and re-entry professionals we are being challenged in our ability to continue to deliver consistent re-entry-based services while adhering to public health and safety mandates.... We are seeing emerging creative thinking and the use of technology to continue communication not only with service providers but the CRTF clients as well.”*

– Megan Quattlebaum, Director  
[Council of State Governments Justice Center](#)

For more information about New York’s re-entry efforts, visit the state’s [Council on Community Re-entry and Reintegration](#) website.

## Upcoming Task Force Meeting Dates & Method

Albany: 4/3 (video)  
Bronx: 4/20 (TBD)  
Broome: 5/20 (video)  
Dutchess: 4/16 (video)  
Erie: (video)  
Kings: 6/3 (TBD)  
Monroe: 4/14 (video)  
Nassau: 4/9  
(teleconference)  
Niagara: 4/8 (video)  
New York: TBD  
Oneida: 5/22 (video)  
Onondaga: 5/21 (TBD)  
Orange: 5/28 (TBD)  
Queens: 5/13 (video)  
Rensselaer: 6/11(TBD)  
Rockland: 5/27 (TBD)  
Schenectady: 5/27 (TBD)  
Suffolk: 4/9 (TBD)  
Ulster: 5/19 (video)  
Westchester: 5/21 (TBD)

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**Job Fair Success:** The Rensselaer Task Force hosted a successful job fair in January attended by 30 individuals on parole and probation. Of those, 17 participated in job interviews and four accepted job offers.

## Grant Funding and Award Opportunities

[Bureau of Justice Assistance: FY 2020 Second Chance Act](#)

[NCJA Outstanding Criminal Justice Program Awards:](#) The National Criminal Justice Association (NCJA) has extended the deadline for nominations to **May 8, 2020**. The awards recognize criminal justice programs that use promising practices to address crime in their communities. The winning programs will be honored at the [2020 Forum on Criminal Justice](#), scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 25 through Wednesday, Oct. 28, in Cleveland, Ohio.

## Training

**Offender Workforce Development Specialist Training:** There is compelling evidence that unemployment impedes success in the community and contributes to recidivism. Those who have had contact with the criminal justice system often face barriers to employment, such as limited work history, lack of education or poor planning skills. The National Institute of Corrections' Offender Workforce Development Specialist Training provides professionals with the skills needed to help individuals seek, secure and maintain employment. Please contact Frank Cangiano ([Frank.Cangiano@dcjs.ny.gov](mailto:Frank.Cangiano@dcjs.ny.gov)) for more information.

**DCJS Law Enforcement Symposium:** Scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 30 through Friday, Oct. 2, 2020, in Albany, the Symposium will bring together more than 600 criminal justice professionals from New York State and beyond to explore evidence-based policing, data-driven strategies and best practices for improving public safety. DCJS is currently soliciting presentations, which must be submitted [here](#) by **May 15, 2020**, from law enforcement professionals, practitioners, academics, and individuals working in related fields. [Click here](#) to watch presentations from the 2019 Symposium. Please direct questions to [dcjslawenforcementsymposium@dcjs.ny.gov](mailto:dcjslawenforcementsymposium@dcjs.ny.gov).

## Stay Safe & Stay Healthy

- Stay home, even if you feel well
- Keep 6 feet of distance from others in public
- Stay Updated → [Novel Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)

## Tips for Working Remotely

- Create a dedicated workspace
- Take breaks
- Maintain focus and productivity
- Stay connected with regular team check-ins
- Host engaging online meetings or teleconferences:
  - Check technology
  - Connect before/after meeting
  - Establish roles
  - Ensure video/audio security