Reentry in the COVID-19 Era: Building Pathways for Successful Community Reintegration



Reentry in the COVID-19 Era: Building Pathways for Successful Community Reintegration

Authors: Amreeta S. Mathai (RJP), Twyla Carter (CLRP), Taylor Pendergrass (NPAD)

Core Reentry Team Members: Amreeta S. Mathai (RJP), Twyla Carter (CLRP), Lewis Conway (NPAD), Dylan Hayre (NPAD), Monica Hopkins (ACLU-DC), Daniel McGowan (CLRP), Taylor Pendergrass (NPAD), Cynthia Roseberry (NPAD), Mauree Turner (ACLU-OK), Sean Wilson (ACLU-WI)

Contributors: Kanya Bennett (NPAD), Zoe Brennan-Krohn (DRP), Brandon Buskey (CLRP), Lewis Conway (NPAD), Emily Dindial (NPAD), Sagiv Galai (CLRP), Dylan Hayre (NPAD), Amber Hikes (Chief Equity and Inclusion Officer), Monica Hopkins (ACLU-DC), Afraz Khan (RJP), Daniel McGowan (CLRP), Shyenne Medina (RJP), Susan Mizner (DRP), ReNika Moore (RJP), Charlotte Resing (NPAD), Jeff Robinson (Trone Center), Cynthia Roseberry (NPAD), Chase Strangio (LGBTQ & HIV), Mauree Turner (ACLU-OK), Sean Wilson (ACLU-WI)



TABLE OF CONTENTS

AUTI	HOR PAGE	1
TABI	LE OF CONTENTS	2
I.	INTRODUCTION	3
II. ❖	STRATEGY: CREATE A TEAM OF EXPERTS TO TACKLE REENTRY CHALLENGES DURING COVID-19 CRISIS AND BEYOND	5
	Bring Expert Stakeholders and Partners Together	5
*	Help Organize Stakeholders into Coordinated Groups That Can Take Action	6
III.	TARGETED ADVOCACY: IDEAS FOR REENTRY ASKS DIRECTED AT SPECIDECISION-MAKERS/STAKEHOLDERS DURING THE COVID-19 CRISIS	
*	Department of Corrections/Detention Facilities Officials	8
*	Probation and Parole	10
*	Governors	11
*	County/Local Officials	13
*	Public Housing Authorities	16
*	States/Local Public Benefits Agencies	16
*	Private Individuals and Companies	17
*	Community Organizers/Transitional Services NGOs	17
*	Senators and Congressional Representatives	17
IV.	COMMUNICATIONS/MESSAGING	20
V.	ADDITIONAL RESOURCES	24
*	National Organizations/Resources	24
*	State and Local Organizations/Resources	24
*	Articles and Documents	28

I. INTRODUCTION

As we stand alongside impacted people, public health experts, and advocates in demanding rapid decarceration to save lives in the face of COVID-19 ravaging jails, prisons, "juvenile" facilities and detention facilities, we are also confronted by the reality that most people exiting those facilities will return to Black and brown communities where the brunt of the transmission and deaths are already occurring. These are the same communities that constitute the majority of the service workers who are now considered "essential" and do not have access to stable health care or the choice to work remotely and protect themselves and their families. The devastating and brutal impact of COVID-19 on Black and brown communities is the result of longstanding structural inequities and racism against these communities.

People need to be released now, but we must also address what happens to them when they return to the community. How will people who have been and may have been exposed to COVID-19 while in detention be supported after release so that they have access to testing, appropriate medical care and resources for social distancing and self-quarantine? How will people who are released and the families/communities they return to be adequately supported to ensure successful reintegration amidst the COVID-19 crisis? Attempting to address the vast and complex array of reentry issues implicated in these questions should not impede our efforts to secure freedom for as many people as possible. However, it compels us to embrace the massive responsibility of advocating for and contributing to an environment that is conducive to successful reintegration. Supporting people returning to Black and brown communities amidst COVID-19 is undoubtedly a behemoth task. The ACLU is not and has never been an expert on reentry, but we have an obligation to help and use our position of influence to lessen the impact of mass decarceration on marginalized communities. With great humility and respect, we must support the experts on the ground in shaping successful outcomes for people returning to the community during this crucial time.

This moment of crisis presents a unique opportunity to uplift lived experiences in pursuit of transformational reform. Centering Black and brown people from directly impacted communities in leadership is crucial for the successful immediate, short and long-term reentry of the people for whom we seek freedom. There are many different experiences of reentry that give rise to expertise. People who were formerly incarcerated and are trying to navigate the incredible obstacle course that is the reentry landscape, as well as the families experiencing the reentry world as they financially and emotionally support loved ones attempting to reintegrate, have expertise. We must seek out, listen to, and uplift the experts. We must not marginalize lived

_

¹ Please note that this document does not address the specific needs of undocumented people, people with immigration concerns and the families/communities that support them. All people leaving detention facilities have several overlapping needs and while many of the recommendations may be useful to undocumented people and the communities that support them, this guidance is in no way sufficient to address the difficult and distinct issues that face this vulnerable community. For further guidance related to decarceration and immigration consider reviewing resources and suggestions from the Immigrant Legal Resource Center. *See Responsible Releases: Safeguards to Protect Immigrants Released from Jails and Prisons*, Immigrant Legal Resource Center (Apr. 14, 2020), https://www.ilrc.org/responsible-releases-safeguards-protect-immigrants-released-jails-and-prisons.

experiences in pursuit of speeding outcomes. Often, this will simply start with asking what impacted people are facing and how we can help.

This pandemic has exposed and reaffirmed the reality of longstanding, deeply entrenched, and generational systemic inequity in the United States. We have the responsibility and the power to address that head-on, even while making space for our own lack of robust answers or comprehensive plans for some of the most difficult questions we are all facing. We must use our platform to make clear to government decision-makers and the public that failure to provide direct support to people returning home, and to the families and communities who will receive them, will exacerbate difficulties that Black and brown communities are already experiencing during the pandemic. We must also make clear that it is unacceptable to fail to support people as they reenter and then later argue that COVID-19 related decarcerations or reforms were "dangerous" or that formerly incarcerated people will not be able to successfully reenter and thus, should be returned to prison immediately.

Our collective efforts relating to reentry should be aimed at one main objective:

Advocating for access to support services, including safe transitional or permanent (where possible) housing, food and basic necessities, appropriate mental and physical health services, and financial support for individuals and communities to which they will return. Black and brown leadership must be centered in this advocacy and the advocacy must be done with an eye toward making support and reform permanent, where possible, so that formerly incarcerated people can successfully reintegrate and remain in the community after the COVID-19 pandemic.

This document is divided into four sections and offers: (i) suggestions on immediate strategy for organizing a reentry coalition, (ii) suggestions on reentry requests directed at specific stakeholders/decisions makers, (iii) reentry messaging ideas, and (iv) a list of additional resources on reentry that may be useful. We hope this document will assist you in addressing reentry needs amidst the COVID-19 crisis while also forwarding long-term efforts at transformational and permanent change. There are complicated nuances in every state/county/locality and advocacy should be adjusted to fit the approach directly-impacted experts and you believe will work best in your jurisdiction.

II. STRATEGY: CREATE A TEAM OF EXPERTS TO TACKLE REENTRY CHALLENGES DURING COVID-19 CRISIS AND BEYOND

❖ Bring Expert Stakeholders and Partners Together

There are innumerable issues and challenges that will arise as people unexpectedly return to the community. It will be impossible to anticipate, understand and address all the challenges to adequately empower and support (i) the people who are returning to the community from jail/prison/detention and (ii) the families and communities that are welcoming loved ones home amidst the COVID-19 crisis. **One of the most important steps you can take** is to form meaningful and accountable relationships with partners who have direct experience with reentry and ask how you can best support them and enable them to take the lead in demanding resources. **These partners may include**:

- People who were formerly incarcerated and have experience with reentry challenges. They will provide crucial insight about what types of support people returning to the community will need. These insights must be centered in this work.
- Community members who have had loved ones return home. They will have crucial insight about the resources required to support someone who has just returned home.
- Community organizations, including churches, social clubs, and other nonprofit agencies that provide support to families and individuals when a loved one returns home.
- Organizations who have represented formerly incarcerated people:
 - Grassroots organizations advocating for the rights and human needs of people with criminal records and/or racial justice.
 - Civil legal services providers who work with people with criminal records: they
 will know the legal landscape in housing, public benefits, public health care and
 employment for people with open criminal cases and criminal records.
 - Public Defenders
- Non-profit organizations and government agencies that do direct reentry and transitional services work including: access to health care services (inclusive of mental, emotional and physical care), securing public benefits, accessing housing and food, and providing mentorship.
- People/Organizations who represent communities that will be welcoming people who are returning home. This could include faith leaders, grassroots tenant organizers, temp and day labor agencies, mutual aid organizations, mentorship and peer support programs, community legal and service clinics, LGBTQ drop-in centers and programs for LGBTQ and homeless youth, and drug treatment and harm reduction organizations.
- Government or non-profit organizations running shelter facilities or providing other transitional services, like food banks.
- Public health specialists, preferably who have experience with the physical, emotional and mental health needs of people upon release and as they reintegrate.
- Pre-trial and probation services, if you believe that these groups will be helpful to (and not hinder) your efforts.

❖ Help Organize Stakeholders into Coordinated Groups That Can Take Action

Help organize relevant stakeholders into groups that can identify reentry issues, discuss, and create concrete immediate, short and long-term plans of action to address issues as they arise in your state/county/locality. One potential best practice is to organize representatives from various key organizations and agencies into groups that should meet daily, given the immediate and constantly evolving situation, to discuss and create a plan of action. Where applicable, make sure members from directly impacted communities lead these groups. These groups should be structured in the best way to facilitate coordination between the groups and rapid provision of support and resources to people returning home. We have offered some ideas below as examples. Where transition/reentry organizations already exist or are already leading coalitions, ask how you can best support them amid this crisis and enable them to take the lead in expanding their services.

Possible groups could include:²

- A "Release Group": This group should include people who already have the authority to access the jail/prison/detention "inmate roster" as well as privileged and confidential information including HIPAA-related materials. They should meet daily to talk about who can be released as soon as possible without hindrance or delay. This group would go through the roster together and identify people eligible for release and coordinate their initial release plans *before the release date* (where are they going upon release, how will they get there, and what will they need for the first 72 hours, or another appropriate time frame, after release). Ideally, this group would include:
 - o Public Defenders and their mitigation specialists or social workers
 - o Jail/Prison/Detention Medical Staff
 - o Pre-trial services
 - Corrections
 - Probation/Parole³
- A "Housing Group": This group should be tasked with assessing housing options for all people who are going to be released and thinking creatively about how to offer everyone safe housing regardless of whether they have families/friends who can accommodate them. This group should also consider the needs of communities that will house many individuals. This group could include:
 - Community leadership by a person who has experienced shelter systems and/or halfway houses in the course of returning home.
 - o Community leadership by a person who has been excluded from public housing because of a criminal record.

² The suggested groups are intended to address the immediate needs of people leaving jails/prisons/detention amid COVID-19. In the longer term, it may be important to form other types of reentry groups that could address other issues. These could include a restorative justice group, an access to credit group, an access to employment group, etc.

³ Note that while parole/probation officers are law enforcement officers, they are included in this group because post-conviction people may be serving a sentence with parole/probation conditions of release and we want them to view their responsibility as assisting in successful release and reentry.

- Public Housing Authority officials
- o Representatives of tenants in public housing
 - Grassroots tenant organizers
 - Direct service agencies who represent tenants
- Public health experts who can suggest and evaluate distancing and hygiene protocols in any available housing.
- o Government or private donors who can lease/donate hotels or other spaces that would allow people to safely isolate.
- o Entities that could create a way for people with additional homes who want to offer their spaces to those in need the ability to do so.
- Housing justice advocates
- Disability housing experts
- LGBTQ reentry expert who can address needs for LGBTQ community that may be excluded from many housing, drug and other programs.
- A "Community Group": This group should be tasked with assessing other needs for all people who are going to be released. To lighten the workload placed on volunteer community members, this group could be limited to serving individuals who do not have families/friends who can accommodate them. This group should be led by people of color, if possible. ⁴ This group could include:
 - Retirees
 - Members of faith communities
 - Volunteers
 - Non-profit organizations/government agencies that can provide immediate resources, including food, clothing and hygiene care packages.
 - Non-profit organizations/government agencies that can facilitate immediate opening of public benefits cases or other methods of providing returning individuals with food, cash and medical benefits.
 - Public benefits specialists with experience securing food stamps, direct cash assistance, Medicare/Medicaid (or other relevant health insurance), SSI/SSDI, TANF, WIC, and federal benefits, including emergency stimulus funding.
 - Representatives of local support groups
 - Transitional housing specialists
 - o People who can provide information on voting eligibility and distribute voter registration cards, ideally, also registering people to vote on the spot. Given that this is an election year, this is important even amidst a public health crisis.

⁴ We recognize that this may not be possible in jurisdictions where there are not a lot of people of color either living in the area or available to do the work. Make every attempt to endorse and support leaders who come from directly impacted communities.

III. TARGETED ADVOCACY: IDEAS FOR REENTRY ASKS DIRECTED AT SPECIFIC DECISION-MAKERS/STAKEHOLDERS DURING THE COVID-19 CRISIS

These ideas should be tailored in a way that your local reentry coalition believes is best to get results and to establish the previously mentioned groups as influential decision-makers in the release and reentry process. The asks also assume that the same request could be addressed by multiple entities—you should revise according to the appropriate authority, discretion, or willingness you believe any of the actors/entities have. These ideas could involve written, oral or media-based advocacy directed at all of the decision-makers/stakeholders.

❖ Department of Corrections/Detention Facilities Officials—Take Action to Facilitate Safe Release:

- Prioritize and Arrange Communication with the Community:
 - Allow detained individuals free and frequent access to phone calls, video conferencing and email so they can try and create transition plans for themselves.
 Also, offer free paper, pencils and stamps to people who need to use the postal service to communicate with their support network.
 - O Prepaid phones and phone chargers should be provided for people released from jail/prison/detention who do not have phones regardless of their living situation. If they do not have a way to communicate with family, their attorney, probation officer or doctor, etc., then they are set up for failure.⁵

• Return Property:

O Upon arrest, police usually strip people of any property in their possession. This often includes state or other identification, wallet, cash, car and house keys, phones and other personal items. All of those items should be returned and may require the detention facility to coordinate with the police or property clerk. Coordination with law enforcement is often required for people held in jail pretrial.

• Issue Identification Cards:

Many people in jail/prison/detention do not have a valid state-issued ID. People who will be released must have a valid identification card to apply for and receive services, including public benefits, renting an apartment, etc. Either provide people with a DOC-issued ID or coordinate with other state agencies that issue IDs to provide state identification immediately upon release.⁶

⁵ In the current situation, even a person with the money to buy a phone would not be able to buy one at a store.

⁶ We understand that a DOC-issued ID discloses the fact that the person was recently incarcerated, but a DOC-issued ID is better than no ID at all, especially during a pandemic when people will need quick access to public benefits and services. Be mindful that you may need to make this ask directly to your local jails or other local detention facilities. Also, be mindful of identification that may misgender transgender individuals and the need to work with transgender community to update identification.

- Facilitate Safe Travel Away from Detention Facility:
 - O Help people to travel to their homes or other locations safely. For people who are not able to secure transportation with their family members/friends, arrange and pay for rides to their destination. At the very least, find some way of subsidizing their travel. If public transportation is the only available mode of travel, provide people with safe distancing guidance that follows CDC guidelines.⁷
- Provide Resources for Food:
 - Especially for people who are not able to return home to friends or family, provide resources for people to obtain fresh, healthy food either via local delivery or through stipends or vouchers for grocery shopping.
- Facilitate Access to Medical Providers:
 - o For those individuals that either have pre-existing medical conditions that require immediate attention or have already tested positive for COVID-19, coordinate with health care providers to transition these individuals so that they can receive the immediate care they require.
 - Ensure that post-release screening is available for as many people as possible, especially where people are being released from a facility in which COVID-19 is already spreading.
 - o Provide bridge medications to people upon release. In light of COVID-19, and the importance of avoiding unnecessary contact with medical professionals and pharmacies, this means that people should leave the detention facility with at least a 14-day⁸ supply of any necessary medication.
- Create and Implement Protocols Within Detention Facilities That Follow Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Guidelines:
 - We are not public health experts but at the very least, detention facilities should attempt to implement changes and solicit guidance from experts on how to alter their facilities to provide a safe environment for detained people and staff.⁹ There must be access to running water in showers, sinks and toilets. Soap, hand sanitizer and masks must be provided for free to all detained persons and staff and there must be a sufficient number of available hand-washing stations. Information on

⁷ It should also be noted that where local jurisdictions are still engaged in detention contracts with ICE, any release processes involving people at risk of ICE interference need to be closely monitored. Forcing people into a new carceral facility like an ICE detention facility for any length of time only recreates the problems we're trying to solve through immediate decarceration. "Release" to ICE custody cannot be an option.

⁸ 14 days would at least cover possible quarantine. Ideally, people would have a supply that would last longer but we do not want to make demands that would significantly delay release and/or are in excess of what the facility has authority to provide.

⁹ This is does **not** mean reopening shuttered facilities/units to segregate people or maintain current incarceration levels, nor does it mean that solitary or lockdown should be instituted as a way to enforce or accommodate social distancing. In addition, open space and access to medical facilities must be made readily available.

avoiding the spread of the virus should be distributed to all detained persons and staff and posted in common areas.

- Waive Imposition and Collection of Costs, Fines and Fees:
 - Detention facilities may charge people detained in their facilities for various things including "room and board/cost of care," and services like phone calls/communication access and medical services. These costs/fines/fees should be waived.
- Create Emergency Parole Board Tasked with Expediting Release.

❖ Probation and Parole—Do Everything You Can to Help People Safely Return to the Community:

- Enable Safe and Successful Transition:
 - To the extent that probation and parole officers remain in contact with people on their caseloads, interactions should be entirely focused on connecting people with supportive resources and services as participants in the "release group."
 - Any government supervision during the COVID-19 decarceration period should be dedicated to ensuring a successful and safe transition back into the community.
 - Any information provided to people under supervision must be written in simple, plain English. Any videos of information available on websites or shared with people under supervision about COVID-19 or changes to supervision must be captioned and should have in-screen ASL interpretation.

• Lift Restrictions:

- o Remove all in-person check in requirements.
- o Failure to check in (via phone or otherwise) should not constitute a basis for probation or parole violation.
 - There should be no technical violations at all and incarceration must be an option of absolute last resort for other violations.
- Lift/suspend any existing restrictions on movement, especially limitations such as curfew, prohibitions on living with other people with criminal convictions or subject to probation or parole, limitations on travel out of the county or state of conviction, monitoring that can dissuade someone from seeking medical assistance, or limitations on where individuals can live, work, or provide assistance to loved ones.
- o Lift/suspend all employment restrictions and requirements. 10
- o Failure to pay fines or fees should not constitute a basis of a violation. Do not enforce payment obligations during the COVID-19 crisis.
- Communicate Changes in Supervision Clearly to Supervised People:
 - o Ensure that any changes to requirements and rules, as well as increased access to programs and supportive services, are communicated effectively to all people

¹⁰ Note that as with other asks, this should be tailored to what your reentry team believes is feasible in your jurisdiction.

under supervision. This means documents in simple English, videos with captions, and videos in ASL.

- Waive Imposition and Collection of Costs, Fines and Fees:
 - Supervision agencies often charge people for the supervision "service." They also charge for use of supervision tools such as electronic home monitors. These costs/fines/fees should be waived.

♦ Governors—Use Executive Authority to:¹¹

- Create Immediate Access to Testing and a Place to Quarantine While Awaiting Results for People Who Test Positive for COVID-19:¹²
 - Ocoordinate with a variety of housing providers (hotels/motels, large private property housing managers, landlords, empty school dorms and warehouses, other vacant buildings, churches, other facilities that could be turned into safe housing) and COVID-19 testing providers to allow those who are recently released to be tested for the virus under safe conditions and to have a place to quarantine while awaiting their results.
 - After results are released, facilitate a workable housing strategy which may include (i) coordinating with housing providers to offer individuals a safe place to stay or quarantine during the pandemic or (ii) allowing people to quarantine for a two-week period prior to returning to their families.
- Order Parole/Probation to Expedite Release and Reentry:
 - Order blanket commutation on remaining time on parole/probation to lighten the caseloads of parole/probation officers in the community.
 - o Create emergency parole board tasked with expediting release.
- Order Department of Transportation or Other Appropriate Agency to Issue Identification to People in Jails/Prisons/Detention Upon or Immediately After Release.
- Provide Funding to Ensure People Returning to The Community Have Phone and Internet Access:
 - Provide people who do not have functioning cell phones with prepaid phones and chargers so that they can make living arrangements and contact probation officers (where those check-ins have not been suspended), doctors, and family and friends.
 Provide funding to the appropriate agency best suited to distribute phones.
 - O Provide access to computers and the internet for people who are released so that they can make living arrangements, transact business, and apply for public benefits, etc. This could be done by offering internet and computer access in clean spaces where people can go to use the internet but are also able to socially distance. Direct/organize the creation of these spaces.

¹¹ For more information on how Governors can and should use their executive powers to release people, see Executive Order information on the LOOP.

¹² While testing at the detention facility is necessary, look out for government officials who may be using this as an excuse to keep people detained.

- Support Existing Reentry/Transitional Service Organizations: 13
 - Most cities, counties and states have existing organizations dedicated to assisting formerly incarcerated individuals. Those organizations are often extremely knowledgeable about how to facilitate successful reentry and yet they are severely under-resourced and underfunded. Organizations that are led by directly impacted people or people of color should receive priority funding, resources and support.
 - Direct additional funding and resources to those organizations so that they can carry out their work on a greater scale now and beyond the COVID-19 crisis.
 - Ask these organizations for input on what services you need to prioritize to help people who are returning to the community.
 - Expand funding and reduce barriers to accessing funding for organizations run by formerly incarcerated people, peer support and mentorship organizations, mental health and substance use providers. Provide funding for organizations that previously provided in-person services to transition to remote and telehealth support.
- Direct Funding to Housing Providers: 14
 - Coordinate with a variety of housing providers including public housing agencies, private housing management companies, landlords, hotels/motels, educational institutions with housing and other potential housing providers to create safe and free options for people who are leaving detention facilities. Ensure these include options accessible for people with disabilities.
 - o NOTE: for populations concerned about ICE surveillance (or other governmental targeting), you may have to consider alternative suggestions that keep people safe.
 - Stop eviction proceedings during the pandemic.
- Enable Easy Access to Healthcare: 15
 - Require expedited placement and presumptive eligibility of recently released individuals on Medicare, Medicaid or other health insurance that enables them to seek medical assistance and/or have access to telecommunication with health providers.
 - Require and facilitate expedited processing and resuming of SSI (and SSDI) benefits for people with disabilities who are returning to their communities.
 - O Signing people up for health care could be done just as or before they leave detention facilities.
 - Make the sign-up process as easy as possible—create easy phone or online signup opportunities.
 - o Implement telehealth coordination with community service providers.

¹³ You must identify local individuals and organizations providing reentry services in your area.

¹⁴ We recognize that these asks may be tricky where federally subsidized housing units and vouchers are used, but it is worth it to push for them anyway.

¹⁵ We realize that hospitals are overwhelmed and that we're placing a much greater strain on them with mass release, but all people returning home also need medical care and we must demand that Governors account for them when considering funding and resource options.

- Enable Access to Food and Financial Assistance:
 - Require and facilitate expedited opening of public benefits cases for people returning to the community. Particularly, access to food stamps and cash assistance should be offered immediately so that people can survive during the crisis.
 - o Make the sign-up process as easy as possible—create easy phone or online signup opportunities.
- Lift Restrictions on People with Open Criminal Cases and/or Criminal History: 16
 - Use executive authority to lift restrictions on access to housing, employment, public benefits, and health care for people with pending criminal cases or criminal convictions so that people can reintegrate back into the community and society without obstacles during the COVID-19 crisis.
- Waive Enforcement of All Legal System or Law Enforcement Agency Costs, Fines and Fees Obligations: 17
 - o Suspend statutes and regulations authorizing state and local jurisdictions and courts to assess and collect costs, fines and fees.
 - o Order state taxing authorities and other relevant state collection agencies to:
 - Stop attachments, garnishments, levies, and liens for unpaid court, detention or supervision costs, fines and fees.
 - Suspend all interest accrual, financial penalties and other legal system consequences for nonpayment or late payment of costs, fines and fees.
 - o Prohibit private agencies from collecting unpaid costs, fines and fees.
 - o Encourage waiver or suspension of outstanding costs, fines and fees obligations and interest.
- Mandate the Collection and Distribution of Data Relating to Release and Process:
 - o Disaggregate the data by demographic, ethnic, and socioeconomic factors.
- Request That Congress Take the Actions Described in the Section Below.

❖ County/Local Officials—Use Authority to: ¹⁸

• Create Immediate Access to Testing and a Place to Quarantine While Awaiting Results and for People Who Test Positive for COVID-19:19

o Coordinate with a variety of housing providers (hotels/motels, large private property housing managers, landlords, empty school dorms and warehouses, other

¹⁶ State supreme courts may also be able to order/enforce some of these asks. Direct requests at the entity you believe is most appropriate.

17 Here, again, state supreme courts may also be able to order/enforce some of these asks. Direct requests

at the entity you believe is most appropriate.

¹⁸ These asks mirror the asks directed at the Governor since either decision-maker may be able to address

¹⁹ While testing at the detention facility is necessary, look out for government officials who may be using this as an excuse to keep people detained.

- vacant housing, churches, other facilities that could be turned into safe housing) and COVID-19 testing providers to allow those who are recently released to be tested for the virus under safe conditions and to have a place to quarantine while awaiting their results.
- After results are released, facilitate a workable housing strategy which may include (i) coordinating with housing providers to offer individuals a safe place to stay or quarantine during the pandemic or (ii) allowing people to quarantine for a two-week period prior to returning to their families.
- Provide Funding to Ensure People Returning to the Community Have Phone and Internet Access:
 - O Provide people who do not have their own functioning cell phones with prepaid phones and chargers so that they can make living arrangements and contact probation officers, doctors, and family and friends. Provide funding to the appropriate agency best suited to distribute phones.
 - O Provide access to computers and the internet for people who are released so that they can make living arrangements, transact business, and apply for public benefits, etc. This could be done by offering internet and computer access in clean spaces where people can go to use the internet but are also able to socially distance. Direct/organize the creation of these spaces.
- Support Existing Reentry/Transitional Service Organizations: 20
 - Most cities, counties and states have existing organizations dedicated to assisting formerly incarcerated individuals. Those organizations are often extremely knowledgeable about how to facilitate successful reentry and yet they are severely under-resourced and underfunded. Organizations that are led by directly impacted people or people of color should receive priority funding, resources and support.
 - Direct additional funding and resources to those organizations so that they can carry out their work on a greater scale now and beyond the COVID-19 crisis.
 - Ask these organizations for input on what services you need to prioritize to help people who are returning to the community.
 - Expand funding and reduce barriers to accessing funding for peer support organizations, including organizations run by formerly incarcerated people, and peer-support mental health and substance use providers. Provide funding for organizations that previously provided in-person services to transition to remote support.
- Direct Funding to Housing Providers:²¹
 - Coordinate with a variety of housing providers including public housing agencies, private housing management companies, landlords, hotels/motels, educational institutions with housing and other potential housing providers to create safe and

²⁰ You must identify local individuals and organizations providing reentry services in your area.

²¹ We recognize that these asks may be tricky where federally-subsidized housing units and federal vouchers are used, but it is worth it to push for them anyway.

- free options for people who are leaving detention facilities. Ensure these include options accessible for people with disabilities.
- NOTE: for populations concerned about ICE surveillance (or other governmental targeting), you may have to consider alternative suggestions that keep people safe.
- Enable Easy Access to Healthcare: 22
 - Require expedited placement of recently released individuals on Medicare,
 Medicaid or other health insurance that enables them to seek medical assistance and/or have access to telecommunication with health providers.
 - Signing people up for healthcare could be done just as or before they leave detention facilities.
 - Make the sign-up process as easy as possible—create easy phone or online signup opportunities.
 - o Implement telehealth coordination with community providers.
- Enable Access to Food and Financial Assistance:
 - Require and facilitate expedited opening of public benefits cases for people returning to the community. In particular, access to food stamps and cash assistance should be offered immediately so that people are able to survive during the crisis.
 - o Require and facilitate expedited processing and resuming of SSI (and SSDI) benefits for people with disabilities who are returning to their communities.
 - Make the sign-up process as easy as possible—create easy phone or online signup opportunities.
- Lift Restrictions on People with Open Criminal Cases and/or Criminal History: 23
 - Use executive authority to lift restrictions on access to housing, employment, public benefits, and health care for people with pending criminal cases or criminal convictions so that people can reintegrate back into the community and society without obstacles during the COVID-19 crisis.
- Waive Enforcement of All Legal System or Law Enforcement Agency Costs, Fines and Fees Obligations: 24
 - Suspend statutes and regulations authorizing state and local jurisdictions and courts to assess and collect costs, fines and fees.
 - o Order state taxing authorities and other relevant state collection agencies to:
 - Stop attachments, garnishments, levies, and liens for unpaid court, detention or supervision costs, fines and fees.

²² We realize that hospitals are overwhelmed and that we're placing a much greater strain on them with mass release, but all of the people returning home need medical care too, and we must demand that Governors account for them when considering funding and resource options.

²³ State supreme courts may also be able to order/enforce some of these asks. Direct requests at whomever you believe is most appropriate.

²⁴ Here, again, state supreme courts may also be able to order/enforce some of these asks. Direct requests at whomever you believe is most appropriate.

- Suspend all interest accrual, financial penalties and other legal system consequences for nonpayment or late payment of costs, fines and fees.
- o Prohibit private agencies from collecting unpaid costs, fines and fees.
- o Encourage waiver or suspension of outstanding costs, fines and fees obligations and interest.
- Mandate the Collection and Distribution of Data Relating to Release and Process:
 - o Disaggregate the data by demographic, ethic, and socioeconomic factors.
- Request That Congress Take the Actions Described in the Section Below.

❖ Public Housing Authorities—Use Rulemaking or Policy-Making Authority to:

- Lift Existing Restrictions on Individuals with Open Criminal Cases or Criminal Records Residing with Their Families:
 - Welcoming additional people into the household should not be a basis for eviction during the COVID-19 crisis.
- Relax Occupancy Restrictions So That People Can House Their Loved Ones During the Crisis.
- Relax Notice Requirements During the COVID-19 Crisis:
 - o Families are doing their best to keep their loved ones safe and may forget to inform the leasing office about additions to the household. This should not be a basis to initiate eviction proceedings.
- Lift Restrictions on Individuals with Criminal History Gaining Access to Housing Vouchers or Leases:
 - This is particularly important if they would otherwise be entitled to succeed a family member on a lease or voucher.

States/Local Public Benefits Agencies—Use Authority to:

- Remove Restrictions on Access to Benefits Due to Open Criminal Cases/Criminal History
- Facilitate Immediate Opening of Public Benefits Cases for Recently Released Individuals:
 - Ensure that people are presumptively eligible and quickly receive food stamps, direct cash assistance and Medicaid and Medicare (or ADAP, where appropriate).
 Alternatively, if it is easier, allow anyone in the household who has an existing public benefits case to add an additional person to their public benefits case.
- Reduce Documentation Requirements for Application Process, Where Possible:
 - Many returning individuals will not have all the documentation that is often required to open a public benefits case. This should not be a barrier to receiving benefits, especially during a public health crisis.

❖ Private Individuals and Companies: 25

- Work with the Private Sector to Provide Resources and Services to People Returning to the Community:
 - Identify private individuals, organizations and corporations willing to assist people returning to the community.
 - "Sponsor" a person returning to the community and assist them with housing, transportation, employment or job readiness training, mentorship and peer support, internet access, etc.
 - Recruit, hire and train people with criminal convictions.
 - Encourage property owners to allow people returning to the community to use empty offices, apartments, motel/hotel rooms for quarantine, temporary or short and/or longer-term stays.
 - Encourage professional influencers and business owners to join the "housing group" and/or "community group" for long-term and permanent reentry planning.
 - Encourage professional influencers and business owners to form a professional committee to work closely with the ACLU and coalition partners on long-term and permanent reentry planning, including financial support to help fund community-based reentry programs and targeted projects (i.e., prepaid phones and chargers).
 - Identify law firms willing to provide pro bono assistance to people returning to the community.
 - Assist people with applying for public benefits and stimulus package benefits.

Community Organizers/Transitional Services NGOs—Seek Out Partners to Uplift and Support Your Work:

- Request adequate funding from local/county/state governments and private individual and corporate donors to provide current services plus additional funding to assist people returning to the community during and immediately after the COVID-19 crisis.
- Provide technical assistance and support to community organizers and assist them with making specific demands/suggestions to all potential funders about what resources they will need to enable successful reentry amid the pandemic.
- Encourage them to participate in the "community group."

Senators and Congressional Representatives—Use Authority to:

• Ensure access to COVID-19 federal cash assistance and unemployment assistance to individuals or their families (in case of youth) impacted by the justice system.

²⁵ These are ideas for how affiliates can work with the private sector. This is a place where very creative collaborations can happen.

- Ensure that individuals impacted by the justice system and their families receive needed cash assistance and unemployment assistance to help with lost wages, access to food, housing, and other basic needs.
- Suspend section 466 of the Title IV of Social Security Act and the penalties in the Debt Collection Improvement Act for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic so that penalties are removed for non-custodial parents who are unable to pay child support and have past-due child support.
 - Lifting these penalties will provide access to COVID-19 stimulus checks and/or unemployment benefits, providing much needed relief and economic support to individuals who are returning to community after incarceration.
- Provide funding to federal, state, local, and tribal corrections officials and other stakeholders to support transition planning for youth and adults prior to release from federal, state, local, and tribal prisons, jail, detention, and secure confinement facilities to ensure connection to critical community-based services upon release.
 - Facilitate seamless transition to community-based services that address urgent health issues, such as COVID-19 and the need for Medication Assisted Treatment and other behavioral health treatment and harm reduction services to help prevent drug overdose upon release, as well as nutrition support, housing, and other reentry supports during the COVID-19 epidemic.
 - Pass and fund federal legislation that would support reentry of individuals safely released from incarceration at the state and local level, including those who are detained pre-trial, by authorizing grants to state and local officials to support reentry efforts critical to safe transition and return to the community during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Provide funding to ensure that people who are released from custody have access to safe, affordable, and accessible housing for the duration of the COVID-19 epidemic.
 - Provide additional funding for Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) to help provide short-term rental assistance, rapid rehousing services, and housing counseling services to people returning from the criminal and juvenile legal systems.
 - Fund tenant-based rental assistance vouchers specifically for individuals released from federal, state, local, or tribal prison, jail, detention, or secure confinement because of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Repeal or waive current federal prohibitions and oppose additional prohibitions on individuals with criminal records from receiving federally funded COVID-19 benefits and supports, including housing, employment, and nutrition assistance.
 - Prevent state, local, and agency conviction bans (such as SNAP, TANF, and housing assistance restrictions) from barring access to federally supported benefits and resources during the COVID-19 epidemic.
 - O Ban Public Housing Agencies' (PHAs) use of "one-strike" and "no-fault" eviction policies. "One-strike" eviction policies allow PHAs to evict people for a single incident of criminal activity regardless of severity, while "no-fault" policies allow an entire family to be evicted for the alleged criminal activity of a guest, even without the knowledge of anyone in the household. These policies jeopardize

- access to secure housing essential to complying with stay-at-home and social distancing requirements during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Limit the types of criminal records PHAs may consider in determining whether to lease to a person with a criminal record. PHAs should only consider specific conviction records that would impact an applicant's success as a tenant.
- Repeal the drug felony ban for the SNAP and TANF programs to ensure that all
 individuals and families who require assistance to meet their basic needs are able
 to do so during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Improve employment outcomes by strengthening and expanding existing federal education and workforce development programs that serve individuals with criminal records.
 - Increase funding for the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) to support WIOA Employment and Training program; the Reentry Employment Opportunities (REO) program; and the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act program to support correctional education.
 - Provide funding for a national transitional jobs program funded through the Dislocated Worker Assistance National Reserve and dedicate a percentage of these transitional jobs to youth and adults impacted by the criminal and youth justice systems.
- Remove barriers for small business owners with arrest or conviction history in the Small Business Administration's (SBA) Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) and Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL) programs.
 - O Direct SBA to eliminate new record restrictions introduced by the PPP interim rule and by policy guidance for both PPP and EIDL applicants.
 - Direct the SBA to relax the record restrictions that are applied to Section 7(a) and 7(b) loans under existing rules and policies.
 - O Direct the SBA to ensure that the application forms for SBA financial assistance accurately reflect the eligibility requirements
- Suspend section 466 of the Title IV of Social Security Act for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic as well as penalties in the Debt Collection Improvement Act during that time so that penalties are removed for non-custodial parents who are unable to pay child support and have past-due child support.
 - O Under current law, individuals and their families will lose their COVID-19 stimulus check and/or unemployment benefits, exacerbating the economic hardship many families are experiencing across the nation. By lifting these penalties, Congress will provide much needed relief and economic support, particularly to individuals who are newly released or formerly incarcerated, and already struggling with economic stability and well-being.²⁶

-

²⁶ Note this recommendation also would cover tribal child support.

IV. COMMUNICATIONS/MESSAGING

The messaging we use now will lay the foundation for our short and long-term reentry efforts.

- COVID-19 is devastating the Black community. African-Americans account for 70% of all COVID-19 related deaths in Louisiana and Chicago, and 81% of all COVID-19 related deaths in Milwaukee County. Many of these deaths are of Black people with preexisting conditions that are tied to poverty, trauma, and structural inequities. We also know of the grave racial disparities that exist in the criminal legal system, particularly for Black and brown people. The systemic racism that pervades all aspects of the criminal legal system is a primary reason that the majority of people released from jails/prisons/detention will be Black or brown, and it is also why they will be returning to the community hardest hit by COVID-19. The governmental policies of the past have precipitated and caused the acute COVID-19 devastation in Black and brown communities. In the current crisis, we must listen to and trust the advice and opinions of formerly incarcerated people and their loved ones. They know firsthand what it takes to successfully transition back into the community and it is our responsibility to be accountable to them and support them.
- The passage of laws and policies creating unnecessary barriers to housing, health services, employment and other opportunities based on criminal conviction history is a longstanding problem of the states' creation. Decision-makers' failures to remove unnecessary and discriminatory barriers and adequately fund and support reentry programs over past decades cannot be an excuse to condemn people to detention during the COVID-19 pandemic. Those past failures create a special duty and an imperative for policy-makers to do everything possible now. Prior inaction, or bad action, cannot justify present neglect or a refusal to step up now.
- Several current suggestions for release will likely disproportionately benefit white and/or the wealthy people. This includes:
 - o Releasing people who have non-violent convictions or charges.
 - o Releasing people who have no previous criminal legal history.
 - Limiting release to those who have a place to stay. The blatant economic discrimination embedded in this approach reinforces systemic racial disparities that are already exploited and exacerbated by the criminal legal system.
- We know that a lack of transparency has long been a hallmark of the criminal legal system, and that lack of public access to the reality of incarceration impedes our present efforts to safely, quickly, and drastically decarcerate. Now is the time to revisit prior inaction on data transparency and ensure that all key stakeholders, including community

²⁸ Elizabeth Thomas & Nancy Anoruo, *Coronavirus Is Disproportionately Killing the Black Community. Here's What Experts Say Can Be Done About It*, ABC News (Apr. 9, 2020, 9:39 AM), https://abcn.ws/2KdSj6O.

²⁷ Coronavirus Wreaks Havoc in African American Neighborhoods, BBC (Apr. 7, 2020), https://bbc.in/3bjjolc.

- advocates, have the information they need to assess progress and offer recommendations and support for next steps.
- Ensuring there is adequate reentry support is a critical question, but it must be rejected as an excuse for refusing to take any action. Government decision-makers should not use a lack of a comprehensive reentry plan as an excuse for keeping people in jail, based on the premise that until there is a systemic "reentry plan" in place it would be unsafe or unwise to release anyone.
- The current crisis in detention facilities and the dearth of resources and structures to support vulnerable people as they leave prison is the result of government decision-makers' long-standing failure to heed calls for reform on several fronts: (i) there have been innumerable calls for decarceration in the United States for the last five decades, (ii) the horrendous public health conditions in detention facilities have always existed and calls for cleanup have been consistently ignored, (iii) government-imposed hurdles to access to housing, employment and healthcare have consistently thwarted the efforts of vulnerable people to successfully reintegrate.
- Where strategically necessary, distinguish between pre-trial and post-trial populations. However, balance this strategic consideration with the long-term goal of decarceration and reentry support for all.
 - o Pre-trial populations or those serving post-conviction sentences in local jails should be released. A huge proportion of people detained in jails were just taken out of the community days or weeks before. Depending on the jurisdiction, very few of them will have been gone from the community for more than a year.
 - o For pre-trial populations, anytime the government has set cash bail it has already indicated those people can be safely released if they simply had the money, and this use of wealth-based detention during COVID-19 only underscores the fact that this kind of wealth-based detention is unjustified.
 - This same duality exists in supervision populations, and it might be useful in your advocacy to distinguish between people held on a remand or detainer versus people who have been re-sentenced for a violation and craft different solutions for all.
- Anyone with an underlying condition that increases their likelihood of complications or mortality due to COVID-19 (diabetes, asthma, heart or lung disease, autoimmune disease, immunocompromised, history of cancer) is a person with a disability protected under federal disability rights laws. These laws require reasonable accommodations, and in many cases, release is a reasonable accommodation necessary to prevent incarceration from becoming a de facto death sentence.
- While we understand the government's need to balance this public health crisis against public safety, people who are charged with or convicted of a violent offense and were released because of COVID-19 should not automatically return to jail/prison/detention simply because of the nature of the charge/conviction. The person was initially released because jails/prisons/detention centers are breeding grounds for COVID-19. A remand

back into custody may only occur if there is an allegation of a new criminal law violation, and even then, incarceration must be the last resort. In that case, the person must be afforded a prompt bond hearing with all of the procedural and substantive due process protections that the Constitution requires.²⁹ But overall, the criminal legal system must operate with a presumption of freedom and release.

- People who are remanded back into custody after the COVID-19 decarceration period, should not be counted towards recidivism rates. ³⁰
- Judges, prosecutors, and probation and parole officers should suspend all conditions of release that impose geographical limitations, curfews, etc., as these may impede a person's ability to seek or provide medical care or assistance. Also, an increased use of tethers (e.g., electronic home monitoring) or other tactics of surveillance is unacceptable. Note that there may be people who were released pursuant to agreed-upon conditions of release. In that case, all costs associated with the use of the agreed-upon tether should be waived.
- Be proactive about pitching stories to local reporters that profile and humanize people who were released. This is important to counter fear-mongering narratives about people who were released due to COVID-19 committing crimes. We also need to build positive media narratives about release and people reuniting with family and community.

Language Matters:

- Where appropriate, you can use "allow to return home (or to the community)" instead of "release," especially to the extent the latter is being used to drive fear-based narratives. This could help reinforce both the role of the state in disallowing a necessary measure, and also the idea that many incarcerated people are part of the "community," have a home to go to, and want to keep themselves and the community safe.
- Do not refer to people in jail as "inmates" or "prisoners." When possible, use "vulnerable people leaving detention facilities" to describe people coming out of prisons. However, be sure to steer clear of language insinuating a general "sickness" or "weakness" among incarcerated people, particularly in the face of those who view carceral facilities as breeding grounds for COVID-19 where containment—i.e. non-release—is an appropriate public health response. That is wrong and data, public opinion, and the lived experience of impacted communities proves it.

²⁹ Note that there may be people who were released pursuant to an agreed-upon bond or sentence modification. In that case, those particular people agreed that they would return to jail/prison/detention on a particular date. Folks that may fall into this category include sex offenders and people accused of DUI or DV. However, if you learn that people are automatically remanded back into custody solely because of the type of charge, you should contact the appropriate public defender's office to explore potential litigation opportunities.

³⁰ Note that some people may ultimately be convicted of a crime committed during the COVID-19 decarceration period and a conviction would count toward the recidivism rate.

• When referring to people with underlying conditions and disabilities, **do not** use the term "suffers from [hypertension, asthma, cancer, etc]." Instead say the person "has," "experiences," "lives with" or "has been diagnosed with" whatever conditions. (Rationale: the suffering is the result of discrimination, the cruelty and ableism of the carceral system, etc. The disability itself is a neutral, natural reality of life and people with disabilities are not inherently "suffering" just because of the disability).

V. ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

There are many national, state and local organizations that have dedicated themselves to empowering and supporting people in detention, returning home and reintegrating back into the community. The ACLU is not an expert in this field. Below, we have flagged some resources that may be of assistance to you as you learn more about reentry. Several of the organizations below have websites and online materials that you may wish to review. Remember that reentry issues are often extremely location-specific and you must seek out local experts.

❖ National Organizations/Resources

- Black and Pink
- Formerly Incarcerated, Convicted People & Families Movement (FICPFM)
- Forward Justice
- Help For Felons
- JustLeadershipUSA
- Reentry Works
- The Lionheart Foundation
- The Ordinary People Society (TOPS)
- The National Reentry Network
- The National Reentry Resource Center
- Volunteers of America: Correctional Re-Entry Services
- US HHS: Office of Minority Health Reentry Resources

State and Local Organizations/Resources

- Alabama
 - o The Ordinary People Society (TOPS)
 - Voice of the Experienced (VOTE)
- California
 - Alameda County
 - A Safe Place
 - After Innocence
 - Community and Youth Outreach (CYO)
 - Community Works West
 - Insight Garden Program (IGP)
 - La Clinica de La Raza, Inc.
 - Men of Valor Academy (MOVA)
 - No More Tears
 - Oakland Private Industry Council (PIC), Inc.
 - Root and Rebound
 - Sister to Sister 2, Inc.
 - Youth Employment Partnership, Inc. (Career Options)
 - Arsola's House
 - Building Opportunities for Self Sufficiency (BOSS)

- Contra Costa County
 - Shelter, Inc. (Positives Futures for Reentry)
- Fresno County
 - Fresno Pacific University Center for Peace and Circles of Support and Accountability (COSA)
 - WestCare California (WCCA), Inc.
- Kern County
 - Kern County Hispanic Commission on Alcohol & Drug Abuse Services
- Los Angeles County
 - Actors' Gang
 - AMAAD Institute
 - Anti-Recidivism Coalition
 - Catalyst Foundation
 - Centro Community Hispanic Association (CHA)
 - Flintridge Center
 - Friends Outside in Los Angeles County (FOLA)
 - JVS SoCal
 - A New Way of Life Reentry Project
 - Manifest Works
 - Playa Vista Job Opportunities and Business Services (PVJOBS)
 - Soledad Enrichment Action (SEA), Inc.
 - Urban Association of Forestry and Fire Professionals (FFRP)
 - Volunteers of America of Los Angeles (VOALA)
 - Whole Systems Learning (TRIBE)
 - Epidaurus DBA Amity Foundation (Amity)
 - St. John's Well Child and Family Center
- Nevada County
 - Project HEART, Inc.
 - Foothill House of Hospitality
- Oakland
 - TGI Justice Project
 - St. James Infirmary
- Orange County
 - Mercy House Living Centers
- Plumas County
 - Plumas Crisis Intervention & Resource Center
- Riverside County
 - Starting Over, Inc.
- Sacramento County
 - Self Awareness and Recovery (SAR)
- San Bernardino County
 - Abundant Living Family Church High Desert
 - Family Assistance Program
 - Inland Empire United Way
 - Life Community Development
 - LightHouse Social Service Centers (LHSSC)

- Reintegration Academy
- Victor Valley Family Resource Center
- San Diego County
 - North County Lifeline, Inc.
 - Youth Empowerment
- San Francisco County
 - Brilliant Corners
 - Building Opportunities for Self-Sufficiency (BOSS)
 - Episcopal Community Services (ECS) of San Francisco
 - Five Keys School and Programs
 - Transitions Clinic Network (TNC) San Francisco Public Health Foundation
 - Legal Services for Prisoners with Children (LSPC)
- San Joaquin County
 - Fathers and Families of San Joaquin
- San Mateo County
 - LifeMoves
- Santa Clara County
 - Goodwill of Silicon Valley
 - Midtown Family Services
- Santa Cruz County
 - Santa Cruz Barrios Unidos
- Sonoma County
 - Interfaith Shelter Network (IFSN), Inc.
- Ventura County
 - Community Solutions, Inc. (CSI)
- District of Columbia
 - o DC Mutual Aid Network
- New York
 - College & Community Fellowship
 - Fortune Society
 - Osborne Association
 - Sylvia Rivera Law Project
- Oklahoma
 - Transitional homes:
 - Carver Transitional Center
 - The Exodus House Oklahoma City
 - The Exodus House Tulsa
 - City Care Supportive Housing Program
 - Catalyst Behavioral Services Community House Residential Program
 - Turley Residential Center Tulsa
 - Bridgeway, Inc.
 - Oklahoma Halfway House
 - Martha's House

- Children and Family:
 - OK Messages Project
 - Center for Youth and Families
 - Pivot Oklahoma City
 - RAIN Oklahoma Oklahoma City
 - RAIN Oklahoma Lawton
 - Passport to the Future
 - Resonance Center for Women, Inc. Tulsa
 - Upward Transitions Oklahoma City
- o Adults:
 - CEO
 - TEEM
 - Arnall Family Foundation
 - Catholic Charities
 - ReMerge Oklahoma (for women specifically)
 - Work Ready Oklahoma
 - The Oklahoma Partnership for Successful Reentry
 - Turning Point Job Readiness
 - Catalyst Behavioral Services Outpatient Services
 - OK Cure
- Sober Living:
 - Oxford House
 - Sisters Keeper
 - Ocarta Wellness Hub
 - NorthCare
 - Hope Family Services
 - Redrock Behavioral
 - Women in Recovery
 - Bridge to Life Program
- Mental Health and Substance Abuse:
 - Oklahoma County Crisis Intervention Center
 - Oklahoma Crisis Recovery Unit
 - Second Chance and Reentry Services, Inc. El Reno
 - Second Chances and Reentry Services, Inc. Mustang
 - Oklahoma Collaborative Mental Health Reentry Program
 - Ponca Tribal Social Development Center
- o Elders:
 - Sunbeam
- Religion Based:
 - Branch15
 - Genesis One
 - Living Hope Ministries
 - Living Faith Ministries
 - Out of the Rutz
 - Criminal and Justice Mercy Ministry
 - Love Link Sober Living Program

- o Food:
 - Mercy Mission Center
 - Department of Human Services
 - Food Bank
- o Legal Aid:
 - OU Legal Clinic
 - Trinity Legal Services
- Oklahoma Indian Legal Services OILS
- o TU Law Legal Clinic

Articles and Documents

- Benjamin A. Howell et al., *Protecting Decarcerated Populations in the Era of COVID-* 19: Priorities For Emergency Discharge Planning, Health Affairs: Blog (Apr. 13, 2020), https://www.healthaffairs.org/do/10.1377/hblog20200406.581615/full/
- Angela Hawken et al., *Recommendations for Rapid Release and Reentry: During the COVID-19 Pandemic*, NYU: Marron Inst. Urb. Mgmt. (Apr. 13, 2020), https://marroninstitute.nyu.edu/papers/recommendations-for-rapid-release-and-reentry-during-the-covid-19-pandemic