

ABOUT O.C.R.T.F.

The OCRTF was established in 2008 with a grant from the Division of Criminal Justice Services. It is comprised of key stakeholders with a shared interest in better serving the formerly incarcerated which include State and County representatives and many critical Community Partners considered experts in their fields. With a common vision, the OCRTF strives to ensure the successful transition of persons released from prison back to the community by coordinating our efforts and supporting theirs.

The guide for the OCRTF has been the model of re-entry developed by the National Institute of Corrections which emphasizes a research informed approach. It focuses on the removal of barriers which can prevent a successful re-entry and utilizes evidence based practices to enhance it, thereby reducing recidivism and increasing public safety.

OUR GOAL

The OCRTF seeks to remove existing barriers, in policy and practice, that impact one's ability to access and obtain basic needs and services during the initial transition from prison to the community. Through public outreach, education and community collaboration we provide a fully supported re-entry transition, increasing success and creating overall productive outcomes.



**ONONDAGA COUNTY
RE-ENTRY
TASK FORCE**

LEAD AGENCIES

Office of the Onondaga County
District Attorney

County Dept. of Social Services

County Dept. of Mental Health

State Dept. of Corrections
& Community Supervision

State Office of Alcohol
& Substance Abuse

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Partners

Striving for
a safer
community



**ONONDAGA COUNTY
RE-ENTRY
TASK FORCE**

Helping others, help themselves

A RESEARCH INFORMED APPROACH

An estimated 7 million people in this country are under some form of correctional control, either institutional or community supervision.

Research facts:

- 1 in 100 adults in the US is behind bars. (PEW 2008)
- 1 in 31 adults in the US is either incarcerated, on parole or probation. (PEW 2009)
- Approximately 30% of those released from prison are rearrested within the first 6 months.
- 95% of those incarcerated will eventually be released.
- 17% of adults entering jails & state prisons have a serious mental illness, a rate more than 3 times that of the general population.
- The use of evidence based practice is critical to outcomes.
- Collaboration of efforts is shown to produce positive results.
- Women are our fastest growing criminal justice population.

BENEFITS OF SUCCESSFUL RE-ENTRY

If 7 million boils down to 1 in 31, then we are bound to be affected personally as well as professionally. Each month, over 100 formerly incarcerated return to the Onondaga community... a place they call home. Individuals, families (especially children) and all members of our community are negatively impacted when people returning from prison are unable to transition successfully.

When the formerly incarcerated succeed, their success means:

- Reduced crime
- Reinvestment of Criminal Justice funds
- Economic improvement
- Community stability
- Reconciled families
- Broken criminal cycles
- Their own personal growth

The OCRTF enhances case management by engaging the entire community in the education, research, planning, training, and assistance needed to promote individuals' successful transition from prison to the community.

BENEFITS OF COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

With increasing numbers of men and women released from New York's prisons each year, successful re-entry is a vital component in the pursuit of safer communities. As we strive in this mission, the OCRTF is committed to building collaborative partnerships that foster community success.

When the community engages in re-entry success, that success means:

- Inspired excellence
- Shared knowledge, resources and ideas
- Reduced duplication of services
- Everyone carries the burden
- Appropriate disbursement of funds
- Improved outcomes

The OCRTF provides a forum for this community collaboration and opportunity for stake holders in the community to come together.

If we the Community fail to embrace the formerly incarcerated who will? Together we are in a place to embrace...

