

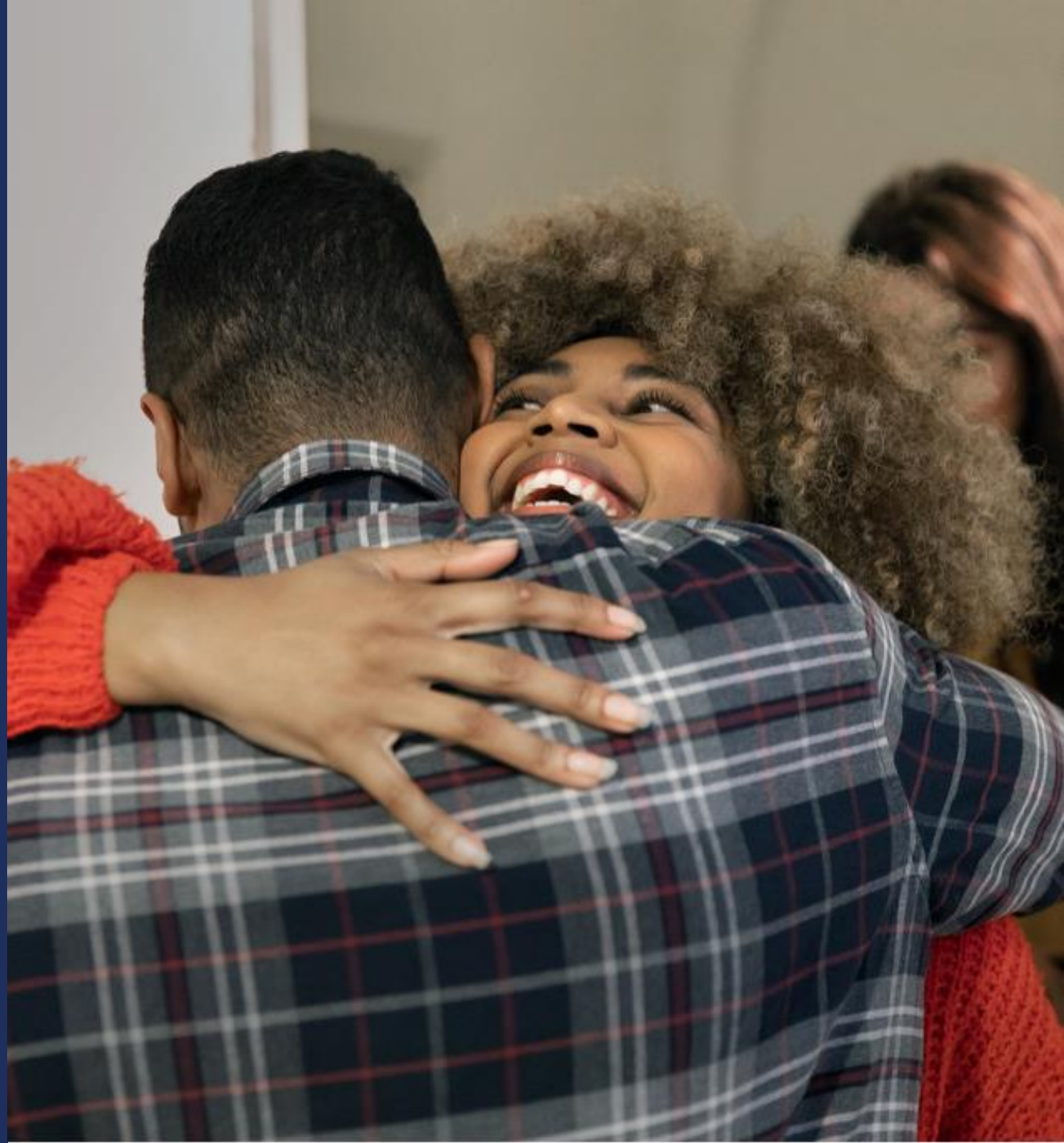
National Reentry Best Practices

June 23, 2026

Megan Pfeiffer, Project Manager



Justice
Center



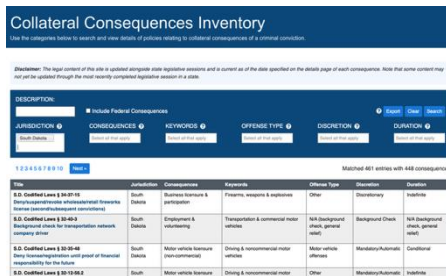
Agenda

- I. The CSG Justice Center and Its National Reentry Work
- II. Challenges People Face Returning Home from Incarceration
- III. National Best Practices and State Examples
- IV. Reentry 2030 and Opportunities for State Leadership

The CSG Justice Center helps states develop data-driven strategies to build stronger reentry systems.

- Through our work managing the National Reentry Resource Center and providing technical assistance to federal grantees, **we've supported hundreds of jurisdictions across the country to improve public safety.**
- **We develop and disseminate research and practical resources** for the field on new and effective reentry programs and practices.
- **We facilitate peer networks, national webinars, and robust information sharing** among practitioners and policymakers.
- **We launched Reentry 2030**, a national initiative helping states coordinate statewide reentry strategies.

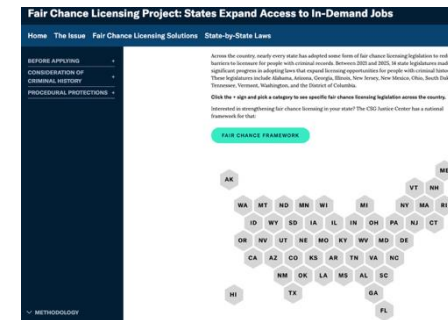
The CSG Justice Center helps states expand economic mobility for people with criminal records.



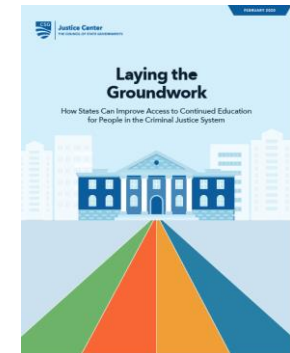
National Inventory of Collateral Consequences of Conviction



Partner with States to Identify and Remove Barriers to Employment



Fair Chance Licensing Guidance



Policy Briefs and Resources for the Field

The CSG Justice Center provides national research and practical resources to advance reentry outcomes.

- National policy guidance with reentry policy and practice strategies
- Research on the fiscal impact of recidivism and the costs associated with unsuccessful reentry
- Beyond Recidivism publication and webinars to help states measure success using a broader set of reentry outcomes

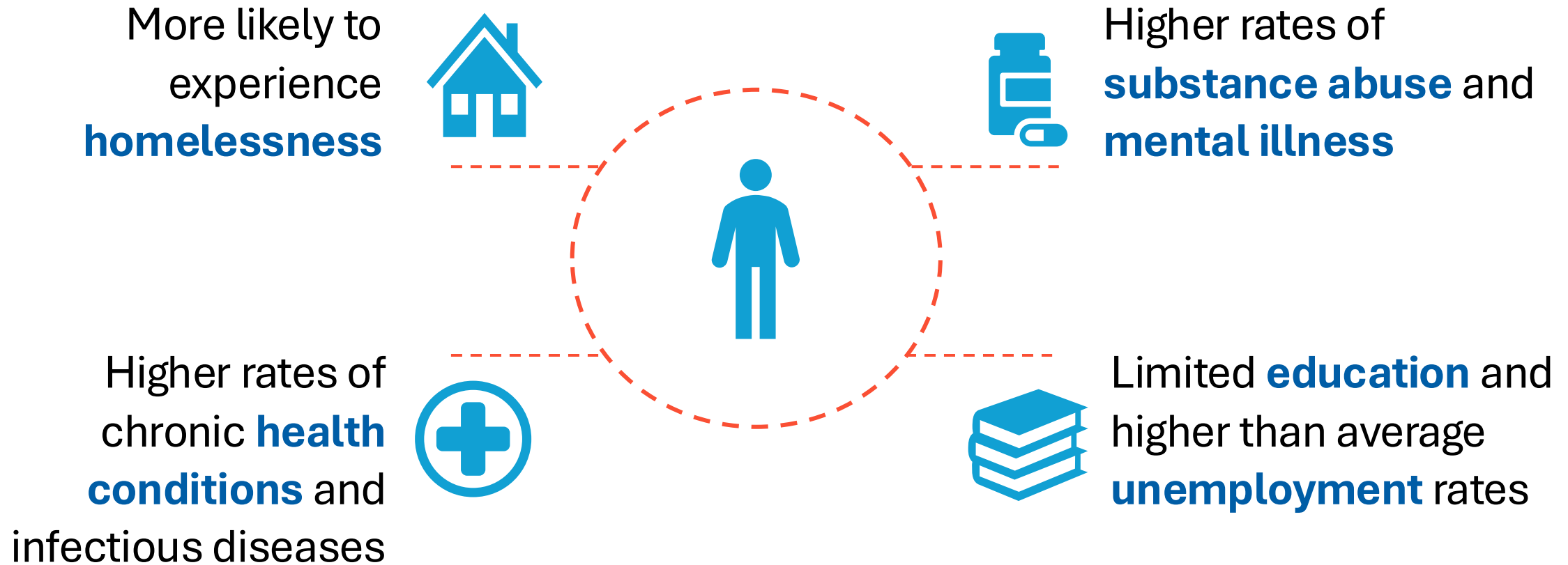


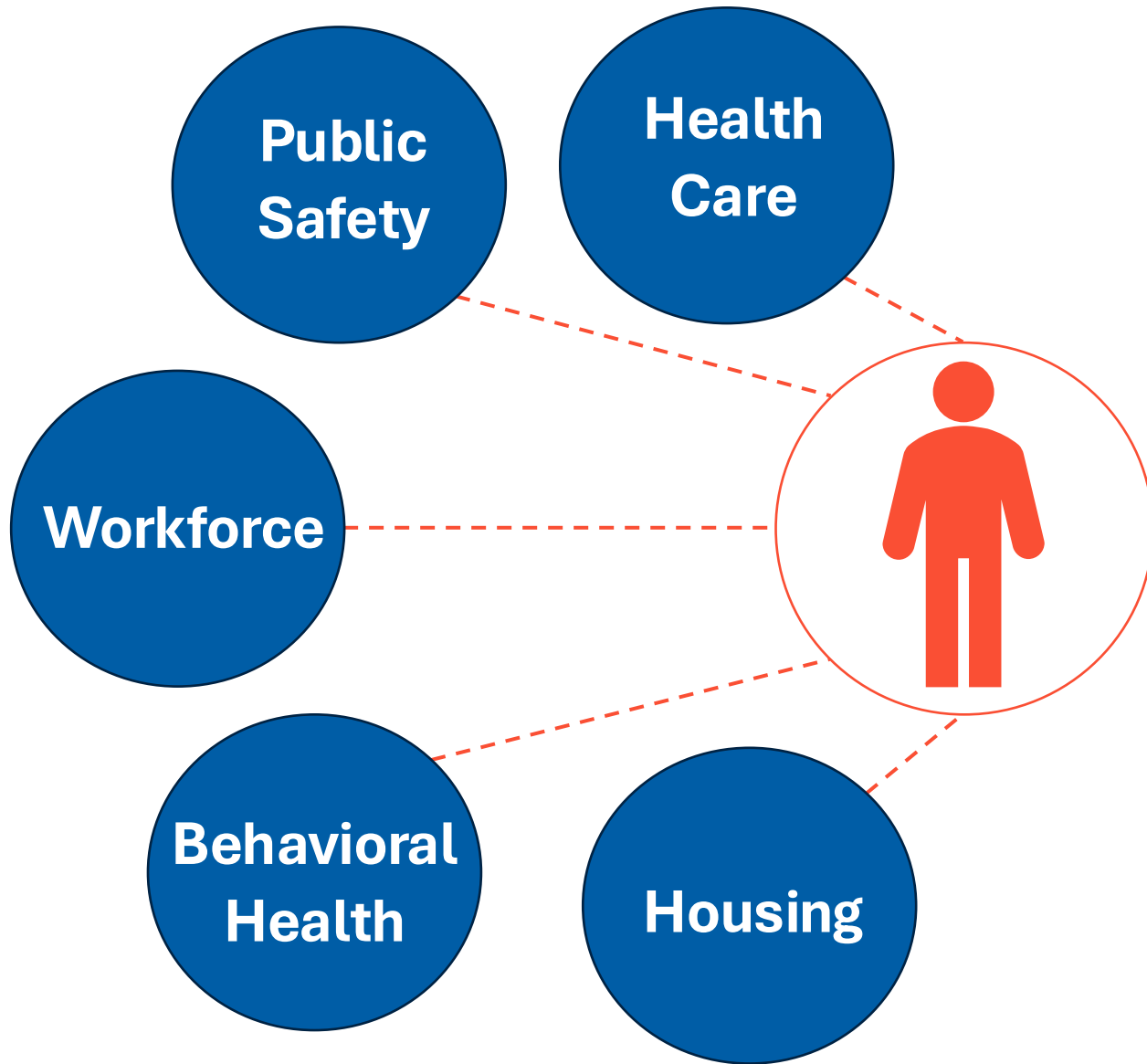
States face common reentry challenges.

People returning from incarceration encounter systemic barriers that affect their ability to rebuild their lives, ultimately impacting community stability and public safety.

- States struggle to coordinate reentry efforts at the scale needed to improve outcomes statewide.
- Agencies often serve the same population but operate independently, making it difficult to provide coordinated support.
- Reentry initiatives are frequently grant funded and limited to specific locations or populations.
- Without statewide infrastructure, effective programs often fail to reach everyone who could benefit.

People returning from incarceration face significant challenges related to housing, health, education, and employment.





Tackling these challenges one by one ignores a **singular opportunity** to make a dramatic impact on outcomes across social service systems.

States collectively spend billions of dollars each year on preventable reincarceration.

+450K

Total number
of **people**
released from
prisons in
2023

5M

Number of
formerly
incarcerated
people living in
the United States

46%

National 5-year
return-to-
incarceration
rate

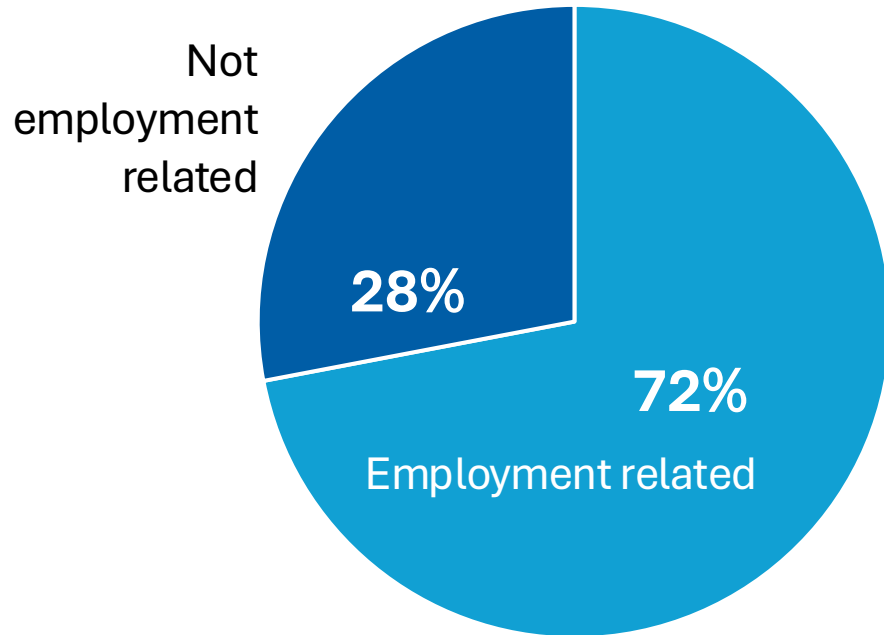
\$8B

Total **cost of**
reincarcerating
people who were
released from
state prison in
2022

Anticipated Cost of Reincarceration for 2022 Prison Release Cohort in South Dakota: ~ \$34M

Derek Mueller and Rich Kluckow, *Prisoners in 2023* (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, 2025); Wendy Sawyer and Peter Wagner, *Mass Incarceration: The Whole Pie 2025* (Northampton, MA: Prison Policy Initiative, 2025); Matthew R. Durose and Leonardo Antenangeli, *Recidivism of Prisoners Released in 34 States in 2012* (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, 2021); The Council of State Governments Justice Center, *50 States, 1 Goal: Examining State-Level Recidivism Trends in the Second Chance Act Era* (New York: The Council of State Governments Justice Center, 2024).

There are over 40,000 collateral consequences across the country that limit successful reintegration.



Most collateral consequences affect employment opportunities.

Nationally, over **70%** of all collateral consequences impact employment opportunities.

National Inventory of Collateral Consequences of Conviction, National Reentry Resource Center, accessed April 1, 2025, niccc.nationalreentryresourcecenter.org.

National Reentry Best Practices

1. Effective reentry systems require strong statewide infrastructure for coordination and accountability.

- **Statewide reentry councils:** Formal body charged with identifying and addressing gaps in a state's reentry system with a clear mandate, defined roles, and transparent accountability
- **Track success beyond recidivism:** Tracking meaningful reentry outcome categories across multiple systems
 - Ensures access to integrated resources
 - Reduces service silos, and
 - Provides a more comprehensive understanding of the reentry process.

Statewide Coordination in Action

North Carolina built a statewide reentry infrastructure that connects state leadership with local implementation efforts.

- Statewide Joint Reentry Council
- Network of Local Reentry Councils
- Reentry 2030 Data Dashboard

2. Reentry readiness requires resolving legal and logistical barriers to ensure successful community reintegration.

- **Vital documents:** Securing state identification, birth certificates, and Social Security cards
- **Transportation:** Access to reliable transit options
- **Legal and financial obligations:** Resolving outstanding warrants and setting up manageable payment plans for court debt and child support
- **Basic needs:** Food, clothing, public benefits, digital access, childcare, and financial support

Reentry Readiness in Action

Texas has a robust pre-release identification processing system to issue vital records upon release, codified in statute.

In FY 2025, the Texas Department of Criminal Justice ordered:

- 38,872 certified birth certificates
- 44,620 replacement Social Security cards
- 24,692 Department of Public Safety ID cards or replacement driver's licenses

3. Access to safe and stable housing is foundational to successful reentry.

- **Support connecting to housing:** Housing-focused case management to help locate, secure, and retain housing
- **Mitigating barriers to renting and incentivizing landlords:** Housing provider risk-reduction strategies designed to mitigate financial and legal exposure for landlords while expanding low-barrier housing options
- **Financial assistance:** Short- and medium-term subsidies and services to connect people to housing and establish stability
- **Pathways to permanent housing:** A full continuum of housing options that meet different income and service needs

Safe and Stable Housing in Action

Kansas uses a multi-strategy approach to provide safe housing options and a continuum of care for people at risk of homelessness upon reentry.



Reentry Housing
Specialists



Master Leased
Units



Supportive
Housing for
Offenders
Program (KSHOP)

4. Access to quality educational opportunities is proven to reduce recidivism and increase employability.

- **Continuum of education opportunities pre-release:** From basic literacy, to GED, career and technical education, and associate and bachelor's degrees
- **Opportunity-centered programming:** Aligned with labor market and employer needs that includes industry aligned credentials
- **Post-release access:** Options to continue education in community upon reentry
- **Technology and digital literacy:** Help individuals build confidence, navigate online systems, and develop skills expected by employers

Educational Opportunities in Action

Missouri has developed educational options across the continuum to provide opportunities for learning.

- Developed employment readiness programming informed by employers
- Partners with 8 universities for incarcerated students to take college courses and complete associate and bachelor's degree programs

5. Structured employment pathways give people the tools to build long-term financial independence, strengthening communities and economies in the process.

- **Relief from the impact of state-level collateral consequences** that includes addressing employer stigma
- **Pathways to employment:** Across the spectrum from apprenticeships to work release and transitional job placements in reentry
- **Employer engagement:** Promote and incentivize second chance hiring and provide risk reduction
- **Holistic supports:** Address broader needs (including transportation and housing) that impact employment success and retention

Mitigating the Impact of Collateral Consequences in Action

Kentucky has an innovative multipronged strategy to advance fair chance hiring and remove barriers to employment.

-
- DOC issues a “Certificate of Employability” to incarcerated people upon release who have completed education or vocational training.
 - The state enacted public-sector ban-the-box policies via executive order.

Employment Pathways in Action

Michigan developed Vocational Villages, an innovative industry-focused training and cooperative learning model in corrections.

- Housed together in one therapeutic learning unit
- Full day of training and classroom instruction
- Receive nationally recognized trade certifications

6. Continuation of health and behavioral health care reduces repeated system contact and promotes long-term stability.

- **Access to substance use disorder and mental health treatment:** Access to comprehensive evidence-based, low-cost services, including medication-assisted treatment (MAT) and peer support
- **Connections to community-based health providers:** Address unmet needs and provide continuity of treatment
- **Health care coverage immediately upon release:** Enrollment in coverage or reinstatement, particularly for people eligible for Medicaid

Health and Behavioral Health Care in Action

Alabama connects treatment, supervision, and community supports through coordinated reentry services.

- PREP Center—focuses on transition planning and stabilization
- Day Reporting Centers—provide holistic treatment services including cognitive behavioral therapy, onsite mental health and substance use disorder treatment, and peer support
- Targeted for individuals on community supervision assessed to be moderate to high risk

7. Maintaining strong family connections during incarceration improves post-release and family outcomes.

- **Regular opportunities for family time:** Parent-child contact that includes phone calls, video visits, in-person visits, and family days
- **Supporting children with incarcerated parents:** Targeted support to meet the needs of children (as defined by children) independent of their relationship with their parent who is incarcerated
- **Supporting pregnant women and mothers with infants:** Including prison nursery programs and community-based residential programs
- **Family reunification support upon reentry:** Support for families with child welfare involvement

Family Connections in Action

Montana created the Connecting Adults and Minors Through Positive Parenting (CAMPP MT) Program to support family relationships during incarceration.

- Family camp
- Evidence-based parenting programming
- Video calls





Reentry 2030 is a national initiative to dramatically improve reentry success for people exiting prison and those under supervision.

Reentry 2030 has a bold goal to reduce recidivism by 30% by the end of this decade.



What does this mean?

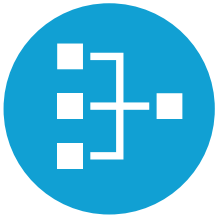
- **60,000 fewer people** admitted to prison from supervision each year until 2030
- Using **data-driven** solutions to identify and remedy reentry gaps
- More people in safe and stable **housing**, finding and sustaining **employment**, and accessing **behavioral health treatment**

We are committed to a future of reentry that is:



Human-centered

Incorporates the perspectives of people who have gone through the reentry process



Coordinated

Fully engages federal, state, and local leaders across service systems



Transparent

Establishes public goals with defined metrics



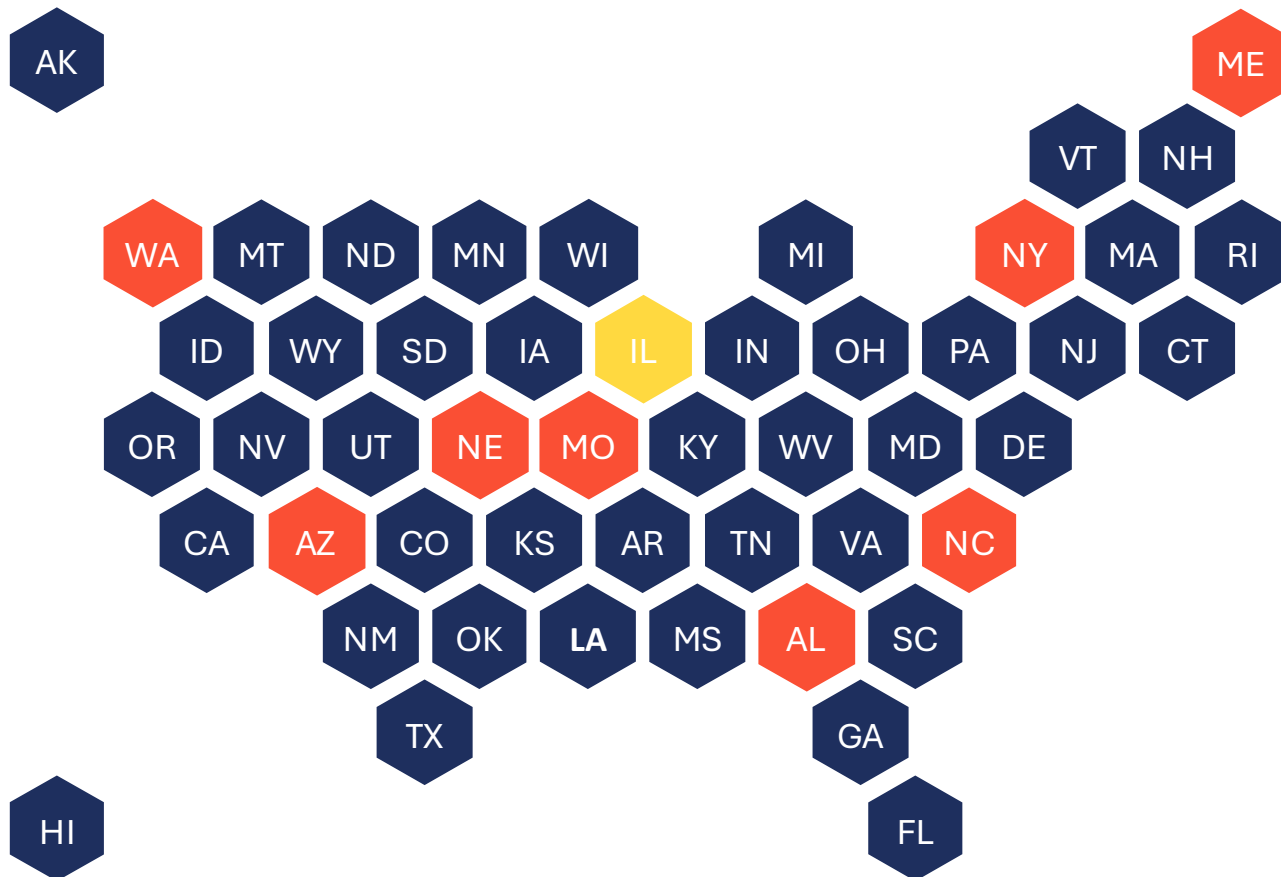
Data-driven

Uses data to address gaps in access to services, quality of services, and outcomes

What is the Reentry 2030 strategy?

- **Scale up what works**, including access to education, skills training, behavioral health treatment, and stable housing for people with criminal records.
- **Clear away barriers** to opportunity that are unnecessary for public safety.
- **Use data** to understand and address access to services, quality of services, and outcomes.

States across the country launched Reentry 2030 with bold public goals.



AL: Reduce recidivism by **50%**.

AZ: Reduce ED visits within 6 months of release by **25%**.

ME: **40%** of people complete a job interview before release.

MO: **85%** of people employed within 30 days of release.

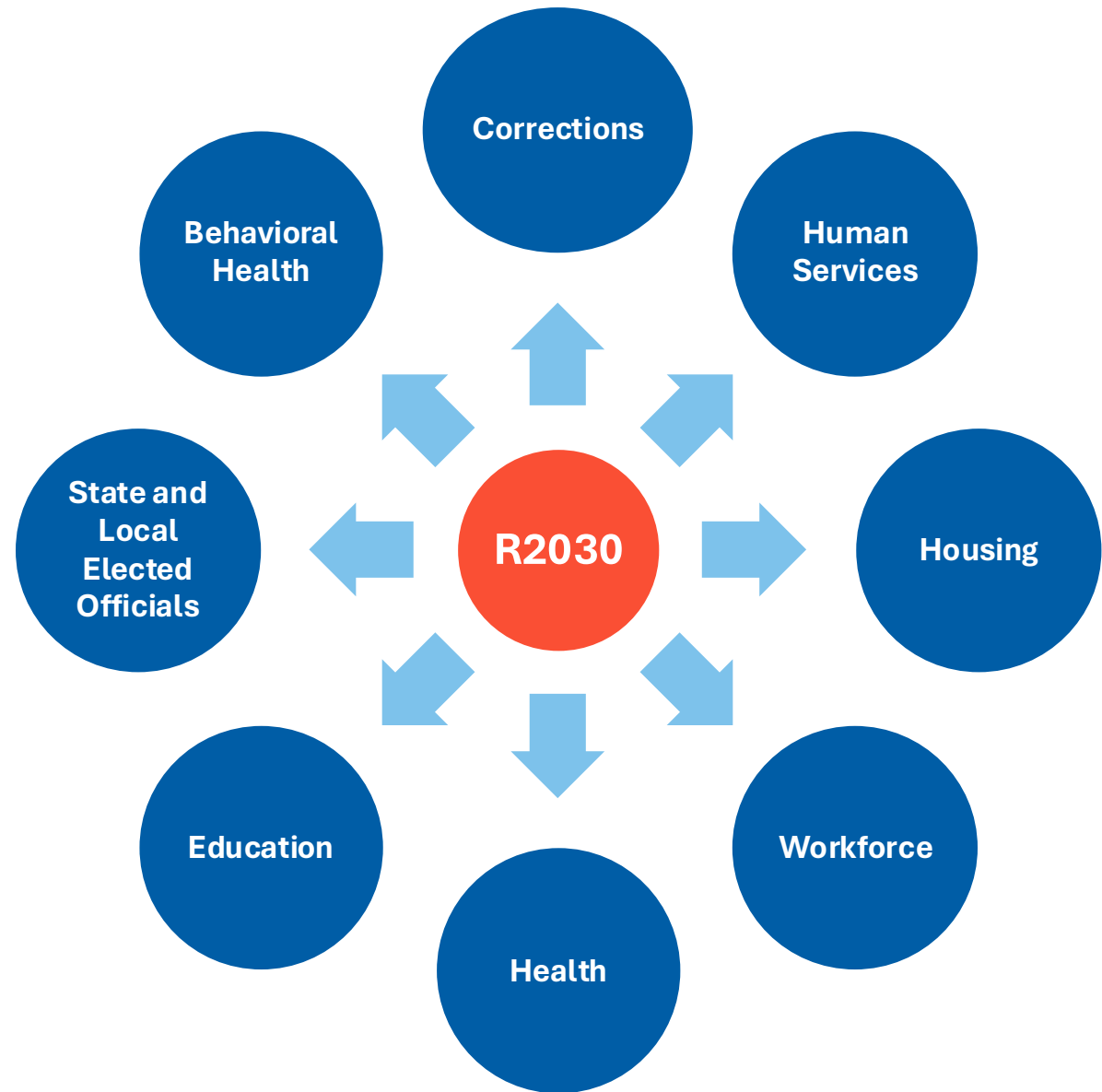
NE: **100%** of eligible individuals enrolled in Medicaid upon release.

NC: Increase registered apprenticeship and work release participation by **50%**.

NY: **100%** of people released under supervision have a state ID.

WA: **Zero** returns to homelessness.

Reentry 2030
convenes state leaders
across systems to
tackle bold reentry
goals **together.**



Thank You!

For more information, please contact Megan Pfeiffer at mpfeiffer@csg.org

Solutions for justice challenges.

Receive new data, free trainings, and more.

