



2025 Annual Report

Acknowledging and celebrating progress made by Council members and partners towards the IRC mission of creating an equitable and effective process to support successful reentry for people leaving prisons and jails across Illinois.

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Introduction: 2025 IRC Annual Report

Throughout 2025, the members of the Illinois Reentry Council continued to support people leaving incarceration. This year prioritized collaboration and coordination across regions, departments, and funding streams. This included regional reentry conversations led by state agencies, reentry line items in seven state agency budgets, new research on the intersection between housing and incarceration, and innovative community-led reentry programming in many regions of the state.

Since 2021, the Illinois Reentry Council (IRC) has remained committed to creating an equitable and effective reentry system to support people being released from Illinois jails and prisons and supporting their transition into community. The IRC has more than 200 partners in reentry across the state. Members include formerly incarcerated individuals, public agency representatives, advocates, researchers, policymakers, and more. All members of the IRC bring their experience and expertise, allowing for Council discussions to be well-rounded and innovative. The IRC is committed to continuing the advancement of reentry in Illinois through advocacy and collaborative efforts.

In 2025, the Illinois Reentry Council welcomed two new Co-Chairs: Delrice Adams, Executive Director of the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority, and Walter Burnett, Jr., retired alderman of Chicago's 47th Ward. The Council continued to benefit from the leadership of other Co-Chairs: Executive Director Marlon Chamberlain (Coalition to End Permanent Punishments); Director Yaacov Delaney (Justice, Equity, and Opportunity Initiative); Board Chairman King Harris (Illinois Housing Development Authority); and Director Latoya Hughes (Illinois Department of Corrections).

The Public Agencies' Practices, Policies, and Programming Workgroup sunset in February 2025, after recognizing that the workgroup had accomplished many of its unique goals. The remaining goals had already become Council-wide priorities and were formalized as such within the Council's Strategic Plan. For the duration of 2025, the Illinois Reentry Council operated five workgroups aimed at addressing reentry in Illinois through a targeted lens. Quarterly, members of these workgroups gathered to collaborate and stay up to date on the climate and progress of reentry initiatives.

- Economic Opportunity and Upward Mobility Workgroup, chaired by Michael Cannon (Got Jobs America) and Melissa O'Dell (Defy Ventures), welcomed a new Co-Chair: Angel Pantoja of the Lieutenant Governor's Justice, Equity, and Opportunity Initiative
- Financing for Reentry Workgroup, chaired by Mark Angelini (Mercy Housing Lakefront), Michael Goldberg (IFF), and Floyd Stafford (Coalition to End Permanent Punishments)
- Support Services Workgroup, chaired by Orlando Mayorga (Polk Brothers Foundation), welcomed three new Co-Chairs: Jennifer Parrack of the Illinois Department of Corrections; Millicent Lewis-McCoy of the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority; and Quiwana Bell of the Illinois Department of Human Services' Office of Firearm and Violence Prevention
- Special Considerations Workgroup, chaired by Willette Benford (Office of the First Lady), Colette Payne (Women's Justice Institute), and Alyssa Williams (Illinois Department of Corrections)
- Housing Workgroup, chaired by Gianna Baker (Illinois Black Advocacy Alliance), Richard Rowe (Office to Prevent and End Homeless), and Alan Zais (Winnebago Housing Authority), welcomed a new Co-Chair: Reality Allah of the Corporation for Supportive Housing

2025 Milestones and Achievements in Reentry in Illinois

Programming and Implementation: Public Agencies

- The **Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA)** continued to operate the R3 (Restore, Reinvest, Renew) program, which has directed more than \$280 million to over 400 organizations across Illinois since its inception in 2020. In 2025, the R3 Board extended funding for 86 Cohort 3 grantees through October 31, 2027, to prioritize the stability and continuity of community-based efforts. ICJIA supports these grantees through compliance reviews, amendment processes, and site visits, ensuring rigorous accountability.
- **ICJIA** announced that Cohort 4 of the Restore, Reinvest, Renew (R3) program would have a two-track funding structure: one track dedicated to reentry, economic development, and civil legal aid, and the other allocated to youth development and violence prevention initiatives.
- **ICJIA** hosted regional think tanks with community-based reentry providers to assess the needs and strengths of each community. This initiative grew out of their 2023 Reentry Service Providers Summit, and they aim to follow up these think tanks with physical reentry hubs to support returning residents across the state.
- The **Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity** contracted with four grantees under the Climate & Equitable Jobs Act's Returning Residents Program to provide pre-release jobs training at Kewanee Life Skills Reentry Center, Decatur Correctional Center, Western Illinois Correctional Center, and Vienna Correctional Center. They will implement in partnership with the grantees and the **Illinois Department of Corrections** to provide clean energy job training programs for people within 36 months of release.
- The **Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO)** launched a [data dashboard](#) tracking targeted populations (including returning citizens) enrolled in Local Workforce Initiative Area programming.
- **DCEO** continued to maintain their [WorkNet Reentry Guide](#). Through WorkNet, DCEO is beta testing a statewide referral system, which will provide publicly available screenings and applications for people seeking workforce assistance.
- **DCEO**, with **Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville** and other collaborators, continues to implement the PROWD (Partners for Reentry Opportunities in Workforce Development) Grant. This \$10 million grant is a collaboration between the US Department of Labor and the US Department of Justice's Bureau of Prisons. The program's goal is to serve 750 people in Illinois' federal prisons over 4 years by providing education, training, and workforce services.
- The **Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC)** continued hosting Re-Entry Summits twice a year in each facility. There were over 75 vendors during both the Fall and Spring seasons, with 2,313 individuals in custody participating during Spring 2025, and 2,159 individuals in custody participating in Fall 2025. They also hosted 74 reentry-focused in-reach webinars, reaching 4,409 individuals in custody.
- **IDOC** engaged 92% of people leaving custody in 2025 in the pre-release Medicaid application process. 40% of people (5,667 people) left with SNAP benefits, which people can apply for during their last week pre-release.

- **IDOC** contracted with ICSolutions to install wireless networks in all facilities issue tablets to everyone in custody. These tablets feature no-cost educational programming from Edovo, including vocational training and GED preparation, and music and communications at set fees. IDOC also implemented the Voices of Connections pilot which provides 775 free phone call minutes monthly to each individual in custody.
- In 2024, **IDOC** established the infrastructure to continue Medications for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) treatment for people who enter custody while receiving this treatment. In 2025, IDOC's MOUD program expanded and was offered to patients (in custody in IDOC's women's division and two men's facilities) with Opioid Use Disorder who were assessed 3 months pre-release and opted to begin this treatment. In July 2025, 242 people were enrolled in this pilot program. IDOC will expand this program to more facilities in 2026.
- The **Illinois Department of Corrections**, the **Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity**, and the **Illinois Department of Employment Security** continued hosting Quarterly Southern Region Reentry Virtual Job Fairs for people within 90 days of release.
- The **Illinois Department of Corrections**, in partnership with the **Secretary of State**, processed 1,931 pre-release State IDs in 2025. Since launching the pre-release State ID program in 2021, and benefiting from reduced documentation requirements due to [Public Act 103-0782](#), IDOC has processed a total of 5,478 State IDs for people leaving custody.
- The **Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (IDFPR)** continued to send amended "notice of application review" letters (formerly called "Intent to Deny") to people seeking occupational licenses who were flagged during the background check process. They received a 46% response rate from those letters, and 0 people were issued denials in 2025 due to failure to respond.
- **IDFPR** has issued 25 occupational licenses to people in IDOC custody and waived the application fees for all incarcerated people seeking licenses in 2025.
- The **Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services** received federal approval in December 2025 for their Reentry Demonstration Implementation Plan under the Illinois Section 1115 Medicaid Waiver approved in 2024. They continue to partner with other state agencies and community organizations as they work to launch the waiver in mid-2026.
- The **Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA)** continued to implement the grants issued under their Housing for Justice-Involved Individuals Program (HJIIP), which provides funding for purchase, rehabilitation, and development of transitional housing units for returning residents. 23 of the 25 Round 1 projects closed by the end of 2025, with 11 of those projects completing construction.
- **IHDA**, after awarding the second round of Housing for Justice Involved Individuals Program grants in late 2024, closed on 4 of those projects in 2025. IHDA is providing technical assistance through **IFF** to support the remaining projects as they work to close, at which point they can begin project construction.
- **IHDA** continued to implement the Rental Housing Support Re-entry Program, which has placed and supported 77 returning residents in Cook, Lake, and Winnebago Counties.

- **The Illinois Office to Prevent and End Homeless**, along with **ICJIA** and **IDOC**, has partnered with **TASC** to launch a reentry housing pilot program called “B.R.I.D.G.E. to Home” focused on connecting returning residents to supportive housing and case management in Central and Southern Illinois.
- The **Governor’s Office of Management and Budget (GOMB)** calculated \$435 million allocated to what state agencies have identified as reentry initiatives in the FY2026 State Budget. This sum includes \$219 million allocated to ICJIA, IDJJ, IDES, DCEO, DHS, and IHDA for various reentry programs. \$216 million is allocated to the Illinois Department of Corrections for the operations of two Life Skills Reentry Centers, two Rapid Re-Entry Centers, and four Adult Transition Centers, as well as 67 staff positions specific to supporting pre-release reentry planning. GOMB also flagged that returning residents are a priority population for the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), funded at \$325 million and allocated to the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity.
- The **Office of the Lieutenant Governor’s Justice, Equity, and Opportunity Initiative (JEO)** hosted the “HCITF Rooted in Wellness: Reimagining Illinois’ Path to Healing” celebratory gathering in February 2025, to highlight key findings from the Healing Centered Illinois Task Force report published in 2024.
- **JEO** partnered with the **Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority** to host the “Higher Education in Prison: Degrees of Change” Conference in February 2025. Over two days, over 150 stakeholders discussed the future of higher education in Illinois’ correctional settings.
- The **Justice Cabinet**, a partnership between the **Office of the Lieutenant Governor**, **Office of the Governor**, and the **Office of the First Lady**, and the teams and agencies in their portfolios, launched in May 2025. The Cabinet’s goal is to leverage existing assets to change systems, create new ones as needed, in order to prevent over-incarceration and create opportunities for justice-involved Illinoisans to thrive.
- The **Cook County Department of Human Rights & Ethics** continued to monitor implementation of the Just Housing Ordinance. Of the 67 complaints received since 2020, 35 are based on housing denial based on a conviction record. 52 complaints have closed, 31 of which reached a settlement. The 6 complaints received in 2025 are all ongoing.
- The **Cook County Justice Advisory Council** continued implementation of Cook County Reconnect, a pilot program funded by the American Rescue Plan Act. Cook County Reconnect provides returning residents with rental subsidies, housing navigation, and wraparound supports. 140 people have been housed through partnerships with 4 community-based housing providers. The program began providing stipends to participants to encourage engagement in supportive services, and to incentivize getting and retaining a job.
- The **Winnebago County Housing Authority** received a “Moving to Work” designation, given to 4% of public housing authorities (PHAs) nationwide. They are using the flexibility allowed under Moving to Work to cover higher rents, allowing people to move to opportunity zones under the Section 8 voucher program. They are also a Regionalization PHA, meaning they can “umbrella” other PHAs, who then also receive the Moving to Work benefit. Boone County Housing Authority, Stephenson County, and Jo Daviess County are all under this regionalized plan with Winnebago County.

- The **Chicago Department of Family and Support Services' (DFSS)** SPRING Forward program reached capacity in August 2024 (200 people housed and 400 people supported with workforce training) and spent 2025 providing workforce training and placement support through December 2025. Most of the housing participants were not employed by the end of their 12-month rental subsidy and were unable to sustain rent beyond the subsidy.
- **Chicago's DFSS** allocated \$350,000 in Community Service Block Grant funding (via **DCEO's Office of Community Assistance**) to pilot a rental assistance program for returning residents. They hope to serve 36 individuals for 3 months each, all of whom will be identified by the city's Community Reentry Support Centers and must have secured employment.
- The **Chicago Mayor's Office of Reentry** partnered with the **Chicago Department of Public Health** and **United Way of Metro Chicago** to provide microgrants for community-based organizations directly serving returning residents. They selected 32 applications of the 100+ received, which included 7 collaborative applications and 16 individual applications. The funds will go to support programs working on self-confidence, programs working at the intersection of housing and mental health, and more.
- The **Chicago Mayor's Office of Reentry** hosted a conference titled "Building Bridges, Breaking Barriers: A Unified Path to Hope and Reentry," at Breakthrough FamilyPlex in Chicago's East Garfield Park neighborhood. Over 250 reentry professionals attended, listening to panel discussions on women's reentry and funding initiatives.
- The **Chicago Mayor's Office of Reentry** released a request for proposals seeking a community-based organization to establish the city's first Community Reentry Support Center exclusively for women impacted by the criminal legal system. They anticipate launching the new center in January 2026.
- The **Chicago Mayor's Office of Reentry** hosted a reentry toy drive in December, providing free toys to over 300 children in justice-impacted families.
- The **Chicago Mayor's Office of Reentry** partnered with the City's Department of Family and Support Services, Office of Racial Equity, and St. Leonard's Ministries to launch a collaborative co-governance project to include more community voices in city reentry policy discussions.

Programming and Implementation: Community-Based Organizations

- **Ascending Knowledge** supported 20 returning residents in the Suburban Cook County area with a holistic, restorative job readiness training cohort. The program provided a range of supportive and skill-building services. All 20 participants completed the cohort and secured employment, and will receive ongoing wraparound support for up to one year.
- The **Chicago Continuum of Care**, led by **All Chicago**, is working with **Phalanx Family Services**, **Safer Foundation**, and **Teamwork Englewood** to serve returning residents under a pilot program using Rapid Re-Housing funds. All providers launched their programs by Spring 2025. The pilot has housed 52 families so far, with a goal of ultimately housing 88 households. 7 households are actively seeking housing, which takes a programmatic average of 38 days. 2 participants came directly from incarceration, 29 came from emergency shelter or were unsheltered, and 28 were staying with family or friends unstably.

- **Corporate Coalition**, in partnership with **Cara Plus** and **Chicagoland Workforce Funder Alliance**, launched their third Fair Chance Hiring Cohort. The cohort worked with 8 Chicagoland employers to build stronger teams by modernizing hiring practices, removing unnecessary barriers, and creating pathways to stable, long-term jobs for individuals who are system impacted. Participants improved internal company background check processes, amplified language in job postings about being “fair chance friendly”, conducted internal trainings on fair chance hiring, and more. 20 companies and nearly 100 leaders have participated in this cohort over 3 years.
- The **Corporate Coalition** began hosting virtual ‘Brown Bag’ sessions, convening researchers, employers, funders, policymakers, workforce organizations, and other stakeholders, to share academic research related to fair chance hiring. In 2025, about 15 presenters shared their work across a span of 5 sessions, including papers like: “How to Overcome the Cost of a Criminal Record for Getting Hired”; “Narratives and Destigmatization: The Case of Criminal Record Stigma in the Labor Market”; “The Myth that Most People Recidivate”.
- **Defy Ventures Illinois** served 154 people within Kewanee Life Skills Reentry Center, Pontiac Correctional Center, and Logan Correctional Center through their CEO Of Your New Life program. They also launched a pilot with the Safer Foundation, serving individuals at Crossroads and North Lawndale Adult Transition Centers.
- **Defy** supported 26 individuals with barrier removal services and distributed 14 Chromebooks to individuals coming home along with digital upskilling workshops. They also served 17 individuals through the virtual Entrepreneurship Bootcamp program.
- The **Education Justice Project (EJP)** released the 2025 version of “Mapping Your Future: A Guide to Successful Reentry”, including a new chapter for people who must comply with public registries. They also updated “A New Path: A Guide to the Challenges and Opportunities After Deportation,” with new country-specific chapters available on their website. These guides, already available within IDOC Reentry Rooms, are now available on JSTOR in Prison, for people to review on tablets.
- **EJP** continues to offer several programs at Danville Correctional Center. In Fall 2025 there were 68 students enrolled in EJP’s higher education program. 11 students completed EJP’s inaugural Graduate Level course, “EPOL 518: Youth, Society, and Culture” taught by Dr. Soo Ah Kwon. CAVE (Community Anti-violence Education Program) engaged 19 students and 13 peer facilitators. Language Partners engaged 14 students and 10 teaching partners.
- **EJP**, collaborating with the Chicago Public School system and With funding from the General Assembly and working in collaboration with the Chicago Public School system, EJP launched a temporary program to support incarcerated youth ages 18 - 22 in taking synchronous and asynchronous courses toward their high school diplomas. 4 students graduated the York High School Partnership in May 2025.
- The **Federal Problem-Solving Courts Foundation** doubled its fundraising and was able to provide program participants with housing, healthcare, and food assistance. The Foundation was also awarded with a “Returning With Hope” microgrant through the City of Chicago.

- **GOT JOBS America** continued its employer and systems engagement efforts through coordination supported by **Maximus**. These include providing tax credit eligibility screening and certification to returning residents, which they can present as incentives to employers.
- **GOT JOBS America** is now part of a CEJA grantee collaborative called "Imani Green Grace Initiative." Led by Imani Village, alongside community-based organizations, contractors, and training partner Millennium Solar Electric, the Imani Green Grace Initiative is building structured entry points into clean energy careers. The Initiative will provide Solar Training inside IDOC's Kewanee Life Skills Reentry Center and GOT JOBS America will provide Career Pathway Navigation services to participants.
- **GOT JOBS America** partnered with 100 Million Jobs to pilot "Commissary Club", AI Agent technology providing social community and AI-enabled employment tools that streamline intake, résumé development, and job application submission.
- **IFF** continued to partner with IHDA to support grantees of the Housing for Justice-Involved Individuals Program, including 22 projects awarded in late 2024 and located in Cook, DuPage, Kane, Winnebago, Peoria, and St. Clair Counties. Through providing pre-application technical assistance for this program, IFF identified a key challenge in the program's requirement that applicants have proper zoning, which often requires the applicant to hire an architect and an attorney. They also identified geographic hurdles, where more rural projects struggle to get the state agency to the project site for on-site approvals.
- The **Illinois Reentry Council** distributed a second round of Innovations Grants, sending \$80,000 in microgrants to 8 reentry community-based organizations across Illinois. The Innovations Committee, made up of five people who have been incarcerated, provides an opportunity for people closest to the problem to provide funding towards innovative, scale-able, fiscally stable solutions. The grants will go towards trauma-informed workshops for returning women, emergency grants for returning residents, establishing community-based healing spaces for returning residents and their families, and helping formerly incarcerated fathers support their families and their partners before and after giving birth.
- **Mercy Housing Lakefront** received a two-year grant of \$1 million from a managed care organization (MCO) to identify MCO members and connect them to care. Of 152 members identified, 116 were successfully served, leading to improved rates of employment, physical health, and mental health, as well as improved financial health.
- **Mercy Housing Lakefront's** Community Health Worker program has served nearly 350 participants since launching in 2018 and has proven successful in helping participants improve and self-manage their physical and behavioral health.
- **Oxford House** received 191 applications from returning residents in 2025, 10% of which were women and 90% of which were men. 9% of applicants were open to placement anywhere in the state, and the remaining applicants requested placement in Central Illinois (44%), the Chicagoland / Lake County / Rockford area (23%), or Southern Illinois between Metro East and Carbondale (24%). Oxford House was able to accept 81 returning residents (42%) into the program.
- **Phalanx Family Services** delivered Workforce Development and comprehensive wraparound reentry services across Chicago's far South Side and south suburbs, maintaining strong participant engagement, including a 100% training completion rate. The organization

also implemented a WRAP (Wellness Recovery Action Plan) workshop to support long-term recovery, reintegration and self-management.

- The **Revolutionary Reentry Hub** launched in 2025. This citywide narrative-justice initiative is focused on dismantling stigma, “the mother of all reentry barriers.” The Hub built organizational infrastructure, entered nonprofit ratings and accountability systems, and cultivated a network of system-impacted volunteers committed to public education and advocacy. By centering lived experience and narrative leadership, the Hub is mobilizing impacted voices to drive long-term cultural change. The Hub team plans to expand into direct public engagement in 2026.
- **Safer Foundation** is completing two housing development grants under Round 2 of IHDA’s Housing for Justice-Involved Individuals Program. One of the funded buildings is a new property in its housing portfolio, providing transitional housing for returning residents. The property adds 23 units of affordable housing to the Austin community in Chicago.
- **Saint Leonard’s Ministries** served 394 people through its housing and workforce education programs. 99% of workforce graduates would recommend the program to someone they know. Their holistic housing programs continue to see very low recidivism rates: 9.8% of men (compared to a 38% state average) and 0 women for the third year in a row (compared to a 23% state average). Saint Leonard’s has seen a 110% increase in enrollments and 151% increase in program completions over the last 3 years.
- **Teamwork Englewood’s** reentry department served 673 clients with workforce development and job programs, and 97 clients with their virtual reality job training program. Across their case management, walk-in days, and monthly job events, they referred 538 clients to employment and training opportunities, with 148 of those clients retaining full-time employment for over 90 days.
- **Teamwork Englewood’s** legal clinic filed over 260 petitions addressing 1000 cases, and made over 200 court appearances, as part of their efforts to help with sealing and expungements, among other types of legal support.
- **Treatment Alternatives for Stronger Communities (TASC)** served 4,095 clients through its Community Reentry and Housing programs in FY25, connecting 2,147 individuals to recovery support services and facilitating 953 treatment admissions, with 559 successful completions.
- **TASC** also implemented the Inner Circle program at Menard Correctional Center (MCC), a peer-led support group within correctional facilities designed to address the unique needs of individuals navigating recovery from life challenges, including substance use and justice involvement. The Circle meets twice a month and has been described by facility leadership as having a positive impact. In a survey conducted, over 80% of participants said the support group helps them feel less alone and feel better about their future.
- **Uptown People’s Law Center** continued supporting incarcerated people applying for social security benefits. They had 34 InReach cases open in 2025, of which 11 clients were approved, and 0 were denied at the final stage of appeal. Clients were awarded backpay lump sums totaling \$40,673, and the annual value of benefits awarded in 2025 is over \$85,000. No InReach clients have returned to prison after receiving disability benefits.

- **WIN Recovery**, who received two grants in the second round of the Housing for Justice Involved Individuals Program, is finalizing their search for a suitable building. They will create 10 new transitional reentry housing beds in Chicago.
- **Women’s Dignity of Choice**, a collaborative effort between the **Office of the First Lady, St. Leonard’s Ministries, Defy Ventures Illinois, Cara Collective, and Illinois Action for Children**, launched in March 2025. The program provides housing, workforce training, and care coordination to mothers returning from incarceration, and has served 50 women so far.
- The **Women’s Justice Institute** has paid the testing fees for 5 incarcerated women pursuing occupational licenses, which will improve their job readiness upon release.

Legislation

- [Public Act 104-0459](#) passed Clean Slate Illinois into law in October 2025. The statute allows more criminal records to be sealed starting July 1, 2026, and creates an automated sealing process starting July 1, 2029. The **Coalition to End Permanent Punishments and Live Free Illinois** created a grassroots, multi-year, statewide movement to pass this bill.
- [Public Act 104-11](#) made substantial administrative changes to the **Prisoner Review Board**, charged with conducting hearings and making decisions about people’s supervised release, clemency, and more. The legislation amended policies around transparency, data collection, victims services, training for Board members and staff, hearing policies, and more.

Research and Reports

- The **Cook County Department of Human Rights and Ethics** released the [2025 Annual Just Housing Amendment Report](#), providing a status update on the discrimination complaints received around fair housing practices.
- The **Corporate Coalition** and the **University of Chicago’s Inclusive Economy Lab** produced [Fair Chance Hiring: Mapping the Research Landscape from 1970 to 2024](#), in the wake of their 2024 National Fair Chance Hiring Conference. Findings showed that most existing fair chance hiring research focuses on background checks and individualized assessments. These studies inform best practices for employers to strengthen fair chance hiring efforts, while also revealing gaps in existing research (e.g., pre-adverse action outreach, candidate drop-off rates and “self-selection out”, among other topics).
- **E.A.T. Chicago** and **Fathers, Families, and Health Communities** published [Breaking the Chains: Reclaiming Wealth, Power, and Dignity for Black Men](#). The study explored why Black men in Chicago are locked out of wealth and opportunity, by interviewing 172 Black men, the majority of whom had been incarcerated. The report finds that “discriminatory hiring practices, chronic underinvestment, mass incarceration, and predatory economic policies have created a landscape where Black men are pushed into the informal economy just to make ends meet.”
- The **Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority** published a [Process Evaluation of Select Restore, Reinvest, and Renew \(R3\) Funded Grantees](#). Key findings included: R3 grantees centered the needs and input of the communities they served, often using a formalized assessment; grantees required additional support to improve their self-assessment

processes; many grantees experienced significant delays receiving funding; and programs were typically successful in serving the planned number of clients.

- The **Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority** published [*Recidivism outcomes of Illinois Prison Work Release Program Participants*](#). The study found that participation in an Adult Transition Center (ATC) was associated with a 15% lower chance of rearrest and a 37% lower chance of reincarceration. For those who were rearrested or reincarcerated, it was significantly later after release than people who had not participated in ATCs who were rearrested or reincarcerated. “The findings suggest that work release programs can play a crucial role in reducing recidivism and promoting successful reentry for formerly incarcerated individuals.”
- **Loyola’s Center for Criminal Justice** published [*Coming Home? Assessing the Housing Needs of People Nearing Release from Illinois Prisons*](#). Designed in collaboration with the Illinois Reentry Council, the survey was administered in IDOC's Logan, Dixon, Illinois River, and Lincoln Correctional Centers. The results, based on nearly a thousand responses, shed light on the intersection between homelessness and criminal legal system involvement. In the three years prior to their incarceration, 70% of the respondents experienced homelessness or housing instability. Over one-third of both men and women planned to live with their minor children upon release, demonstrating a need for familial reentry housing.

Conclusion

In 2025, the Illinois Reentry Council’s 200 members continued to push for dignity, agency, and compassion for people coming home from prisons and jails in Illinois. The Council’s work continues to be guided by research, data, and our [12 Principles](#). Reentry infrastructure in Illinois is growing daily, as more community programs serve growing groups of people, and support reentry in a holistic, trauma-informed way. High-level collaboration and coordinated fiscal opportunities will grow the effectiveness and reach of these programs. By supporting people as they come home, the IRC recognizes that people who have served their time deserve a fair chance to build a safe and stable life. More than just ending cycles of recidivism, the IRC supports economic stability, stable housing, and strong communities.