

NYC RE-ENTRY HOUSING ROUNDTABLE

RE-ENTRY POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- ❖ **STABLE HOUSING LINKED TO SOCIAL SERVICES REDUCES RECIDIVISM, PROMOTES FAMILY AND ECONOMIC STABILITY, AND ULTIMATELY CREATES SAFER COMMUNITIES. EXPAND IMMEDIATE AND LONGER-TERM HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES, LINKED TO SOCIAL SERVICES, FOR PEOPLE LEAVING INCARCERATION.**
 - Re-Invest public funds to produce new re-entry housing models that provide for the immediate and unique housing and service needs of people discharged from jails and prisons.
 - Create set-asides of units within current or future housing developments for people leaving jail and prisons.
 - Educate landlords and non-profit providers of housing and services to distinguish between real and perceived risks associated with housing people with criminal histories, and encourage them to accept such people.
 - Modify HPD, NYCHA, and other housing regulations to expand opportunities for people with criminal histories to reside in public housing or receive Section 8 vouchers.
 - Expand homeless definitions for people leaving prisons and jails who are at imminent risk of homelessness to access HUD McKinney-Vento and NY/NY-funded supportive housing immediately upon discharge without having to first enter the shelter system.
 - Recognize the benefit of peer support in the transition from prison/jail to the community and reduce the prohibitions against parolee service delivery and cohabitation in community-based social service programs.

- ❖ **DELIVER COMPREHENSIVE DISCHARGE OR TRANSITION PLANNING FOCUSED AROUND HOUSING IN ORDER TO FACILITATE RE-ENTRY SUCCESS**
 - Create a discharge plans for people re-entering the community from jail or prison centered on increasing access to safe and appropriate housing, and that also addresses income, benefits enrollment, employment, housing, physical and mental health, and family reunification.
 - Ensure that people re-entering the community from prisons and jails leave with identification and documentation of their special needs and information required to access housing, public benefits and specialized services.
 - Ensure collaboration and consistency in community release plans and procedures developed and implemented among NY correctional facilities, parole and probation agencies, and community-based organizations.
 - Increase resources for parole and probation agencies to enable them to use a broader range of interventions and coordinate with community-based providers.

- ❖ **ENSURE CONTINUITY OF BENEFITS, CONTINUITY OF CARE AND ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE AND MEDICATIONS UPON RELEASE.**
 - Ensure that public assistance, Medicaid, TANF, SSI/SSDI, Food Stamps, VA and other benefits are available to people immediately upon release from correctional facilities.
 - Provide people re-entering the community from jail or prison with a medical discharge summary detailing diagnoses, treatment needs, and follow-up care recommendations suitable for accessing specialized services.
 - Ensure that every person receiving medical and psychiatric care while incarcerated has an appointment upon discharge with a community provider capable of meeting the individual's treatment needs.