



WOMEN'S PRISON ASSOCIATION

SUCCESS IN THE COMMUNITY

Success in the community is about more than a job or housing, or even staying clean and out of trouble. It is about all of that, and more. Whether returning to the community after incarceration or living in the community pretrial or as an alternative to detention or incarceration, a woman's success is related to the degree that there are adequate provisions in six domains of her life: livelihood, residence, family, health, criminal justice compliance, and social connections. The other basic human need is for encouragement, support, orientation to new things, and to be recognized as valuable by others. The domains are interdependent. A viable plan must include provisions in each domain that can be reconciled with each other.

The matrix below further recognizes that there are different phases of adjustment in the community: survival, stabilization, and increasing self-sufficiency. Someone may be in different phases in different domains. For example, a woman might be sober and healthy, but still homeless, on public assistance, and striving for visitation with her children.

| PHASE | BASIC LIFE AREAS | | | | | |
|-------------------------|---|--|---|---|---|---|
| | Livelihood | Residence | Family | Health & Sobriety | Criminal Justice Compliance | Social/Civic Connections |
| <u>Survival</u> | Gate money Public assistance Soup kitchens, pantries Personal care kits | Shelter Family or friend Street | Find children Make contact | Continuity of medication Relapse prevention | Report to supervising authority (court, probation, parole, etc.) Comply with requirements | Receive peer support |
| <u>Stabilization</u> | Public assistance, workfare Employment/Education Training Clothes for interviews | Transitional Residence Family or friend | Supervised visitation Get refamiliarized Trial discharge | Drug treatment and treatment of urgent health and mental health issues Counseling | Earn reduced supervision | Join support group or nurturing community Volunteer work |
| <u>Self Sufficiency</u> | Job that pays a living wage and provides benefits | One's own apartment with public subsidy, if necessary | Reunify; receive family counseling Care for others | Regular health visits paid by health insurance Ongoing support: 12 step, therapy, community activities | Satisfy conditions of supervision | Help others Contribute to community life |
| GOAL | Adequate money for food, clothing, transportation, and personal and family expenses | Safe, clean, affordable home that accommodates household comfortably | Reunification with children, reconciliation with family members | Physically and mentally healthy, or receiving affordable quality care including needed prescriptions | Abide by laws Live without community supervision | Healthy friendships, network of supportive adults, opportunities to give back, civic participation (voting, etc.) |

WPA's reentry and ATI plans include provisions in all of these areas. However, funding available for needed services is too often restricted to special needs populations (like the mentally ill or people who are HIV+). Further, there are more supports for families than for single adults seeking to live on their own. In fact, it is usually most difficult to find supports for the single woman or man without mental illness, HIV, or a substance abuse problem.