

# Prisoner & Family Ministry

## Re-entry Services Overview

### Core Components

#### AmeriCorps/Vista Volunteers

When a returning citizen shows unprecedented motivation and reintegration, the opportunity becomes possible that LSSI will hire the individual to be a part of the AmeriCorps/Vista Volunteers that staff some of our programs. This provides them with the opportunity to mentor other returning citizens entering the "Re-entry" program.

#### Assistance and Referral

Re-entry Specialists provide on-going support to the returning citizens, including follow-up 2-3 times per month. Working with the individuals to make sure they remain stable in the community and providing assistance when needs arise.

#### Bicycles to Work

A volunteer-based program where bikes are donated to the program by the community and returning citizens have the opportunity to restore the bikes. They are able to practice their employment skills, learn some mechanics, and build their resumes for employment. In addition, if the individual is in need of transportation, then a bicycle is provided to them free of charge.

#### Employment Skills School (ESS)

A 40-day curriculum-based program designed especially for returning citizens who are seeking employment. Activities include all aspects of employment training, an open computer lab for employment and educational related activities, intensive career development services, and periodic career counseling services for at least a year.

### Top Referral Sources



### In The Community

An important piece in LSSI's "Re-entry Services for Returning Citizens" is the partnership with the local communities. Both GRO and Bicycles to Work provide opportunities for our returning citizens to work with the members of the community. These programs provide the returning citizens with an opportunity to give back to the communities where they live while also allowing the community to gain a more positive perception of this population.

#### Green Re-entry Opportunities (GRO)

Returning citizens, required to perform community service, work in a LSSI sponsored community garden that provides these individuals with the ability to learn agriculture, practice employment skills, and build experience for their resume. All food grown in the gardens is donated to local food pantries and non-profit kitchens.

#### Financial Assistance

Through partnerships with local pharmacies, eligible returning citizens are able to receive assistance in paying co-pays for their prescription drugs. In addition, bus passes are provided to eligible returning citizens who are having difficulty obtaining reliable transportation.

#### Homeward Bound

Housing opportunities for eligible returning citizens.

#### Recreation & Well-being Support

Softball, basketball, and other sport leagues are organized for returning citizens as a way to provide a social outlet and a safe place to meet new friends. Support groups are available to returning citizens and their families as a way to express their feelings, not feel isolated, and learn how to cope with their situations.

#### Scholarship Trades Program (STP)

An on-the-job training program for returning citizens that includes employment with a community organization in a scholarship work program format for up to 90 days.

# Prisoner & Family Ministry

## Re-entry Services Overview

Lutheran Social Services of Illinois's "Re-entry Services for Returning Citizens" is a holistic, multi-faceted statewide program that supports a returning citizen's transition back into the community. Re-entry Services connect returning citizens to needed supportive services and reduces barriers that prevent successful reintegration. All of the core components are designed to provide transitioning individuals with job knowledge and experience, a support system, and a stable life.

### Reintegration Process

#### Step 1 – Intake and Relationship Building

During an initial 2-3 hour meeting, an assigned Re-entry Specialist completes an extensive intake with the returning citizen. Information is gathered about the returning citizen's demographics, personal and criminal history. The Re-entry Specialist takes the time to get to know the individual and their story.

#### Step 2 – Resource of Needs

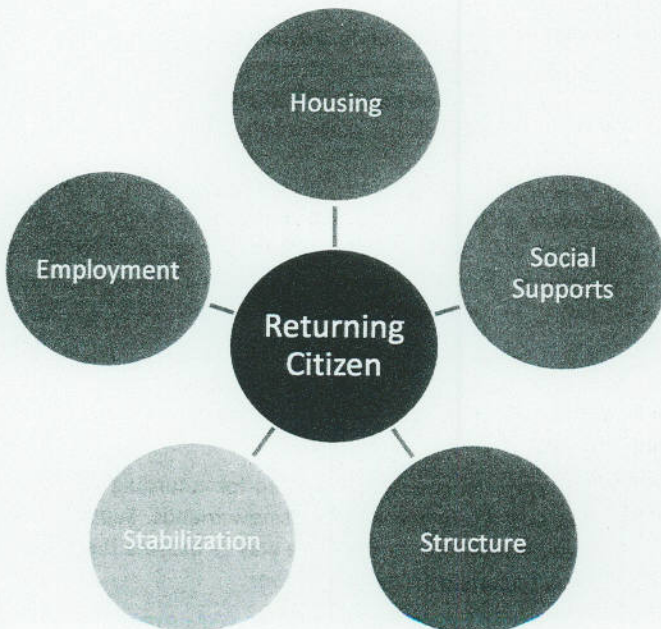
Through a series of conversations with the returning citizen, initial areas of need, both long and short-term, are explored.

#### Step 3 – Goal Development

A service plan is developed with both short and long-term goals. The individualized plan addresses up to 21 different areas of need and helps determine which LSSI programs and/or community services would be most beneficial to the individual's circumstance. Referrals are made to the appropriate programs or services.

### Holistic Approach

Lutheran Social Services of Illinois's "Re-entry Services for Returning Citizens" takes into account all of the individualized needs that a person re-integrating into the community may need in order to be successful in their transition.



### Program Goals

- Assist returning citizens in establishing a stable lifestyle.
- Increase employment skills and knowledge as well as to provide opportunities to build job experience.
- Provide structure and social outlets to help increase a returning citizen's sense of community and self.
- Empower the citizen to understand their past, avoid any criminogenic patterns, and have hope for the future.
- Remove barriers during reintegration and to decrease the rate of recidivism.

### Jails & Prisons in the Area

- IL DOC Pinckneyville Correctional Center
- IL DOC Shawnee Correctional Center
- IL DOC Vienna Correctional Center
- IL DJJ Youth Center - Harrisburg
- Jackson County Jail
- United States Federal Prison in Marion
- Williamson County Jail