

**ALTERNATIVES TO INCARCERATION & “STRATEGIC CORRECTIONS”
DIFFERENT LEVELS OF THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM**

	Mayoral Policy Caucus report	Governor’s Community Safety and Reentry Commission report	Other reports
Prevention and Community Capacity Building	Explore options to stimulate justice reinvestment (MPC, pp 94-95).	Target a Percentage of IDOC’s Budget to Support Community-Based Initiatives: IDOC has a \$1.2 billion budget and manages more than 45,000 inmates in prisons and more than 33,000 parolees in Illinois communities. To keep the public safe by maintaining safe prisons and safe communities, IDOC should work toward a long-term goal of ensuring that the proper resources are invested in community programs and public safety initiatives (GCSRC, p. 80).	
		Break Generational Cycle and Ship Focus to “No Entry” as Ultimate Goal: To fully realize the state’s public safety agenda, the focus must extend beyond prison and reentry to crime, crime prevention, the courts, sentencing practices, and community capacity. IDOC should develop a “no-entry” Commission, process, and strategy to prevent crime and incarceration. Issues that should be addressed include community capacity, law enforcement, disproportionate minority contact, sentencing laws and practices. As the state and communities manage the growth of the prison population, these savings should be reinvested in communities (GCSRC, p. 89).	
Pre-Trial		Continue to Expand Partnerships with Local Law Enforcement: Ensure that critical information about high-risk offenders is shared in a timely and meaningful way to promote improved public safety. Partnerships should also identify opportunities to work together on diversions programs for nonviolent drug-involved offenders. In addition, continue to build on the success of federal, state, and local partnerships, such as Project Safe Neighborhoods, that promote targeted violence reduction (GCSRC, p. 75).	Adopt diversion or deferred adjudication programs that, in appropriate cases, provide an offender with an opportunity to avoid a criminal conviction (ABA).
Post-Disposition and Sentencing	Create and expand diversion programs for individuals who commit non-violent offenses and need substance abuse or mental health treatment (MPC, pp. 58-60).	Expand Community-Based “Early Release” Alternatives to Prison for Nonviolent Drug Offenders Allowed Under Current Law: Expand the use of diversion programs, which are allowed under current law. These programs allow select nonviolent offenders to serve part or all of their sentences in less expensive, more effective community-based alternatives to prison. This alleviates the continued pressure on the system from the crush of incoming drug-involved offenders while reducing the risk to society. Explore ongoing best practices in states that are implementing such alternatives (GCSRC, pp. 53-54).	Study and fund treatment alternatives to incarceration for offenders who may benefit from treatment for substance abuse and mental illness (ABA).
Prison Intake		Improve Screening and Assessment Tools: Screen and evaluate all inmates using high-quality assessment tools as a first step in developing their reentry plan (GCSRC, pp. 32-34).	
		Enhance Information Sharing About Individuals: Improve data collection and dissemination methods of inmates’ criminal and social histories. This process should also enforce the state mandated information sharing between all counties and all RACs statewide and at every stage of the process (GCSRC, p. 35).	
Parole	Restructure parole supervision to better facilitate connections to and delivery of reentry support services (MPC, pp. 90-91).	Continue Implementing the Governor’s Long-Term “Operation Spotlight” Parole Reform Initiative: Support ongoing parole reforms that focus on increasing the number of parole agents; reducing caseloads; improving parole agent training as case managers; expanding community-based partnerships; strengthening specialized skills training to better serve key populations, such as women and drug-involved offenders; and establishing supervision levels on the basis of validated risk-assessment tools tailored to each parolee. Target agent increases to the top ten high-impact regions first, and co-locate parole agents with IDOC placement resource staff and service providers (GCSRC, pp. 63-69).	Develop graduated sanctions for probation and parole violations that provide for incarceration only when a probation or parole violator has committed a new crime or poses a danger to the community (ABA).
	Increase access to/availability of community-based treatment programs to address prisoners’ health-related needs (MPC, pp. 56-57).	Expand Sanctions and Rewards Programs for Parolees: More effectively promote behavioral change among parolees by expanding sanctions and rewards programs that can be administered by parole agents, such as “Halfway Back” programs, as alternatives to incarceration. In many cases, diversion programs offer more meaningful, less costly ways to change self-destructive behavior among parolees than instant reincarceration for minor or nonviolent violations of parole (GCSRC, pp. 73-74).	

MPC = Mayoral Policy Caucus Final Report. “Rebuilding Lives. Restoring Hope. Strengthening Communities: Breaking the Cycle of Incarceration and Building Brighter Futures in Chicago” (January 2006).

GCSRC = Governor’s Community Safety and Reentry Commission Final Report. “Inside Out: A Plan to Reduce Recidivism and Improve Public Safety” (May 2008).

ABA = American Bar Association. Justice Kennedy Commission Report (August 2004).