



*Chicago Metropolis*

2020

# The Collaborative on Re-Entry Statewide Planning Grants and Community Profiles

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# Developing a More Detailed View of the State

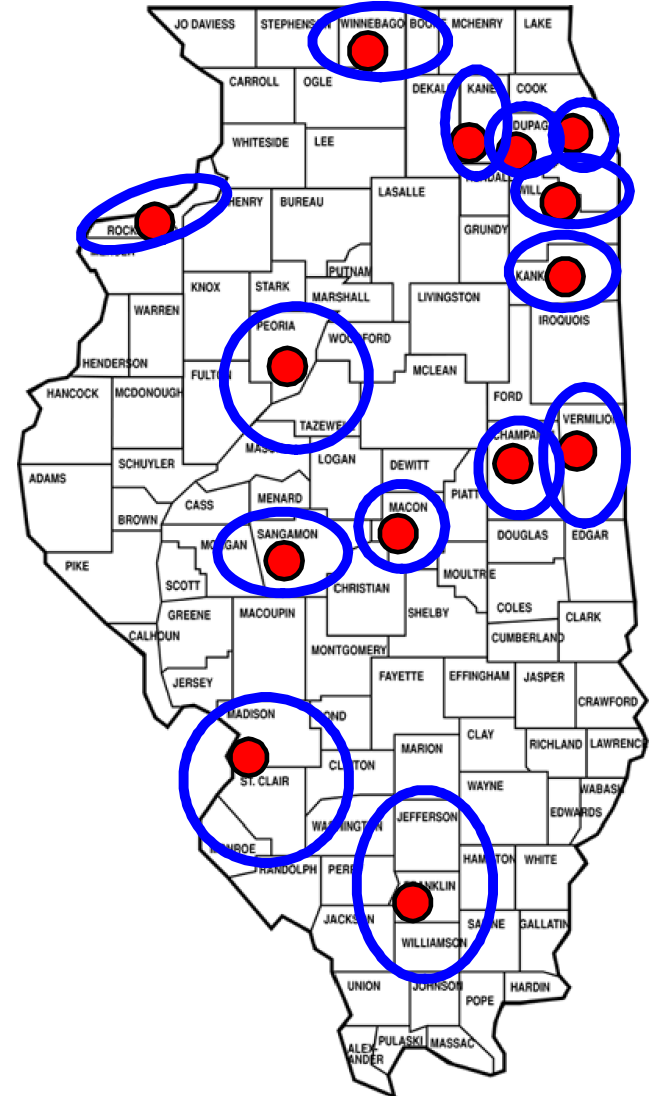
- The State-Wide Report Focused on Ten Target Areas of the State accounting for 85% of those Returning Home
- There was a need to take a more detailed look at these communities
- CSH put out an RFP to explore those ten communities to assess support and the need for re-entry housing and support services

# 14 communities were selected

including one outside the 10 target areas

## CSH Statewide Re-entry Planning Grant Recipients

- City of Rockford Human Services Dept.
- AIDS Foundation of Chicago
- Dupage PADS, Wheaton
- Rita's Ministry, North Aurora
- Grand Prairie Services, Tinley Park
- City of Peoria, Workforce Dev. Dept.
- Transitions Mental Health, Rock Island
- Dove, Inc., Decatur
- Kankakee County Renewed Opportunity
- Crosspoint Human Services, Danville
- Mental Health Center of Champaign
- Land of Lincoln Goodwill, Springfield
- Chestnut Health Systems, Granite City
- Prisoner & Family Ministry – LSSI – Marion



# Developing a More Detailed View of the State

- 12 grantees and 2 additional communities submitted interim reports.
- I would like to thank those recipients.
- Those reports are posted on the web site at [www.reentryillinois.net](http://www.reentryillinois.net) as well as the website for the Collaborative for Metropolis 2020.

# Here's what we've learned

- The needs and realities of rural, suburban, and urban areas differed greatly
- The support and ability of individual grantees to pull together multiple communities and systems varied and often involved deciding between different criminal justice populations (IDOC, Local County Jail and Courts, or cycling Persons on the Street Released from Criminal Justice)
- There were several common issues and individual communities focused their solutions on different problems.

# What we've learned so far

- Community support for projects is difficult.
- Without some dedicated criminal justice funding, it is difficult to ensure that this population gets served or priority is given to target DOC immediate needs.
- There are people who do not fit into specific funding criteria and do not receive services. They are denied housing and are poor with multiple long term needs.

# What we've learned so far, continued

- 90 days of service is not enough for many people leaving corrections. This group has multiple long term service needs.
- There is a need for specialized intensive support services for special needs groups that exceeds usual community supports
- There is a need for better assessment, information, and engagement before a person returns to the community
- The size of the correctional population is enormous. It is hard to focus on long term solutions.

# Other Needs

- Transportation is always an issue – but varies
  - Rural communities use bikes and pooled vans
  - Urban communities fund tokens without reimbursement
  - The suburbs need taxi vouchers
- Establishing proof of identification is always an issue
- Establishing entitlements made getting services easier. Delays made returns to corrections inevitable.

# Opportunities

- A great deal of support exists for reentry housing and there is an appetite for information to persuade and develop housing.
- Planning for those returning to the community is important.

# Current Programs

- The Thresholds Justice Project has a long history of serving the jail and prison population.
- AIDS Foundation has created a program to in-reach into the prisons and provide services on the outside.
- Oxford Houses have been developing throughout the state with a single organizer for oversight.
- A Safe Haven and other recovery homes continue partnerships between the DOC, DASA, and Sheridan and SWIC.

# Current Programs

- DMH Bridge Subsidy program is a state model focused on those persons with SMI currently in a nursing home or at risk. It is a subsidy designed to avoid long term institutional care for those that could live in the community with supports.
- A Safe Haven and other recovery homes continue partnerships between the DOC, DASA, and Sheridan and SWIC.

# Recommendations from Champaign County

- Expand a program that is working.
- They are housing homeless ex-offenders using HUD Federal Shelter Plus Care subsidies very successfully.
  - This is a tenant based subsidy for the homeless individuals with long term disabilities.
  - The tenant and caseworker find the unit (client choice)
  - Landlord receives rent in two checks from the agency (tenant portion, landlord portion).

# Recommendations from Champaign County

- Requirements for Shelter Plus Care
  - Case Management
  - Treatment for Addictions and/or Mental Health
  - Suitable Housing and Rent Subsidies
  - Support for case management, treatment, and housing can come from separate sources but will require coordination. The agency administering housing should have strong ties and a history of working with property owners.

# Recommendations

- Rock Island, Granite City, and Chicago also recommend a scattered site approach using tenant based subsidies.
- Granite City wants to add supported employment.
- Dedicated projects or set asides are on the board in Ford Heights, Herrin, Harvey. This accounts for 48 units of housing all under development. The relationship between DOC and these projects will be defined by the source of their subsidies.

# Recommendations

- St Leonard's is developing an expansion of its programming through the creation of housing units for women and a coffee house as a vocational site as part of a larger project.
- Almost all new housing being developed for supportive housing does not exclude ex-offenders although there are some restrictions.

# Recommendations

- Communities need information in order to plan for capacity and develop specific plans
  - The 24/7 Plan in the Chicago Plan helps to show what is needed in terms of comprehensive systems management.
  - Dupage and Kane also recognized and prioritized information, assessment, and follow-up as key to good service.
  - The Data Link Project by the Division of Mental Health and The Frequent Users Project at Cook County Jail show the value of using data from multiple agencies to coordinate and target scarce resources.

# Recommendations

- This population uses multiple systems and multiple systems need to work together
- Different communities have different solutions
- Dedicated funds are needed to encourage serving this population.
- Communities are willing to invest in improved outcomes. They will invest in housing. 52 units are under development now.

# What's next?

- We should work together to implement the recommendations from previous plans.
- The Statewide report recommends creating least 100 new units of permanent supportive housing for this population. We can begin now.
- There are communities ready to develop housing.

# The Collaborative on Re-Entry Statewide Planning

