

ANNUAL REPORT

TO OPEN THE BLIND EYES,
TO BRING OUT THE PRISONERS,
AND THEM THAT SIT IN DARKNESS
OUT OF THE PRISON HOUSE.

ISAIAH 42:7 (KJV)



NEWARK 2021

DEDICATED TO THE VISION AND WORK
OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT MILDRED CRUMP,
WHO ADVOCATED FOR NJRC TO PROVIDE
SERVICES IN THE CITY OF NEWARK SINCE 2015

NEW JERSEY REENTRY CORPORATION

936-938 BERGEN STREET,
NEWARK, NJ 07112

PHONE: 973.982.6888

FAX: 201.604.7857

WWW.NJREENTRY.ORG

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Board of Directors	3
Board of Trustees	4
Introduction	5
Report Summary	10
New Jersey Reentry Corporation Model	11
NJRC Program Flowchart	13
The NJRC Logic Model	14
Education and Training: Gateway to Employment	14
Employment	17
Industry Employment Pipeline “Best Practices”	21
NJRC Newark Reentry Employment Successes	22
Testimonials of Newark DPW/NJRC Reentry Participants	23
NJRC Partners	26
Conclusion	28

NJRC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Governor Brendan Byrne (in memoriam)

Governor Thomas Kean

Governor James Florio

Governor James McGreevey

Governor Jon Corzine

Governor Chris Christie

Tonio Burgos

Thomas Calcagni, Esq.

Father Edwin Chinery

Joseph Hayden, Esq.

Ryan Haygood, Esq.

Lawrence Lustberg, Esq.

Leslie K. Franks McRae

Wendy Neu

Chief Justice Deborah Poritz

Reverend Al Sharpton

Cardinal Joseph Tobin

THE GOVERNOR'S REENTRY TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT CENTER BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Magda Amargos

Development Advisor,
American Baptist Church

Louis E. Baxter, Sr., MD, DFASAM

President and CEO,
Professional Assistance Program of New Jersey

Father Gregory J. Boyle, S.J.

Founder, Homeboy Industries

Jim Burns

Partner, Genova Burns

Craig Carpenito

King & Spalding, former U.S. Attorney

Senator Jeff Chiesa

Chiesa, Shahinian & Giantomasi, former
New Jersey Attorney General, former U.S. Senator

Derick D. Dailey

Davis & Gilbert
Former Federal Prosecutor,

Michael Gilfillan

President, Brick City Sports Capital

Jheryn Kenney

Enterprise Relationship Manager, LinkedIn

Rabbi Aaron Kotler

President, Beth Medrash Govoha

Joseph E. Krakora, Esq.

Public Defender, State of New Jersey

Jeannine LaRue

Founder, LaRuelist Report

Richard F. Liebler

Vice President, Sansone Auto Group

Jose Lozano,

President and CEO, Choose New Jersey

Rosemary T. McFadden, Esq.

Chair, Jersey City Development, past President &
COO, NY Mercantile Exchange

Carlos Medina

President, Robinson Aerial
Surveys, Executive Producer/ Host NJPBS/PBS

Monsignor Robert Meyer, Esq.

Pastor, St. Teresa of Avila Church, Summit, NJ

Doug Naidus

Chairman and CEO, World Business Lenders

Atanas Nakev

Construction Executive & Real Estate Developer

Rev. Raul Ruiz

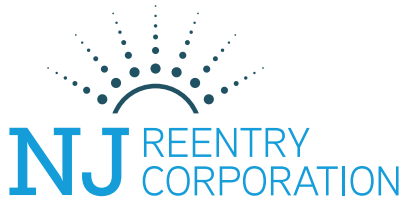
President, NJ Coalition of Latino
Pastors and Ministers

Michele N. Siekerka, Esq.

President and CEO, NJ Business &
Industry Association

Senator Robert Torricelli

Founder, Rosemont Associates, Woodrose
Properties, former U.S. Senator



INTRODUCTION

Dear Mayor Baraka, Newark City Council, and the Newark community

This Annual Report fulfills our contractual commitment to the City of Newark as a reentry provider. This report is dedicated to the ministry, mission, and service of Council President Mildred Crump.

Since the opening of the NAN/NJRC Reentry Center, 936 Bergen Street, in 2020, NJRC has embarked upon an innovative partnership with the City of Newark. Calendar Year 2021 produced several significant challenges and opportunities for the New Jersey Reentry Corporation (NJRC).

We provided: 1) critically-needed services for our state-wide 13,613 program participants and **3,530 Newark residents**, 2) The Governor's Reentry Training and Employment Center, providing for "industry-recognized" training for 1,500 program participants, 3) signed two Memorandums of Understanding with New Jersey Department of Corrections providing for Women's Health Care Navigation Services and Linkage of incarcerated person to NJRC services, as well as 4) the successful launch of our Veterans Outreach Initiative.

In Newark, NJRC provides a wide variety of services for our 3,530 clients, ranging from employment skills training and job search guidance, case management, linkages to addiction treatment, and legal assistance. This model of wraparound services follows the recommended best practices outlined above.

Through our partnership with the City of Newark and NJRC, social workers and case managers worked diligently to provide **294 persons with identification and birth certificates; 330 persons received Intensive Outpatient Treatment and/or Medication-Assisted Treatment. Over 347 clients obtained Medicaid and linkage to healthcare through Federally Qualified Healthcare Centers and hospitals. Our Newark site currently boasts an employment rate of 49 percent, with 211 persons gainfully employed and 338 persons acquiring SNAP Benefits and Cash Assistance services.**

The City of Newark and NJRC contract represents a “best practice.” **Through Mayor Baraka’s leadership, persons are being released from county jail and state prison and directly enrolled in NJRC reentry orientation, then joining the DPW seasonal workforce.** Fifty persons are benefiting from this innovative partnership, all fifty persons are providing DPW maintenance, landscaping throughout Newark, and cleaning the Newark City’s streets.

Moreover, this prison population reflects deep social problems of race, poverty and the failure of our social institutions to provide for New Jerseyans in a way that would reduce the rates of incarceration in the first place. For example, any attempt to discuss reentry practices, designed as they are to provide a first, if not last, opportunity for many to join society, cannot but recognize that New Jersey’s prisons and jails reflect the worst racial disparity in the nation.

In New Jersey, historically African American adults are 12 times more likely and Latinos six times more likely than whites to be incarcerated. New Jersey has the highest racial disparity in state prisons in the nation. Moreover, prisons and jails serve persons that have disproportionately suffered from trauma, co-occurring medical conditions, and addiction, a problem that has been severely exacerbated by the current opioid crisis.

A staggering 78 percent of the incarcerated population in Newark suffers from drug or alcohol addiction; 42 percent of those suffering from addiction also present with a co-occurring mental illness. These problems serve to both complicate and emphasize the importance and urgency of the reentry process. For example, as is discussed in further detail below, incarcerated individuals with Substance Use Disorder (SUD) are 129 times more likely to overdose within the first two weeks of their prison release than are members of the general population. The problem is genuinely one of life and death.

New Jersey has begun to make progress in addressing these areas, and in doing so has begun reducing recidivism rates. But daunting barriers—exacerbated by the problems of race, poverty and addiction— remain for the reentering prisoner, who will face difficult, sometimes insuperable obstacles to obtaining healthcare and especially addiction treatment; to obtaining employment, education, and job training; to obtaining the legal services that are essential to reintegration, such as management of impossible-to-meet financial obligations, obtainment of documentation needed to rejoin the community, and removal of old warrants; and to obtaining the true necessities of survival, such as housing.

The responsibilities to assist persons with Second Chance opportunities is a shared personal and societal obligation. We are most grateful to Mayor Ras Baraka, former City Council President Mildred Crump, and Council Vice President Luis Quintana, and all those who are sharing this journey with us to provide for new beginnings.

With all good wishes,



Jim McGreevey









REPORT SUMMARY

Efforts to improve Newark Reentry outcomes for the 3,530 Newark reentry residents are imperative to successful individual reentry, community well-being, and the economic vitality/employment opportunities within the City of Newark. When individuals returning from prison in most American cities, they often receive insufficient support; studies reveal that the results include unemployment, homelessness, increased drug use, and increased violence. With the average annual cost of incarceration in New Jersey at \$53,681, the state loses significant resources with rearrest or re-incarceration.

This report outlines steps that NJRC is undertaking with the City of Newark and our strategic partners improve opportunities for Newark Reentry clients:

The delivery of specialized reentry services, which provides for enrollment of federal and state benefits, state recognized identification, linkage to structured sober housing, access to medical, behavioral and dental health, and education, training, and employment. Specialized training, targeted educational outcomes, and linkage to long-term employment have been shown to reduce recidivism considerably.

NJRC has also sought to integrate reentry functions with Corrections and Parole: Given the unique position of the corrections system to exercise continued jurisdiction of the incarcerated and reentering populations, NJRC partners with NJDOC, NJSPB, and service providers. This interagency partnership fosters a more significant focus on post-release care and reduced rearrest and revocation.



NEW JERSEY REENTRY CORPORATION MODEL

Tragically, America has a love affair with prisons. We have locked up more of our fellow citizens than any nation in the world. While Americans are only **five percent (5%)** of the world's population, we account for **twenty five percent (25%) of the world's incarcerated population**. Historically, New Jersey was not all that different from the rest of the nation. "The vast majority of prisoners currently being detained in secure facilities will, someday, be released into the community, and more offenders are transitioning into the community today than ever before." After months or years behind bars, freedom can be disorienting, confusing and particularly frightening.

The New Jersey Reentry Corporation addresses the issues of recidivism and failure to reintegrate post-release. The program begins with a week-long orientation program. Clients are provided at 936-938 Bergen Street, Newark, with employment skills, health care access, an evaluation by a licensed social worker (LSW), legal aid, and other services.

After completing the orientation, individuals receive access to addiction treatment and sober transitional housing, as necessary. Clients are then assigned a caseworker, who works one-on-one with the client to provide permanent housing, Medicaid, and official identification. Additionally, pro bono legal assistance is provided through NJRC's partnership with the New Jersey State Bar Association and its relationship with the state-federal courts and mentoring.

This model has seen considerably improved results and has a recidivism rate of 19.7 percent, based on a six-month re-arrest benchmark, tracking clients who were rearrested within six months of their enrollment in the NJRC program.

"The NJRC model, as well as others like it across the state and country, shows that with the proper personalized treatment and support, reentering individuals can successfully reintegrate, improving public safety, cost efficiency, and overall community well-being," said Dr. Mary Gatta, Associate Professor of Sociology at CUNY-Guttman.

The NJRC has additionally evidenced the most effective means of preventing recidivism and highlights the next steps necessary to continue the effort of improving reentry outcomes.

First, specialized training and linkage to employers for long-term, stable careers must be strengthened. Second, there must be a renewed focus on healthcare and targeting healthcare efforts toward the most high-risk individuals in reentry. Third, access to reentry providers and services through the corrections system must improve.

Second, the New Jersey Reentry Corporation (NJRC) is designed to provide critical services for those persons who have been court-involved. The NJRC aims to provide seven critical services to our clients: 1) **Addiction treatment**, 2) **Sober transitional housing**, 3) **Training and employment**, 4) Medicaid registration and linkage to **healthcare** through federally qualified healthcare centers and hospitals, 5) Motor Vehicle Commission **identification**, 6) **Legal services** working through the New Jersey State Bar Association, Young Lawyers Division, and 7) **Mentoring** working with faith-based and professional associations.

Comparing our clients with the average American, court-involved persons tend to be less educated, less likely to be gainfully employed, and more likely to have a history of mental illness or substance abuse, which are increased risk factors for recidivism. According to the CASAColumbia Report (2010), drugs and alcohol play a large role in criminal offenses. Based upon a national review of offense type, **78% of inmates incarcerated for violent crimes** were involved with **alcohol or drugs**, as were **83%** of those incarcerated for **property crimes** and **77%** of those incarcerated for **public order, immigration or weapon offenses**. If we do not help clients achieve sobriety, all is lost.

“For people transitioning from incarceration back to their communities, substance abuse is often closely related to their difficulties with housing, employment, and mental health.” Without sobriety, our clients will never be a responsible parent, a productive employee, or a timely tenant. Sobriety is critical, it is essential, it is fundamental. Second, housing is a necessity.

“Securing housing is one of the most immediate challenges individuals leaving prison face upon their release. Obtaining housing is complicated by a host of factors, including the scarcity of affordable and available housing, legal barriers and regulations, landlords’ prejudices against formerly incarcerated individuals, and strict eligibility requirements for federally subsidized housing.”

For decades, when someone left prison, they were merely given a bus pass. Typically, persons returning home struggle to locate a shelter and their next meal.

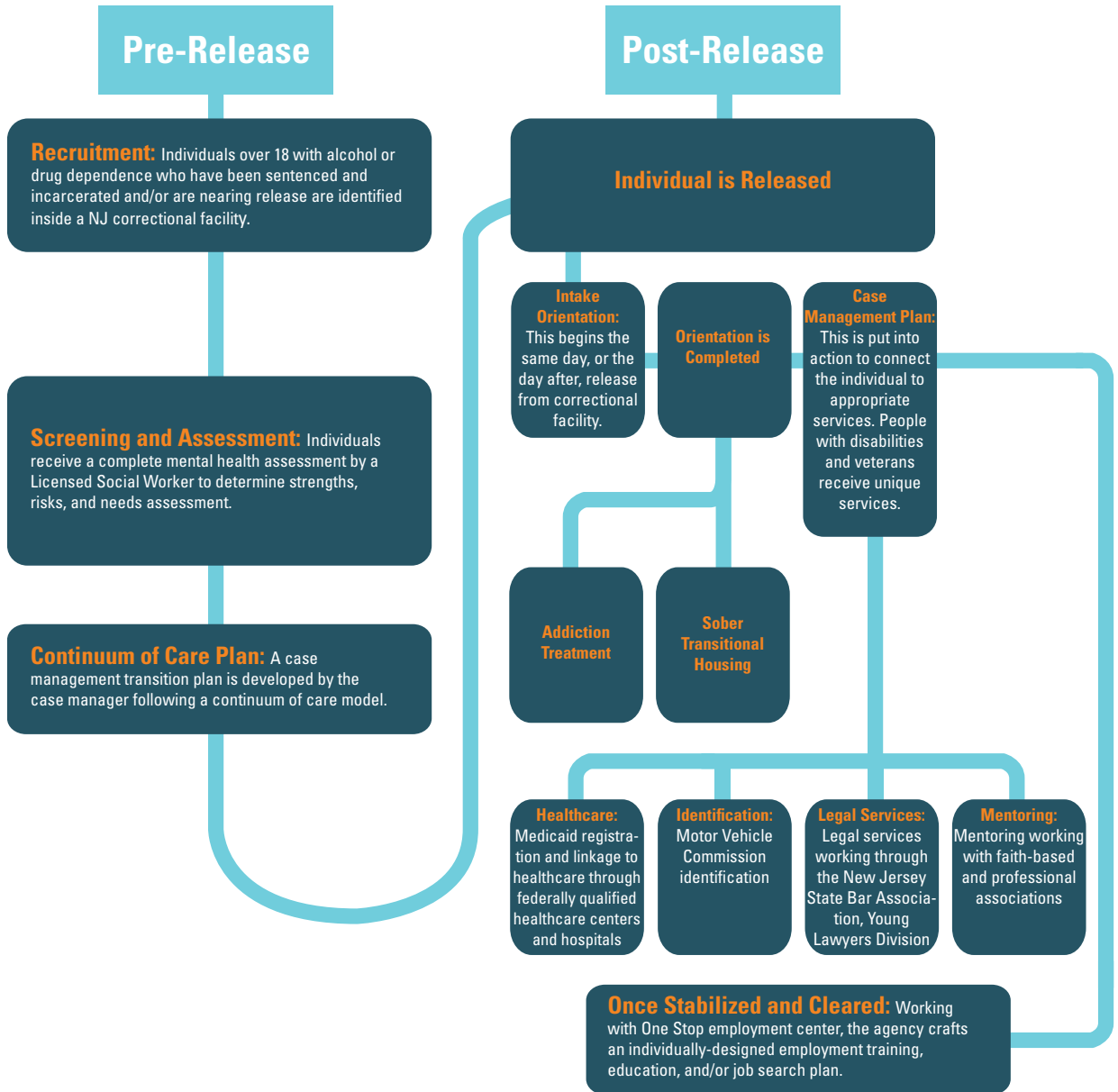
If people do not have secure, structured sober housing, their days are spent wondering where they will sleep at night. Thanks to our partnership with the New Jersey Department of Human Services and county welfare offices, we are providing safe, secure, and sober transitional housing. As clients maintain sobriety in their lives and living arrangements, the next major challenge is securing employment.

Third, court-involved persons identify employment as the most important factor in successful reintegration after incarceration. Employment provides dignity, self-worth, and purpose. Previous studies have shown that providing opportunities that increase educational and work-related skills can reduce recidivism rates. There is also evidence that reduced employment opportunities are what lead to criminal involvement in the first place.

“Employment, employment, employment; we work diligently every day with supportive employers to develop job opportunities for our clients,” said Jim McGreevey, Chairman, NJRC.

One of the great things that we are doing at the New Jersey Reentry Corporation is placing people on a path to productive livelihood. With the Governor’s and Legislature’s leadership, we are now reaching towns across New Jersey.

NJRC Program Flowchart



The NJRC Logic Model

	Inputs	Outputs	Measurement Tool(s)	Intermediate Outcomes	Goals/ Outcomes
Treatment	Clinicians/ Social Workers	Referrals to outpatient (IOP/ OP) programming	Treatment attendance / discussion with treatment staff	Completion of IOP/ program/ treatment	Increased Individual and family self-sufficiency
	Treatment facilities	Referrals to NA/ AA/ GA	IOP/ OP notes/ attendance	No negative dismissal	
	Case management		Sign-in sheets (voluntary)	Engaged in treatment as per case manager/ client	
Housing	Emergency Assistance funds	Referrals to housing providers and assistance agencies	Housing assessment questionnaire	Increase 1 "HUD-defined" housing level from housing status at intake within 90 days	Recidivism reduction
	Rapid Rehousing assistance		Salesforce	Number of housing placements	Increased public safety
	Partner providers				Sobriety/ Recovery
	Case management				
Employment Training	Transportation coverage	On-the-Job training	Training attendance/ sign-in sheet / certificate	Certificate of completion from NJRC outsourced training provider	Reduced governmental costs
	Technology	Resume construction	Computer skills checklist	Employment retention at 30, 60, 90 days	
	Employment specialists	Computer training	Video-recorded interviews		
	Partner employers	Interview preparation	Employer feedback forms		
			Pay stubs/ wage verification		

EDUCATION AND TRAINING: GATEWAY TO EMPLOYMENT

“Conventional wisdom states that finding a job is one of the most important elements for a person to successfully transition from incarceration back into the community.” And we as an agency believe there is great dignity in work. Yet, for many of our clients, they have not worked in the “above ground” economy. Our approach is straightforward: we ascertain the clients’ skills, interests, and the availability of job prospects. We test the clients using baseline measurements including those examinations sponsored by the NJDOL and organized testing including the TABE and CASAS tests; performance on academic and skill based tests determine skill proficiency and thus placement. A case manager and our job developer will then customize a job training career path, which will help to secure an income, while offering the prospect of increased academic and skill training commensurate with the clients’ interests.

The challenges of reentry have long been considered criminal justice issues alone. However, because of recidivism's far-reaching effects and outcomes, reentry efforts cannot be isolated solely in the justice system. Especially regarding the workforce, individuals who fail to reintegrate make up a significant percentage of the population, failing to support the economy and the communities to which they return.

Implementing best practices in job training and workforce development for the reentering persons will improve outcomes, narrow the skill gap, and strengthen the local economy.



According to a recent study, among 16 to 24-year-olds, high school dropouts are over six times more likely to be incarcerated than high school graduates and 63 times more likely to be incarcerated than those who have completed a bachelor's degree. The vast majority of the incarcerated population is male. However, the percentage of male dropouts arrested is 9.4 percent, while the share of male graduates who are arrested is only 1.5 percent (Khatiwada, McLaughlin, Palma, & Sum, 2009).

These educational disparities exist across racial and ethnic groups: dropouts are significantly more likely to be arrested than graduates in every racial group. There are, however, significant discrepancies among dropouts of different racial groups. Approximately 22.9 percent of African American male dropouts are incarcerated, compared to 6 to 7 percent of White, Hispanic, or Asian male dropouts and 9.4 percent of male dropouts overall (Khatiwada et al., 2009).

Moreover, New Jersey has the highest disparity in incarceration between African Americans and Whites of any state in the country can largely be attributed to the difference in education levels. The national ratio of African Americans to Whites in prison is five to one, but New Jersey's ratio is more than twice that at 12.2 to one. The same is true of the Hispanic to the White ratio: the national ratio is 1.4 to one, but the New Jersey ratio is 2.2 to one (The Sentencing Project, 2016).

These disparities are strongly linked to inequalities in education level by racial groups. For example, according to the National Center for Education Statistics Common Core of Data (NCES CCD), Whites' high school graduation rate in New Jersey is 94.0 percent, but that of African Americans is 81.5 percent, and that of Hispanics is 82.8 percent. This correlation between lower graduation rates and higher arrest rates indicates that more increased investment in education and job training, especially in low-income neighborhoods, would yield a lower disparity in incarceration between African Americans and whites.

In California, Homeboy Industries provides a similar training and job program to young men and women involved in gangs and violence in the Los Angeles area. In the late '80s, the program has worked with individuals to divert them from incarceration through training and employment. Presently, the Newark NJRC Bergen Street Reentry Site is replicating successful reentry training having over 75 persons enrolled in "industry recognized" credentialed training

60 FORMER PRISON INMATES IN NJ GET NEW CAREERS, FRESH STARTS





EMPLOYMENT

Employment provides the monetary resources necessary for basic self-sufficiency and a daily routine that creates and maintains greater stability (NJRC Summer Report). Many Newark employers have not historically considered hiring formerly-incarcerated individuals, especially those without a driver's license or high school diploma. Many individuals with criminal records face barriers to finding work long after completing their entire sentences. Further, many jobs which would otherwise be available to the reentry population are restricted by the inability to acquire licenses.

For example, the New Jersey Security Officer Registration Act (SORA) license cannot be issued to anyone "convicted, as indicated by a criminal history record background check...of: a crime of the first, second, third, or fourth degree; any offense involving the unlawful use, possession or sale of a controlled dangerous substance as defined in N.J.S.2C:35-2; or any offense where the registration of the individual would be contrary to the public interest, as determined by the Superintendent."

Similarly, at Port Newark, the Transportation Worker Identification Card (TWIC) is necessary to work for the U.S. Coast Guard or any ports, including at any Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics (TDL) jobs available at ports, which are generally background friendly. Thanks to the leadership of Mayor Baraka, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey is reexamining the long held practice of disqualifying most individuals with a criminal history from applying for a TWIC card, the lack of which bars them from working. Many similar entry-level positions are available to reentering individuals, and further restrictions often leave them with no options for employment.

Studies have shown that employment is one of the highest predictors of recidivism. For instance, a 2015 study released by the Manhattan Institute found that among non-violent offenders, those who found employment post-release exhibited a 20 percent reduction in recidivism compared to a control group. It also found that the time between release and employment impacted recidivism—finding work swiftly has a significant positive impact on the reintegration success (Yelowitz & Bollinger, 2015).



For example, NJRC strategic partner Ameer Natson was incarcerated in federal and state prisons. While in prison, he discovered his passion for cooking as a chef for the prison. Natson is known for appearing on numerous media outlets, including The Food Network's HELP YOURSELF!, BBC, ARISE 360 TV, NBC and BET. Natson has shared his culinary talents with A-list celebrities, including Beyoncé, JAY-Z, Queen Latifah, Oprah, Pharrell, LeBron James, Chris Tucker, Blair Underwood.

Chef Ameer advocates for the importance of employment and is living proof that linkage to employment yields successful results. The reentry population's specialized training and career development will also benefit employers and communities. Chef Ameer has been featured in [Chef Ameer Natson Will Launch a Co-working Space and Culinary Kitchen for Black Creatives and Chefs.](#)

In The Quintessential Gentleman story, "Natson said that he believes that his story is proof that success is not about resources or circumstances... "I graduated from the school of hard knocks with a degree in perseverance. It's about being resourceful and creative," he said. "It's about the conviction to charge ahead in spite of the challenges and critics... My commitment is to communities that look like mine and to the young people who may have been told they were never enough. I want my communities, my Black communities to know we are rich with innovation and talent and my young people to know that the sky is the limit."

During the COVID1-9 pandemic, Natson partnered with the World Central Kitchen, Chefs For America and Chef José Andrés, National Action Network, and the New Jersey Reentry Corporation to spearhead the donation and distribution more than 67,000 meals throughout the City of Newark.





David Rosenberg is the CEO of AeroFarms, an agricultural organization in Newark that focuses on urban renewal and workforce development. Rosenberg is committed to hiring from underemployed populations, specifically the reentry population. As the company website says, the mission of AeroFarms is as much one of employer benefit as of employee rehabilitation: "The AeroFarms mission is to help rekindle the once-powerful Newark economy by actualizing the potential of a lost generation of workers."

The expanding skills make specialized workforce training and more necessary for businesses. A 2012 study by the American Society for Training and Development (ASTD) found that 84 percent of surveyed members reported a skills gap in their organization. This was up from 79 percent in a 2009 survey, indicating that the skills gap is rapidly widening (American Society for Training and Development, 2012).



With such a large portion of the workforce eliminated from consideration, the lack of skilled employees only increases. If efforts are focused upon the training of the reentry population to meet employers' needs across industries, the skills gap in New Jersey will dramatically decrease and businesses will reap the benefits.





INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT PIPELINE “BEST PRACTICES”

Studies, professionals, and other programs designed to address these needs and improve workforce development outcomes provide accounts of best practices. A recent study released by the national centrist think tank Third Way outlines seven practices which the most successful programs across the country have to achieve positive and lasting economic growth: “actively engage local business, use labor market data to drive decisions, treat education like a job, connect people to careers, provide wrap-around student services, tap innovative funding sources, embrace evaluation” (Mazzara and Horwitz, 2014). lennyward@gmail.com

The same practices have been observed to be most successful and necessary by experts and organizations in the workforce and reentry fields. For example, NJRC partnered virtually with Cisco and the Camden Dream Center to train courtinvolved persons in information and communication technology (ICT) skills which are in high demand in the workforce. The pilot program trained students with real-world job skills and provided them with a certification for work in the field.

Commissioner Rob Asaro-Angelo of the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development has often stated that it is not enough to place reentering individuals in low-wage entry-level positions with no opportunity for advancement. Instead, these programs must create pathways to better careers through specialized training and post-secondary credentials. To do so, they must include a “blending of a variety of resources to be able to have literacy training, industry training, mentoring, and paid work experience.”





NJRC NEWARK REENTRY EMPLOYMENT SUCCESSES

In Newark, NJRC provides a wide variety of services for our 3,530 clients, ranging from employment skills training and job search guidance, case management, linkages to addiction treatment, and legal assistance. This model of wraparound services follows the recommended best practices outlined above.

NJRC social workers and case managers worked diligently to provide 294 persons with identification and birth certificates; 330 persons received Intensive Outpatient Treatment and/or Medication-Assisted Treatment. Over 347 clients obtained Medicaid and linkage to healthcare through Federally Qualified Healthcare Centers and hospitals.

Our Newark 936-938 Bergen Street site currently boasts an employment rate of 49 percent, with 211 persons gainfully employed and 338 persons acquiring SNAP Benefits and Cash Assistance services.



TESTIMONIALS OF NEWARK DPW/NJRC REENTRY PARTICIPANTS

In July 2021, NJRC partnered with the City of Newark to manage the City's reentry program. This program provided fifty (50) formerly incarcerated persons with employment through Newark's Department of Public Works (DPW). The court-involved persons served by this partnership receive wraparound social services from NJRC and simultaneously receive six (6) months of employment through DPW.

Of the fifty (50) participants enrolled in the NJRC/Newark DPW program, twenty-four (24) were assisted with Medicaid, and we helped twenty (20) in obtaining MVC ID or City of Newark ID. Eight (8) clients received birth certificates, four (4) had their driver's licenses restored, and were assisted with welfare benefits and housing. In January 2022, all fifty (50) participants will engage in vocational training through NJRC's partnership with Newark One-Stop.

NJRC and the City of Newark's partnership proved to be transformative for program participants, as demonstrated by the following testimonials.

Wali Lee was released from prison in 2019 after serving 34 years and said Newark Reentry has been instrumental to his reentry.

*"I am so grateful for this Second Chance, and I am in a better place in my life thanks to Ms. Peña and her great staff," he said. **"I would also like to thank the honorable Mayor Ras Baraka for the great work he is doing for the City of Newark and allowing guys such as myself to become productive members of society."***

Ernest Howell reiterated Mr. Lee's appreciation for Mayor Baraka and NJRC and DPW's partnership.

***"I am so grateful that the Mayor put this program together for the people that are having a hard time getting a good job. I am grateful for Reentry and everybody that played a part,"** he said. "God is good all the time, and I am so grateful to meet you and your program."*

Thank you very much. Keep up the good work. All of you changed my life with this program."

NJRC Newark/ DPW program participant Anthony Lindsay said:

*"First and foremost, I humbly thank every member and supporting staff member of the New Jersey Reentry center on Bergen Ave in Newark. **In addition to this letter of gratitude, I thank Ras Baraka and staff who thought more of incarcerated individuals.** These promising opportunities have changed lives, and although you may accept this thanks as just another one, I bid you repeat this thanks daily for the rest of your lives. You have shaped and changed lives for the better, and it's an absolute must you receive the utmost respect and thanks."*

Program participant Christian Chassion addressed a letter to the Mayor and the Newark NJRC team to underscore the program's impact on his life.

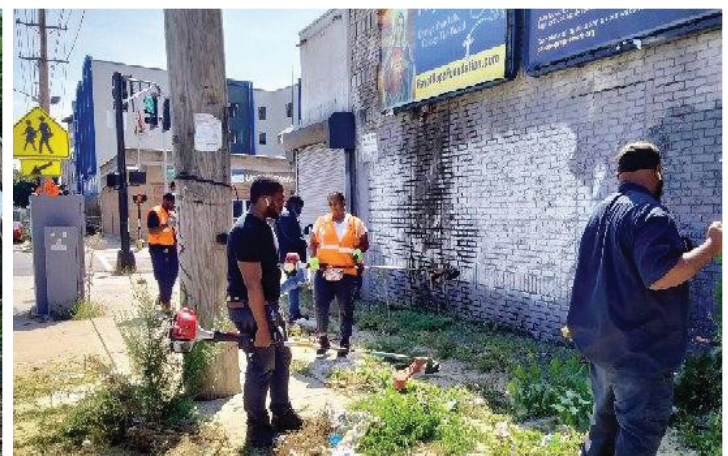
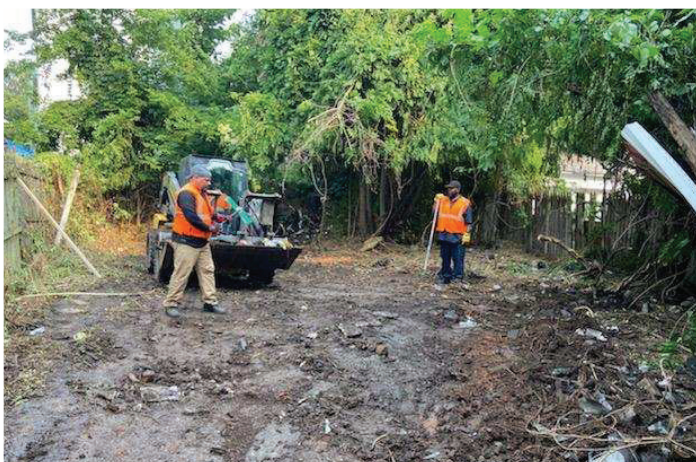
"To Mayor Ras J. Baraka And ReEntry Program:

*I'm writing this letter as a token of my appreciation for how much this program truly helped me and many others. This program enables people to obtain the necessary documentation to gain employment and teach them job readiness. And how to apply and carry yourself for gainful employment. From creating a proper resume and knowing your skill sets and your strengths and weaknesses, you know how to conduct yourself and execute an interview from start to finish. It also provides people with programs and schooling to achieve and acquire more knowledge and a particular skill set that best suits the person at hand. **The staff there honestly care and assist us with any obstacles that are holding us from gaining employment, whether it be ID, or Driver's license, Social Security Card, Birth Certificate, or schooling.***

They walk you through all the necessary steps you need to take to achieve whatever you need.

*The Reentry Program truly helped me, and by the time I completed their four-day program, I had gained employment at the Department Of Public Works. **I'm incredibly grateful I was given this opportunity by NJRC and Mayor Ras J. Baraka.** This program is highly beneficial, and I couldn't thank you enough.*

- Special thanks to Ms. Jennifer Pena, Ms. Cynthia Rojas, Ms. Dawn Bennett



Ms.Cathy Davis, Ms. Miriam Bey, Mayor Ras J. Baraka”

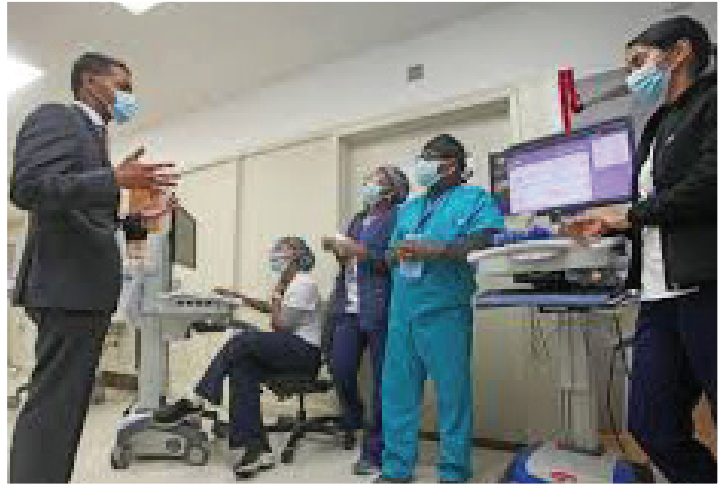
NJRC/DPW program participant Edward Kates shared his fellow participants’ appreciation for NJRC and DPW.

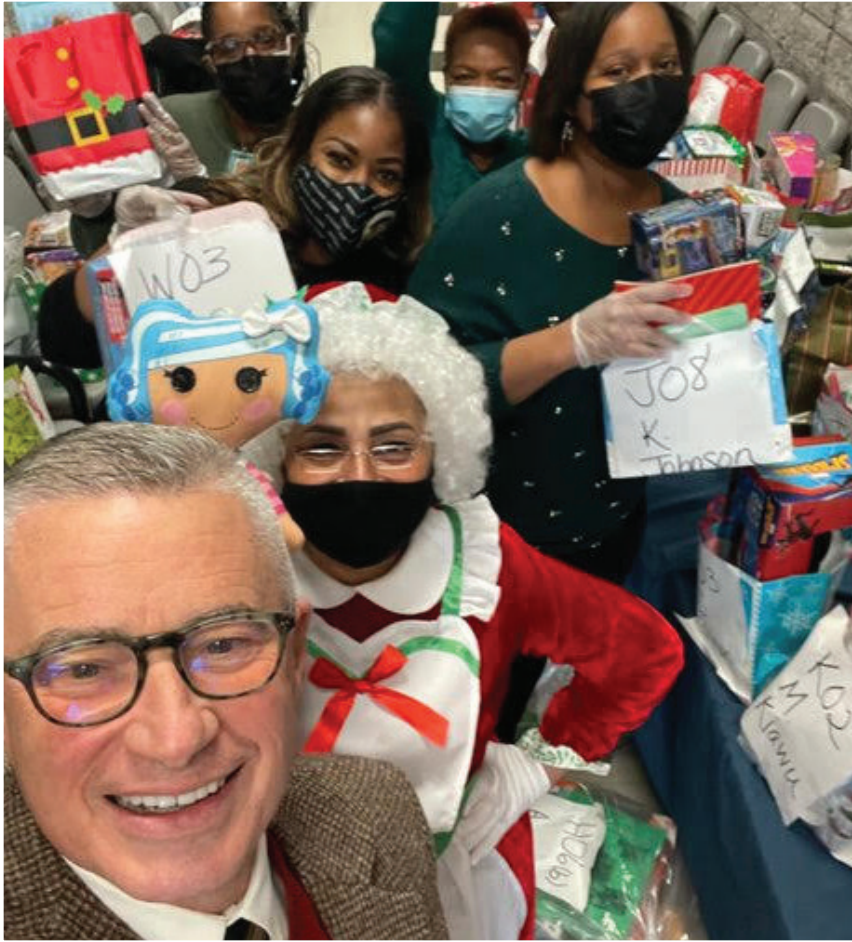
“I want to thank Mayor Ras Baraka and Reentry Corporation of New Jersey for giving me the opportunity for the job I have now and for giving opportunities for returning citizens from the City of Newark. I especially want to thank the New Jersey Reentry. They helped me get all the documents that I needed to get the job that I have now. They are a vital part of the community and for the returning citizens, so thank you very much.”

As evidenced by data and testimonials, NJRC and the City of Newark’s partnership has connected court-involved persons to critically-needed services, facilitating a successful reintegration into society upon release from state prisons, county jails, and addiction treatment centers.



**THANK YOU TO OUR MANY PARTNERS
- PHOTO REFLECTIONS ON THE PAST YEAR -**





CONCLUSION

The reinforcement of Newark reentry practices for the facilitation of long-term employment will improve outcomes, strengthen the Newark community, and reaffirm Newark on the national map as a model for criminal justice reform.

Recidivism is a self-perpetuated drain on both state resources and community well-being. The obtainment and maintenance of steady employment are most successful in bettering communities and reducing costs.

Thanks to the efforts of the Murphy Administration, the State Legislature, the Baraka Administration, and the Newark City Council, reentry employment efforts have been bolstered, having improved employment outcomes across the board. The sustained educational and healthcare programs based in the Newark community, the integration of corrections and parole with NJRC reentry, and the establishment of greater commitment by the private sector to provide employment opportunities and to partner with NJRC to develop industry specific recognized training will improve long-term employment outcomes, reduce recidivism, and improve public safety.

Ultimately, those involved in criminal justice work for the common goals of a strengthened Newark community. The improved career path options through the collaboration between NJRC and the City of Newark have established the “best working reentry model” in New Jersey. Working in close and accountable partnership with the business community and private sector will substantially the solid employment foundation, which Mayor Baraka has designed and implemented for the benefit of those returning persons.







New Jersey Reentry Corporation (NJRC)

Program Data



NJRC is committed to providing critically needed services to court-involved individuals. Case management and legal services link clients to addiction treatment, structured sober housing, job training and employment, mental health and medical care; thereby, assisting clients to achieve healthy self-sufficiency, reducing recidivism, and fostering safer communities.

10 Locations

- Bergen County • Essex County
- Hudson County • Middlesex County
- Monmouth County • Ocean County
- Passaic County • Union County

13,613 NJRC Program Participants
50,062 Persons Released in NJ 2021
3,220 NJ Overdose Deaths 2021

Sources: NJDOC/CJR Report; CDC; NJCares (adjusted)

NJRC Stats at a Glance



19.7%
Rearrest



10%
Reincarceration



1,527
Apprenticeship
Training



49.7%
Employment (adjusted seasonally)

*This includes the U.S. Department of Transportation and The Governor's Reentry Training and Employment Center



9,824
Medicaid



7,860
Intensive Outpatient
Program/Medication
Assisted Treatment



4,847
Medical
Treatment



1,894
Psychiatric Treatment Facilities
Behavioral/Mental Health



2,134
MVC Identification
Restored/Acquired



2,088
Birth Certificates
Obtained



17
Latin American Nations
Documents



2,192
Persons referred through
NJDOC MOU for Public
Health Emergency



2,680
Emergency Kits
Delivered in Prison



345
The Women's Project
Enrollment



2,744
Participants
(not PHE releasees)
Enrolled in Fiscal Year 2020



73
Pro Bono
Attorneys



For immediate assistance, please contact:
NEWARK DIRECTOR JENNIFER PENA
973.982.6888
REVEREND BOLIVAR FLORES
24/7 Emergency Hotline
201.355.6308 / bflores@njreentry.org
ROBERT CARTER
Addiction Treatment
732.948.5880 / rcarter@njreentry.org
CALVIN BASS
Men Over 30
973.816.3464 / cbass@njreentry.org



  @NJ_REENTRY  /NJREENTRY

WWW.NJREENTRY.ORG • P: 973.982.6888 • F: 201.604.7857