

# NEWARK 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



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

*ISAIAH 42:7 (KJV)*

**NEW JERSEY REENTRY CORPORATION**

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JERSEY CITY, NJ 07306

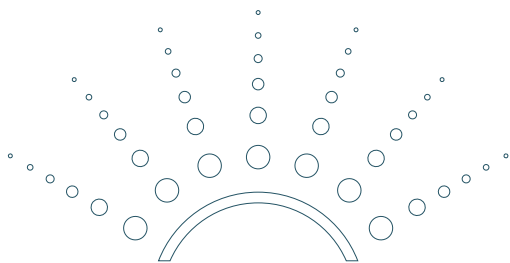
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**NJ REENTRY  
CORPORATION**

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**Board of Directors**

Governor Brendan Byrne  
(in memoriam)  
Governor Thomas Kean  
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Chief Justice Deborah Poritz  
Reverend Al Sharpton  
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**Reentry Sites**

Elizabeth  
Hackensack  
Jersey City  
Kearny  
Neptune  
New Brunswick  
Newark  
Paterson  
Sussex  
Toms River  
Virtual

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

Thank you at the outset for your attention to this report and your commitment to providing Second Chances to those persons returning from prison, jail, addiction treatment, and combat. This Annual Report fulfills our contractual commitment to the City of Newark as a reentry provider.

Since the opening of the NAN/NJRC Reentry Center, 936 Bergen Street, in 2020, NJRC has embarked upon a greatly valued partnership with the City of Newark. This past year, in 2022, has seen significant success and development in providing critically needed services to our program participants.

In 2022, we have provided comprehensive services to 654 program participants in Newark. In addition, with 499 persons referred to our Legal Services Department, NJRC secured 313 identification and birth certificate. Over 313 clients obtained Medicaid and linkage to healthcare through Federally Qualified Healthcare Centers and hospitals. Our Newark site connected 253 persons with gainful employment.

NJRC maintains its commitment to the State of New Jersey and the City of Newark to provide comprehensive wraparound services to those persons seeking a Second Chance. For example, NJRC will provide access to treatment within 24 hours for any person suffering from addiction. NJRC continues to adapt, grow, and enshrine best practices.

As we continue to provide reentry services to Newark reentry clients, we aim to provide these persons with a Second Chance that will allow them to move beyond past mistakes and begin their lives anew.

The responsibilities to assist persons with Second Chance opportunities is a shared personal and societal obligation. We are most grateful to Mayor Ras Baraka and all those who are sharing this journey with us to provide for new beginnings and Second Chances. Thank you.

Best, fondly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "James E. McGreevey".

Jim McGreevey

# 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

**18,702** NJRC Program Participants

**9,787** NJRC Jobs Secured \*

**664** NJRC Veterans Served

Sources: Salesforce, CDC; NJCares 2020

\* Individuals may have more than single employer.

## NJRC Stats - Salesforce



**19.7%**  
Rearrest



**10%**  
Reincarceration



**56.77%**  
Employment  
(adjusted seasonally)



**3,721**  
The Women's Project  
Enrollment



**13,271**  
Medicaid Enrollment



**11,445**  
Addiction Treatment  
Program



**8,619**  
Medical  
Treatment



**5,591**  
Psychiatric Treatment Facilities  
Behavioral/Mental Health



**3,822**  
Medication  
Assisted Treatment



**3,160**  
Birth Certificates  
Obtained



**3,211**  
MVC Identification  
Drivers Licenses



**73**  
Pro Bono  
Attorneys



**2,680**  
Emergency Kits  
Delivered in Prison



**1,766**  
Apprenticeship  
Training



**5,935**  
Participants Enrolled  
During PHE



**17**  
Latin American Nations  
Documents

# REPORT SUMMARY



The City of Newark has approximately 3,500 Newark reentry residents. Continued efforts to provide these persons with needs resources and services are imperative to successful reentry, community well-being, and the economy vitality of the city. When individuals return from prison, there are often a dearth of services and support. Studies continuously demonstrate this lack of services lead to unemployment, homelessness, and increased recidivism.

This report outlines the success of NJRC in providing wraparound, comprehensive services to the court-involved persons in Newark and current steps that NJRC is undertaking to improve opportunities for these persons.

The delivery of specialized reentry services 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 the Department of Corrections and the State Parole Board: 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 re-arrest and revocation.

# NEW JERSEY REENTRY CORPORATION MODEL



There is a significant need for reentry services in the country and in New Jersey. The United States has the highest incarceration rate of any country in the world, incarcerating roughly 640 persons for every 100,000 residents.<sup>1</sup> Further, the criminal justice system does not ensure that persons remain out of prison and jail upon release. Released prisoners in the United States have a 5-year re-arrest rate of 76.6 percent.<sup>2</sup> A crucial and highly necessary component of ensuring that those who are incarcerated will be able to successfully reenter society upon release are reentry programs. Research shows the undeniable impacts of three vital areas in relation to decreased rates of recidivism: (1) access to mental health services,

(2) access to services that would increase family and supportive relationships, and (3) access to stable housing.

NJRC provides comprehensive, wraparound services: (1) addiction and behavioral health treatment, (2) sober transitional housing, (3) Medicaid registration and linkage to healthcare, (4) Motor Vehicle Commission identification, (5) legal services through partnerships with through the New Jersey State Bar Association and Young Lawyers Division, (6) mentoring through faith-based and professional associations, and (7) training and employment. NJRC provides for an effective integrated service delivery model, which is

driven by licensed social workers, a biopsychosocial evaluation, and ongoing case management services through our case management system.

NJRC has ten site locations throughout northern and central New Jersey. In 2022, NJRC opened the Governor's Reentry Training and Employment Center in Kearny, New Jersey. In June, NJRC will open another site location in Carteret, Middlesex County. NJRC program participants have a re-arrest rate of 19.7 percent and a reincarceration rate of 10 percent, which are statistically better outcomes than the state norm.

New Jersey Reentry Corporation (NJRC) addresses the issues of recidivism and failure to reintegrate post-re-

lease. 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 re-arrest rate of 19.7 percent and reincarceration rate of 10 percent, based on a six-month re-arrest benchmark, tracking clients who were rearrested within six months of their enrollment in the NJRC program.

NJRC has additionally evidenced 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.

**In the last year, NJRC has served 654 participants in Newark.**

## SUPPORTIVE SERVICES



There are numerous barriers that complicate persons who have been released from prison, jail, addiction treatment, and combat as they make their reentry into society. Supportive services are often necessary to

ensure that court-involved persons can successfully address these barriers.

NJRC aims to assist its program participants by securing state and federal

benefits, for which many individuals typically qualify due, in part, to their income levels often falling below the poverty line. These benefits are often difficult for former inmates to access, given the inherent bureaucratic difficulties in applying for them. Through NJRC assistance, justice-involved individuals can access various programs from the state and the federal government, including Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), General Assistance (GA), Emergency Assistance (EA), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), and Supplemental Security Income (SSI). These human services programs play a key role in successful transition from prison to the community.

# Health Services



Given that the health of justice-involved individuals is imperative for successful reentry, NJRC ensures that all program participants have access to healthcare and provides services for addiction and mental health treatment.

According to some estimates, only 15 to 25 percent of released individuals visit a physician outside the emergency department in the first year after their release, even though around 80 percent of released individuals have chronic medical, mental, or substance abuse problems.<sup>3</sup> After 90 days of release, released inmates are 1.8 times

more likely to be hospitalized, compared to the control group.<sup>4</sup> Moreover, the reentry population uses the emergency department more often than the general population.

NJRC is focused on providing for those medical and behavioral healthcare interventions that help veterans manage multiple mental health, substance use disorder, and medical conditions. NJRC provides trauma-oriented group and individual therapy, including cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT), and provides referrals to therapeutic intervention, including Federally Qualified

Health Centers (FQHCs) and Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs), that can ensure continued access to psychiatric, mental health, and addiction treatment therapeutic intervention.

**In the past year, NJRC has enrolled 313 persons into**

# Addiction Treatment



Compared to the general population, 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 percent of inmates incarcerated for violent crimes were involved with alcohol or drugs, as were 83 percent of those incarcerated for property crimes and 77 percent of those incarcerated for public order, immigration, or weapon offenses.

Approximately 78 percent of NJRC participants have a history of alcoholism and drug addiction, and about 42

percent of their participants have a co-occurring mental illness. New Jersey Reentry Corporation (NJRC) adheres to an 18-month treatment template, which incorporates a biopsychosocial assessment and the full-range of treatment, including detoxification, residential treatment, intensive outpatient treatment, and the induction and maintenance of MAT. With cognitive behavioral therapy and mental health counselling, NJRC provides for robust “trauma-informed” behavioral care.

NJRC understands the complexity of the relationship between incarceration, SUD, corresponding treatment, as well as the effects of addiction on recidivism. As part of this goal, NJ Reentry partners with New Jersey’s designated Certified

Community Behavioral Health Centers (CCBHCs), which are certified by SAMHSA as best practice providers. For example, NJRC is partnered with Ocean Mental Health Services, which operates as one of New Jersey’s designated CCBHCs. NJRC connects many program participants with Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) programs in order for them to manage their addictions, particularly opioid use disorder, and thus focus on finding employment and successful reentry into society.

**In the past year, at the NJRC Newark site location, NJRC has referred 312 persons to addiction treatment and provided linkage to Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) to 34 persons.**



# WOMEN

Incarcerated women in New Jersey have experienced suffering, trauma, abuse and a lack of services behind the wall. These conditions create substantial impediments to their recovery, rehabilitation, and success post-release with impacts on their children and families. Through the implementation of the following programs, NJRC has acted to support court-involved women in New Jersey through its vast network of healthcare, employment, and social services programs.

In January 2022, with the largesse of Francine LeFrak, NJRC opened the Francine A. LeFrak Wellness Center at the Governor's Reentry Training and

Employment Center. The Wellness Center provides medical, behavioral, and dental diagnostic screenings, referrals, as well as, nutrition and healthy lifestyle support. The clinic works diligently to link women with premier medical and healthcare services

NJRC Nurse Navigation Program ensures formerly incarcerated women have access to critically needed medical and behavioral (addiction treatment and mental health) services. As part of this Nurse Navigation Program, NJRC offers group-based discussions, activities, and support through our "Circle of Care" initiative.

**In the past year, NJRC has assisted 82 court-involved women in Newark and enrolled 30 women in our Circle of Care program.**

# LEGAL SERVICES



NJRC's Legal Services Department of New Jersey Reentry Corporation (NJRC) removes legal obstacles that hamper our program participants' successful reintegration into society. NJRC Legal Services Coordinators open and develop communications channels between program participants and public entities such as Superior and Municipal Courts, administrative agencies, and other governmental offices that traditionally have created difficult and discouraging barriers to participants' reentry efforts.

Legal Services Coordinators assist participants with navigating the New Jersey Municipal

Courts system: they routinely secure warrant recalls, conversion of fines to time served, outright fine waivers, driver license suspension recalls, and expungements. Legal Services Coordinators also assist participants with document collection, identification retrieval, and driver license restoration, which often proves to be lengthy and work-intensive. In restoring the New Jersey driving privileges for our participants, the Legal Services Coordinators develop and execute action plans that give participants the best possible chance of success, both with their license restoration as well as their reentry in general.

NJRC has referred 499 persons to legal services (e.g., expungement, addressing fines and warrants), procured 117 birth certificates, obtained 141 Motor Vehicle Commission (MVC) identification cards and 65 City of Newark identification cards, and restored 34 licenses. In the first three months of 2023 for its Newark site location only, NJRC has revoked a total of \$78,197.75 in bails and fines for our program participants.

# EDUCATION AND TRAINING: GATEWAY TO EMPLOYMENT



It is important that court-involved persons are connected to jobs that provide meaning, purpose, and structure to their lives. As such, it is critical that these persons pursue training in certain fields in order to have well-paying jobs that will lead to careers. With the ultimate goal of securing employment for program participants, NJRC provides numerous resources for education and training, a key step that allows former inmates to attain quality employment. NJRC recognizes the inherent relationship that

lies between education level and employment opportunities.

Research has shown that providing job training to the court-involved population is key to improving their long-term prospects and reducing recidivism. One year after release, the national employment average for federal returning citizens is 37.5 percent.<sup>5</sup> NJRC has an agency-wide employment rate of 56.77 percent, adjusted seasonally. The dramatic employment difference is for those NJRC participants

who have received a licensed credential at our Training Center: for license persons, the employment rate is 92 percent. Thus, there is a 35 percent increase in employability for persons who have received industry-recognized training and credentials.

The Governor's Reentry Training and Employment Center offers "industry-recognized" credentials for program participants in various industries, including solar technology, construction,



CISCO networking, electrical work, healthcare maintenance, peer recovery, forklift, and HVAC. To make participants competitive applicants for a variety of fields, NJRC conducts evaluations of participants to determine appropriate career tracks and necessary skill training for establishing a career. Through partnerships with private businesses and accredited training vendors, program participants who complete a training course will receive “industry-recognized” credentials, complete employer onboarding, and manage federal bonding for continued employment.

In addition, NJRC offers the following “life skill” trainings: (1) Google Digital Literacy, (2)

Financial Literacy through M&T Bank and TD Bank, (3) Introduction to Computers through JPMorgan Chase, and (4) Workforce Readiness through USDOL and 1 Huddle.

There have been significant recent efforts to provide training to NJRC program participants. In 2023, NJRC implemented EMR/EMT training at its Newark site location. Program participants with an active Driver’s License have the opportunity for training which includes academic, clinical, and “ride-along” components. Employment follows this training with On Time Ambulance Services.

In addition, NJRC has a partnership with the Laborers’ International Union of North America (LIUNA), where NJRC will connect 75 program participants with 4- to 5-week training and job placement, including apprenticeship with the Union.

**NJRC has provided 601 persons with trainings in Digital Literacy through Google, Financial Literacy through TD Bank and M&T Bank, Introduction to Computers through J.P. Morgan, and Workforce Readiness through USDOL Bureau of Justice Assistance. NJRC has also enrolled 61 persons in trainings at the Governor’s Reentry Training and Employment Center.**

# ELEVATE

# EMPLOYMENT



Employment is perhaps the most critical component of reducing recidivism and allowing former offenders to provide a living for both themselves and their families. 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.<sup>6</sup>

However, prisons are at significant disadvantage when attempting to find gainful employment. Applicants with criminal records are 50 percent less likely to be requested for an interview or to receive an offer of employment.<sup>7</sup> Even when formerly incarcerated people are able to secure employment, they nonetheless

receive 10 to 40 percent less in wages than the counterpart workers who have no such incarceration history.<sup>8</sup> 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.

NJRC has established numerous partnerships with employers and individuals in local communities throughout New Jersey in order to quickly and efficiently find employment for its program participants. Through the efforts of NJRC, who works with various private business partners as well as the New Jersey Department of Labor, participants can receive accredited training and access better employment opportunities than they otherwise would have. Employment Specialists work with NJRC program participants to develop their employment skills (such as resume building, interview

preparation, criminal record workshops) and find suitable job opportunities.

NJRC has held Job Fairs in September 2022 and May 2023, with direct recruitment on a monthly basis with the following companies: FedEx, Amazon, Shoprite, Wakefern, Village Supermarket, UPS, Mass Cultivated, Pro Logisticx, New Jersey Transit, and People Ready. NJRC highly values our partnerships with employers in Newark and throughout New Jersey.

NJRC has a partnership with the City of Newark to provide court-involved persons with wraparound services and then linkage to Newark's Department of Public Works (DPW).

As a result of this program, DPW hired 57 NJRC program participants in the past year.

# CONCLUSION

In Newark, NJRC provides a wide variety of services for our 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 is founded on the mission to provide Second Chances to persons as they return from prison, jail, addiction treatment, and combat. There are many barriers that exist that make it difficult for the formerly incarcerated to not only avoid returning to prison, thus continuing the cycle of incarceration, but also to contribute meaningfully to society and the economy. NJRC provides the necessary services that allow the formerly incarcerated to overcome difficulties during the reentry process.

NJRC is committed to assisting our reentry citizens across the state and in Newark.





# PROVIDING SERVICES TO THE COMMUNITY



For immediate assistance, please contact:

**Robert Carter**

For addiction treatment information  
732.948.5880 / [rcarter@njreentry.org](mailto:rcarter@njreentry.org)

**Reverend Bolivar Flores**

24/7 Emergency Hotline  
201.355.6308 / [bflores@njreentry.org](mailto:bflores@njreentry.org)

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