



2022 Reentry Service Provider Survey Summary

DEMOGRAPHICS:

- Number of Individuals Completed Survey: 47
- Number of Reentry Organizations that completed Survey: 35

PROGRAM + SERVICE DELIVERY:

- **Types of Programs + Services Provided (ranked):**
 - Case Management - 27 responses (57%)
 - Education + Training - 26 responses (55%)
 - Employment - 25 responses (53%)
 - Health Services (including substance use disorder treatment and mental health support) - 24 responses (51%)
 - Peer Support - 21 responses (48%)
 - Housing - 19 responses (40%)
 - Transportation - 20 responses (42%)
 - Food Support (excluding EBT assistance) - 15 responses (31%)
 - Other responses included domestic violence intervention services, mentorship programs, religious/ministry programs, and connecting individuals to other external resources.
- **Responses by Geographic Area of Programs + Services**
 - Region 1: 1
 - Region 2: 1
 - Region 3: 0
 - Region 4: 9
 - Region 5: 0
 - Region 6: 2
 - Region 7: 1
 - Region 8: 0
 - Region 9: 7

- Region 10: 6
- Statewide: 12

- **Funding Streams (ranked):**
 - MDOC Contracts - 19 responses (41%)
 - Individual Donors - 17 responses (37%)
 - Foundation Funding - 14 responses (30%)
 - Federal Funding - 13 responses (28%)
 - Local Government Funding - 10 responses (21%)
 - Other State Funding - 10 responses (21%)

- **Eligibility Criteria to Receive Services (ranked):**
 - Probation or Parole Status - 23 responses (52%)
 - Criminal Case History - 13 responses (30%)
 - Mental Health Diagnosis - 8 responses (18%)
 - Gender - 7 responses (16%)
 - Age - 6 responses (14%)
 - Time since release from incarceration - 6 responses (14%)
 - Veteran Status - 2 responses (5%)
 - Other responses include: substance use disorders (4 of the responses), parents/families (2 responses) and some have no requirements.
 - Some detailed that the eligibility criteria depends on the specifications for certain funded grants. Further, some detail that most of the clients they serve are currently on active probation or parole and are directly referred to their services/program. Many programs require individuals to be 18 years of age or older.

- **Number of Individuals served on an Annual Basis:**
 - 0-50 - 12 responses (32%)
 - 51-100- 7 responses (19%)
 - 101-250 - 10 responses (27%)
 - 251-500 - 5 responses (14%)
 - 501+ - 3 responses (8%)

- **Typical length of time you provide services to individuals:**
 - 1-3 months - 6 responses (13 %)
 - 3-6 months - 7 responses (15%)

- 6 months - 1 year - 14 responses (30.4%)
- 1-2 years - 16 responses (34.8%)
- 2+ years - 3 responses (6.5%)
- **Specific resources for women/transgender/non-conforming individuals:**
 - 50% of respondents said they do have specific programming for these groups of individuals. Some of these responses provided additional details about the specific resources they offer including, but not limited to: having a women's center, women peer mentors, women treatment services (including substance abuse treatment), and women only housing.

REENTRY LANDSCAPE IN MICHIGAN:

What do you think is working best for reentry in Michigan right now?

- **Top areas referenced:** Employment (16), State Based Reentry Services (13), Social Support including social/peer support (11) and CBO Reentry Services (11).
- **Specific Quotes to Highlight:**
 - **Peers. When we were in prison we relied on one another to get the lay of the land and it only makes sense that would work out here as we well. (Peers)**
 - Peer support and bringing more formerly incarcerated people to positions of power and influence. (Peer)
 - I think the use of peers is essential to reentry programming. I also think the efforts being made to implement MAT or see to the continuity of care for those on MAT when they transition from the community to the facility and from the facility back to the community. (Peer + Continuity of Care)
 - The MDOC has come a long way in terms of preparing incarcerated individuals for release, including Vocational Village and partnerships due to Offender Success.
 - Strong coalition engagement across the state that is focused on core issues. Some state funding support/buy-in to provide better reentry services.
 - The emphasis on how unjust our system is and telling people's stories is educating the public to not be afraid of people with records
 - The more that employers are felon friendly and offering competitive wages, the less chances of recidivism (in my opinion). People have bills, if they aren't given

an equal chance to even just decent pay, they will do what they have to do to provide for their families.

- There seems to be changes in the community & how returning citizens are viewed - less background checks, ban the box movements
- **It is a job seekers market currently and employers are more willing to hire this population. (Employment)**

What are the biggest challenges for reentry in Michigan right now?

- **Top areas referenced:** Housing (26), State Based Reentry Services - specifically lack of cohesion/redundancy of resources + lack of funding (12), Employment (9), Transportation (8)
- **Specific Quotes to Highlight:**
 - Stigma in the community associated with felony convictions, criminal backgrounds, etc. remains a huge barrier in Michigan. Affordable housing options for newly released individuals. Transportation in rural areas.
 - **There are no resources after a client is discharged from Offender Success and they typically do not serve people longer than 90 days. Housing is a huge issue for us in Washtenaw County. Clients are able to find jobs, but unable to find secure affordable independent housing. Health care is also a major barrier.**
 - Not enough money to assist the returning citizens needing the most help effectively. MDOC makes the rules for services needed without consulting providers who are providing the services.
 - Bias against returning citizens and making them pay for their crime over and over again.
 - The Criminal Justice Culture. Jails and prisons tend to create obstacles rather than working efficiently to help a client.
 - Housing and transportation are our biggest hurdles in that order. While we don't work in the counseling/psychiatric fields, we also see that through the pandemic, many great counselors have retired, quit, or were burnt out. That leaves our clients with struggles on how to cope with not only returning to society, but also a pandemic. Its not uncommon to speak with a client and have them mention they are on their third/fourth counselor.
 - Those organizations don't know the individuals returning to the community prior to release. Organizations don't know if someone is work ready, what their needs

and supports will be, etc. The Workforce Development File is not made available to the Organizations assisting with Employment until after their first meeting with the individual, which is way too late for utilization of that document. Those staff would need it well in advance to review, prep employers, and understand areas of need/focus. Housing is also a huge need... not emergency housing, but long term, independent housing options. Shelters and MDOC Housing are great for a short time, but more needs to be done to advocate for and assist these individuals toward what comes next.

- **(housing) Accessing affordable housing is challenging. Also, criminal history and previous evictions remain a barrier with landlords. Often times individuals will be in a revolving cycle of serving short jail sentences for low-level, non-violent crimes stemming from mental illness or substance use disorders that ultimately result in the loss of housing and other needed services. Resources are then spent re-engaging individuals and locating new housing options. Each similar cycle results in another barrier to stability and successful reentry.**

Are there any specific policy or practice changes you would like to see to improve reentry services in Michigan?

- **Top areas referenced:** State based reentry services - specifically around vital document obtainment (12), Housing - specifically around affordable housing + background checks (11), legislative changes - including ban the box for employment, expungement, exoneree support, and universal basic income (7)
- **Specific Quotes to Highlight:**
 - I would like to see Offender Success monies be distributed across agencies instead of dispersed to single agencies in a region. Not that they don't do good work but I believe the work could be done better if more specialized.
 - We need funding to provide case management services to people beyond the brief window of time they can access Offender Success programming. we need housing that is affordable and policy changes could impact that incredibly. Many clients are still returning to the community without basic forms of I.D. All of these things take time our clients often to not have the technical skills to obtain these things independently.

- Training for Jails and Prisons. Maybe having a Re-Entry specialist specifically located in county jails. Train all of the probation and parole agents to help change culture from accountability to helping a client.
- 1) HUD laws should be changed to allow people with lifetime on the registry. 30,000 people in Michigan are on its registry for life. 2) Assisted Living places should take people on the registry if there is an assessment showing that they are no more a danger than any average person who needs assisted living. 3) There should be no mandatory lifetime tether law in Michigan. Instead, if there is a tether, it should be based on individual risk assessment. 4) Michigan's registry should also be based on risk assessment, not on the offense conviction, which could be decades ago.
- Ban the box on employment & apartment applications & higher education. More mental health services within prisons -- life skills training in prisons** -- more funding towards the vocational villages -- allowing life time sex offenders to be eligible for section 8 -- an Offender Success type program for folks on probation. We see a lot of our folks who get stuck in the system, starting at the probation level, if there was supportive programming available to help them at that point, it could be a possibility to prevent them from going to prison in the first place. We know that a lot of folks break the law to meet ends meet - lack of public assistance & education, so if we can help them before (think school to prison pipeline), maybe we could make a difference in how many go into the system.**One of the biggest expenses for a re-entry program is housing - while also working on obtaining ID, employment, mental health, substance abuse, domestic violence, etc. Prisons focusing more on rehabilitation, life skills in prison, more mental health services, financial planning skills, mentorship, etc...implementing this pre-release could make a noticeable difference in recidivism rates -- studies have actually proven some efficacy with this method in pre & post release programs in Texas.
- We still have work to do regarding systems. Even if this population is able to secure employment following reentry, they often still pay higher costs for housing, transportation, and other needs as a result of credit history, background records, etc.