



DCRC

DELAWARE CORRECTIONAL REENTRY COMMISSION

2021-2024

# DELAWARE RECIDIVISM REDUCTION SYSTEM BLUEPRINT

# INTRODUCTION

This Blueprint sets forth policy and project priorities for 2021-2024 for the State of Delaware's ongoing work to improve prisoner reentry into the community following a term of incarceration. The Delaware Correctional Reentry Commission (DCRC) was established in 2019 and formally sunset in 2020 when Executive Order 27 expired and the nineteen prisoner reentry improvement objectives in the Executive Order were accomplished. Following the tremendous momentum during DCRC's two-year tenure, the DCRC identified additional system improvements, policy issues, and projects that would improve the state of prisoner reentry in Delaware. This Blueprint sets forth those objectives for future work, outlines the new governance structure of DCRC, and sets benchmarks against which to measure system improvements.

# HISTORY OF THE DELAWARE CORRECTIONAL REENTRY COMMISSION

While the DCRC's work began in January 2019, the effort to create an effective reentry system in Delaware started several years before. It is important to recognize the role of the National Criminal Justice Reform Project (NCJRP) in providing technical expertise to our state. Funded by Arnold Ventures, the NCJRP worked with a group of Delawareans to develop the Delaware Recidivism Reduction System Blueprint, which mapped out many of the detailed goals and objectives contained in Governor Carney's Executive Order. The development of the Blueprint helped identify the target population to be prioritized by the system reform efforts and programs that were launched: those who had served at least a year or more in a Delaware prison and were at moderate to high risk to reoffend. The Blueprint also identified the evidence-based practices for reducing recidivism that were to be included in the reform efforts and in new programs. Governor Carney's Executive Order directed the DCRC to accomplish nineteen specific tasks.



## THESE TASKS FOCUSED HEAVILY ON THE FOLLOWING:

- ✓ Improving the transition from correctional custody to communities.
- ✓ Increasing public safety.
- ✓ Reducing recidivism.
- ✓ Making better use of resources in correctional facilities.
- ✓ Expanding partnerships with communities, nonprofit services providers, reentry advocates, and statewide justice-oriented membership organizations.

A [final report](#) was published in December 2020, which provides a detailed summary of the nineteen objectives and how they were accomplished. The Executive Order also tasked the DCRC with identifying the next set of reentry priorities. To fulfill that requirement, DCRC asked staff from Social Contract to facilitate out-briefing sessions with each DCRC working group. The out-brief meetings were facilitated as focus groups to identify what subject matter working groups felt were important reentry improvements that should be tackled next. The recommendations of each working group, as captured by Social Contract and reviewed by the DCRC Executive Committee, are listed in the final report.

# PROCESS FOR CREATING THE DELAWARE RECIDIVISM REDUCTION SYSTEM BLUEPRINT FOR 2021-2024

Following the DCRC’s official sunset in December 2020, outgoing DCRC Chair Adam Balick and then-DOC Commissioner Claire DeMatteis convened representatives from the Governor’s Office, the Department of Correction, and the Delaware Criminal Justice Council to establish a Transition Team that would be responsible for drafting the 2021-2024 Blueprint.

## The following individuals were invited to serve on the DCRC Transition Team:

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### Claire DeMatteis

Commissioner, Department of Correction

### Christian Kervick

Executive Director, Delaware Criminal Justice Council

### Monroe Hudson

Deputy Commissioner, Department of Correction

### Valarie Tickle

Senior Planner, Delaware Criminal Justice Council

### Joanna Champney

Chief of Planning, Research, & Reentry, Department of Correction

### Darrell Miller

Education Associate, Department of Education

### Jessica Cline

Director of Reentry, Department of Correction

### Hon. Charles Butler

Resident Judge, Superior Court

### Romain Alexander

Criminal Justice Policy Advisor, Office of the Governor

### Corie Priest

Community Engagement Specialist, Department of Justice

### Meghan Wallace

Family Services Cabinet Council

### Darryl Chambers

University of Delaware

## Staffing and Facilitation Support from Social Contract:

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**Alonna Berry**

**Bradley Owens**

**Carling Ryan**

**Danielle Fisher**



**From March through August 2021**, the Transition Team met virtually to review the recommendations for future work, finalize a governance structure for the next iteration of DCRC, and identify participants for the Executive Committee and the working groups. The recommendations for future work were edited for clarity and feasibility and, in some cases, subject matter experts were invited to provide additional input. For example, the recommendations from the DCRC Housing Workgroup were further explored and expanded in a focus group with housing advocates and housing system administrators.

A lesson learned during the 2019-2020 DCRC period was that the next iteration of the DCRC should include metrics to assess measurable gains in areas of housing, employment, education, and medical/behavioral health for reentrants. To that end, the Transition Team identified which of the new objectives lent themselves to measuring a baseline status and an improvement goal. Each working group will be tasked with analyzing relevant data to report on those domains and sharing that information with the Executive Committee.

## GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

In the next iteration of efforts, the DCRC will operationalize their future work under the Governor's Family Services Cabinet Council (FSCC). Through this structure, the DCRC will report directly to the Governor's Office, fostering executive-level investment in the DCRC's initiatives across numerous state agencies. The FSCC allows for greater accountability from Cabinet Secretaries and their agencies and creates a balance in leadership responsibilities for the agencies on shared efforts.

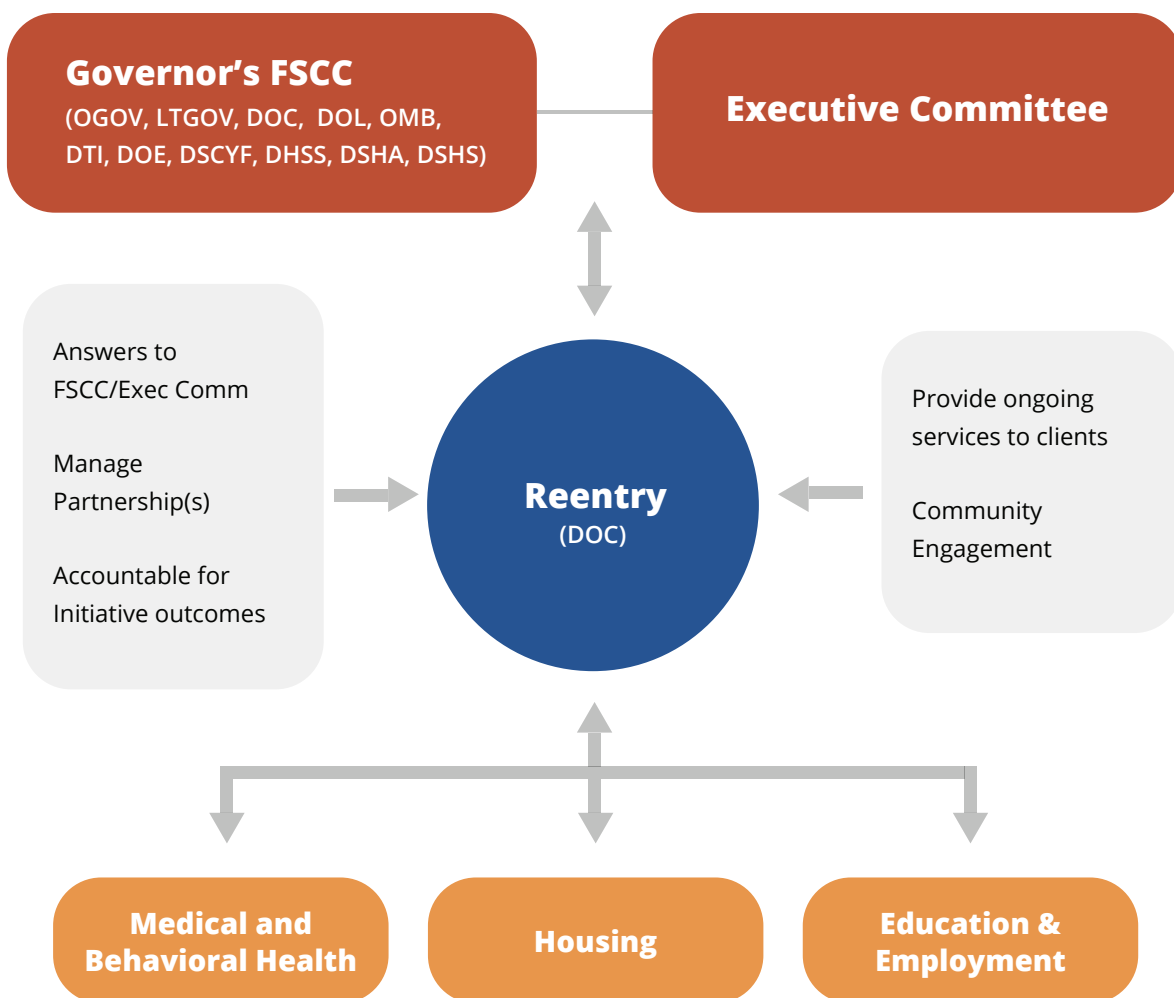
The organizational model includes an Executive Committee, composed of high-level agency leadership responsible for the success of the initiative. The Committee functions as a standing, interagency steering committee for an evolving and expanding initiative. Executive Committee members will have decision-making authority, as well as a connection to the work and its implementation. This operational entity allows for consensus decision making across partners via monthly meetings, enables continuous communication, facilitates problem-solving across partners, and contributes to agency investment in the shared initiative and its objectives. Workgroup leadership, outlined later in this Blueprint, is also represented on the Executive Committee to foster continuity in communication and elevation of challenges related to implementation across agencies. Memoranda of understanding will bind the joint agreements across agency partners to strengthen the opportunities for collaboration and the "staying power" of the work.

Under and through this operating model, agency staff at the Department of Correction (DOC) provide a centralized capacity for the initiative, with support from those staffing the FSCC and from the Delaware Criminal Justice Council. DOC staff will engage in both the FSCC and Executive Committee to foster the sharing of institutional knowledge, promote consistent communication, and ensure alignment of objectives across working groups and with the Executive Committee. Responsible for the overall initiative outcomes, the DOC manages partnerships, provides ongoing services to clients, and leads community engagement.

The workgroups (Medical & Behavioral Health, Housing, and Education & Employment) drive the implementation of specific initiative objectives. Workgroup members are assigned operational staff of agencies who are closest to the implementation of the work. While the Executive Committee provides direction and problem-solving support, the workgroups are responsible for the implementation and tracking of specific outcomes, as articulated in this Blueprint.

Each identified workgroup, as well as the Department of Correction’s dedicated staff, will engage stakeholders and community members in their work and seek frequent and ongoing feedback during the course of implementation. The DOC staff, through the support of FSCC staff, Criminal Justice Council staff, and the Executive Committee, will establish a stakeholder engagement strategy, associated plan, and ongoing engagement opportunities.

The organizational structure for the DCRC’s future efforts is articulated in the operational model below. This model enables ongoing coordination and collaboration around shared objectives to improve the experiences and outcomes of Delaware’s returning citizens.



## Executive Committee

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<b>Monroe B. Hudson Jr</b>	Commissioner, Department of Correction
<b>Joanna Champney</b>	Director, Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health, Department of Health and Social Services
<b>Jessica Cline</b>	Director of Reentry, Department of Correction
<b>Eugene Young</b>	Secretary, Delaware State Housing Authority
<b>Karryl Hubbard</b>	Secretary, Department of Labor
<b>Maureen Whelan</b>	Director, Adult and Prison Education, Department of Education
<b>Christian Kervick</b>	Executive Director, Criminal Justice Council
<b>*Kevin O'Connell</b>	Chief Defender, Office of Defense Services
<b>*Charles E. Butler</b>	Resident Judge, Superior Court of Delaware
<b>*Corie Priest</b>	Community Engagement Specialist, Department of Justice
<b>Alonna Berry</b>	FSCC Liaison

*\*Indicates advisory member*

## Workgroup Co-Chairs

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### Medical & Behavioral Health Workgroup

<b>Michael Records</b>	Deputy Bureau Chief, Bureau of Healthcare, Substance Abuse, and Mental Health, Department of Correction
<b>Joanna Champney</b>	Director, Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health, Department of Health and Social Services

### Housing Workgroup

<b>Devon Manning</b>	Planner IV, Delaware State Housing Authority
<b>Janneen Boyce</b>	Policy Chief, Division of Social Services, Department of Health and Social Services

### Employment & Education Workgroup

<b>Richard Fernandes</b>	Director, Division of Employment and Training, Department of Labor
<b>Darrell E. Miller, D.B.A.</b>	Education Associate, Adult & Prison Education Delaware Department of Education

# REPORTING EXPECTATIONS

DCRC Working Groups will be expected to report to the Executive Committee as follows:

**Work Group Chairs will be expected to produce the following:**

- Quarterly progress reports on deliverables  
By 6 months (Y1Q2), identify baselines and set target goal
- Workgroups should create a prioritization workplan for guiding the activities over 3 years
- Each quarterly report should detail how the group has represented the DCRC agenda at their other respective stakeholder/industry groups (for example, how has the Housing Workgroup represented the DCRC housing agenda to the Continuum of Care?)

**Annual report 1- progress reports on deliverables; baseline metrics and goal metric identified**

**Annual report 2- progress reports on deliverables and progress toward goal metric**

**Annual report 3- final progress report on deliverables and progress toward goal metric**



## Community Engagement

Building on a legacy of strong community engagement during the 2019-2020 DCRC period, community engagement will continue to be a critical component of the next three years of reentry reforms. The DCRC Transition Team has identified the following mechanisms for ensuring a two-way street of receiving input from the community and communicating progress by DCRC:

- ✓ The Delaware Criminal Justice Council plans to continue offering in-person summits and/or webinars and holding its public hearings on criminal justice.
- ✓ DCRC Executive Committee representatives will attend two meetings annually of the Partnership in Reentry Coalition of Delaware to provide updates and collect feedback.
- ✓ DOC will continue holding educational public webinars on topics relevant to prisoner reentry and incarceration in Delaware.
- ✓ The Department of Justice will continue to hold public engagement forums around prisoner reentry topics.



# DCRC BLUEPRINT 2021-2024

The following objectives have been identified for the DCRC working groups to address during the period of 2021-2024. Objectives are organized according to the assigned committee.



## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### Determine reentrants' employment, behavioral health service utilization, and housing success in order to inform the "state of the state" on reentry.

The collection, tracking, and analysis of data are important in understanding the state's reentry outcomes. The Delaware Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) produces a robust annual report of recidivism data. However, the state does not quantify how many returning citizens are placed in housing, employed, or enrolled in healthcare or behavioral health services upon release. DCRC recommends supporting an annual report that contains this information so that gaps in the service continuum can be identified. The Medical & Behavioral Health, Employment & Education, and Housing Workgroups will provide the respective data needed for this report to the Executive Committee.

- 1** *The Executive Committee should compile the individual reports from the working groups on reentrant employment, health service utilization, and housing attainment into a master "state of the state on reentry" report. Reports should be titled "Annual Report on the State on Reentry" and shall be produced at the end of Years 1, 2, and 3 (final report). The 3rd Year Final Report should contain blueprint transition recommendations for the next administration.*

Note: It is our recommendation that the DCRC should not automatically sunset at end of current administration; however, year 3 is an opportunity to identify and update relevant reentry improvement aspects to prioritize during the next administration.

- 2** *The Executive Committee should obtain quarterly progress reports from workgroups. Quarterly reports should include updates on data in the assigned categories.*

## Ensure the State's recidivism analysis includes information about Violations of Probation (VOPs) and that the State's working recidivism definition is appropriate.

VOPs continue to be a topic of high interest among the criminal justice community in relation to their impact on reentrants returning to prison.

- 1 *The Executive Committee should support the Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) in incorporating VOP analyses in its annual recidivism report so that VOP rates and their contributions to prison entry can be monitored. The report should include a specific focus on detentioners held on violations of probation.*
- 2 *The Executive Committee should continue to evaluate whether the State's working definition of recidivism is appropriate*

## The Executive Committee should continue to identify solutions for reducing returns to custody, by engaging Bureau of Community Corrections, Probation & Parole and building on existing efforts.

Substantial work has been done to reduce the number of probation violations by formalizing the use of graduated responses (incentives and sanctions) by Probation & Parole and increasing probationers' motivation to comply with probation terms through engagement strategies such as EPICS and GVI.

- 1 *The Executive Committee should support DOC, Bureau of Community Corrections in identifying, expanding, and building upon existing evidence-based supervision strategies designed to effect behavior change in reentrants.*
- 2 *The Executive Committee should support BCC in identifying case management and discharge planning implementation strategies that would assist Probation and Parole Officers in neutralizing barriers to successful reentry.*

## Expand awareness of identifying and responding to trauma among justice-involved populations and identify solutions for incorporating trauma-informed approaches.

Transformational reentry work can only be sustained if the reentry workforce operates with deep knowledge and understanding of evidence-based practices. There is a need for enhanced training among providers and probation officers to better equip them for reentry support, including trauma-informed approaches to their work. Providers and probation officers should receive enhanced training in evidence-based reentry processes, including what services are available and how to make the connection to services in the community. The entire reentry workforce must operate with a keen understanding of the impact of trauma, its role in reentry, and trauma-informed approaches.

- 1 *The Executive Committee should identify ways to integrate ACE score variables in data analysis.*
- 2 *The Executive Committee should create a policy/procedure assessment plan to identify change opportunities within state agencies [ensure alignment with Delaware trauma plan].*

- 3 *The Executive Committee should consider the system's responsibility for addressing trauma among families of justice-involved individuals. The Committee should identify gaps in system capacity for providing trauma-informed services.*
- 4 *The Executive Committee should identify ways to embed trauma-informed practices in service provision contracts (incentivize ability to provide trauma informed services/approaches).*

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## Ensure that reentrants are engaged in reentry reform work.

Delaware's future reentry efforts must include improving the diversity of its contributors. It is essential to elevate the voices, values, and needs of those impacted by reentry services. This work demands the engagement of formerly justice-involved individuals, family members of those incarcerated, and providers who specialize in services that support returning citizens.

- 1 *The Executive Committee should host listening sessions and vet the Blueprint with reentrants to solicit regular feedback about the priorities of the DCRC. This includes both successful and unsuccessful reentrants.*
- 2 *The Executive Committee should embed the expectation that all workgroups regularly conduct feedback sessions with the population re: their workgroup priorities and projects.*

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## Build capacity among community providers to support reentry work.

To advance reentry work, there must be an ongoing, coordinated effort to ensure strategic resources. The State should build robust infrastructure and educational opportunities related to fundraising for organizations in this space. There are many providers and grassroots organizations that are advocating for and working towards positive change in the reentry sector; however, they lack the capacity to secure resources for their work. A coordinated effort to support providers and organizations with securing resources will better support the State's reentry goals.

- 1 *The Executive Committee should conduct an analysis of the needs of reentrants, perform an assessment of the existing reentry service provider landscape (menu of services, populations served, funds committed), and determine whether the services available are adequate to support reentrants' needs.*
- 2 *The Executive Committee should continue supporting the existing efforts to provide Criminal Justice Council grant writing workshops for community organizations and educate providers about availability of mini grants.*
- 3 *The Executive Committee should identify a method for delivering Engagement Skill Training, such as the best way to intervene with justice involved individuals when concerns or high-risk behaviors are identified. The community variation of the EPICS training (EPICS I; EPICS for Influencers) received by probation officers should be considered for community providers who will continue to serve justice involved citizens after release from probation.*
- 4 *The Executive Committee should support the delivery of advocacy training for community providers. Training should include information on how to engage in dialogue with legislators regarding reentry reforms.*
- 5 *The Executive Committee should ensure the provision of training for the community about the basics of the criminal justice process, such as what happens after arrest and how concerned family members can obtain information about their loved one.*



## MEDICAL & BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

### Compile a recommendation regarding a single platform to share case management information.

Though we have made important improvements in the way certain state agencies share information through individual information sharing agreements, more is needed. An integrated system will better enable each of the state agencies that play a role in case management to communicate and follow progress more effectively.

- 1 *The work group should produce a recommendation about what data is critical to share, what state agencies and partners need access to the data, and whether DTRN is suitable to fulfill this recommendation.*
- 2 *The workgroup should develop and implement shared data agreements where necessary for purposes of clinical and social care continuity and quality improvement between DOC and Department of Substance Abuse and Mental Health (DSAMH).*

### Expand peer support services that engage reentrants.

Peer coaches have a unique perspective, having previously experienced reentry themselves. They are a critical resource for men and women returning to the community. DOC and DSAMH recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which includes a commitment to developing an infrastructure for peer support services.

- 1 *The workgroup should ensure that a DSAMH-funded partnership for peer training of incarcerated individuals occurs.*

Baseline Metric	Goal Metric
Identify how many individuals receive peer certification via Mental Health Association/ DSAMH while incarcerated.	Identify a specific and appropriate improvement goal to be achieved within 36 months.

- 2 *The workgroup should advocate for funds to be earmarked by the State for oversight of peers by a community-based organization so that the work of certified peer support coaches can be integrated into the DOC reentry infrastructure.*
- 3 *The workgroup should create a guide for peers who want to get involved in mentoring or volunteering, including a standardized curriculum/training for “reentry peers.”*
- 4 *The workgroup should ensure that each prison has robust Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, and relevant curriculum-supported and in-reach peer groups.*
- 5 *The workgroup should investigate whether a prison-based program should be created to serve individuals who are gang involved or who have histories of firearms offenses and/or histories of being a shooting victim. Consider specific programming to address these risk factors and consider coupling the program with a peer support component.*

Baseline Metric	Goal Metric
Identify how many self-help behavioral health peer support groups are present at Level IV and V correctional facilities and how many incarcerated people are participating.	Identify a specific and appropriate improvement goal to be achieved within 36 months.
Identify how many participants are engaging with the sponsor organization post-release.	Identify a specific and appropriate improvement goal to be achieved within 36 months.

- 6 *The workgroup should clarify DOC’s policy on peer access to the prisons in relation to security clearance and the appropriate process for requesting special consideration of peers with criminal histories.*

## Determine how many reentrants with behavioral health conditions access services in the community post-release.

The Executive Committee will compile and create a report on the “state of the state on reentry,” and must include information about how many reentrants with behavior health conditions access services in the community post-release.

- 1 *The workgroup shall produce an annual report-out on how many reentrants with behavioral conditions released from correctional facilities are referred for services post-release and how many individuals access the services for which they were referred.*

Baseline Metric	Goal Metric
<p>Identify how many reentrants with behavioral conditions released from prison terms are referred for behavioral health services post-release and how many individuals access the services for which they were referred (consider whether data can be stratified into categories of detentioner, jail inmate, prison inmate, probationer, etc.)</p>	<p>Identify a specific and appropriate improvement goal to be achieved within 36 months.</p>

## Ensure that behavioral health treatment options in Delaware prison facilities are adequate and aligned with national best practices.

DOC and DSAMH are partnering to expand Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) options for individuals with opioid use disorders. This includes certifying DOC facilities to become certified dispensing sites for evidence-based treatments so that MAT medications can be stored onsite.

- 1 *The workgroup should continue supporting DOC’s certification process and support efforts for expanding medication and treatment options for MAT for incarcerated individuals with opiate use disorders.*
- 2 *The workgroup should continue supporting DOC’s Naloxone education and distribution efforts*

## Evaluate the linkage to Medicaid and Medicaid related services for reentrants.

- 1 *The workgroup should support coordination among DOC, Managed Care Organizations, and DSAMH to streamline services and increase efficiency in service delivery.*
- 2 *The workgroup should produce regular reports that quantify the number of individuals leaving prison who experience indicators of instability, potentially to include IMD admissions, overdoses, or behavioral health emergency room visits within a specified duration post release. This analysis should identify gaps in services, additional intercept points for services, and any other emergent trends that could be addressed and lead to a more successful release from incarceration.*



## EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION

### Strengthen the vocational training options available to incarcerated individuals and ensure inmates’ equitable access to and credit for those programs.

Vocational training programs should prioritize the adoption of industry recognized credentials for all current and future vocational and industry programs. Apprenticeship programming should be considered so incarcerated individuals have the opportunity to accrue supervised apprenticeship hours while incarcerated.

- 1** *The workgroup should review DOC’s menu of all vocational training occurring in the prisons and determine if the training is adequate and make recommendations for addressing gaps.*
- 2** *The workgroup should work with the DOC’s Director of Classification to ensure the process of inmate assessment and classification to education/vocational training is consistent and equitable across all Level V sites.*
- 3** *The workgroup should review alignment of all Prison Education service hours with goodtime in DOC’s computerized offender management system.*
- 4** *The workgroup should identify and implement at least one apprenticeship pathway for incarcerated people and implement the program at a Level V institution.*
- 5** *The workgroup should ensure that the 2nd Chance Pell Grant program partnership with Del Tech is fully implemented in the pilot prison sites to offer associate degree opportunities in the human service sector.*

Baseline Metric	Goal Metric
Identify how many incarcerated reentrants are participating in the pilot program.	Identify a specific and appropriate improvement goal to be achieved within 36 months.

- 6** *The workgroup should ensure that the NCCER Core vocational certification is fully implemented at Level V prisons statewide, with a clear designation of which state agency is administering the program at each prison site.*

- 7 *The workgroup should fully execute the operation of a vocational skills center at James T. Vaughn Correctional Center and should consider the vocational village model utilized in other correctional jurisdictions.*
- 8 *The workgroup should obtain existing directories of vocational training programs in the community that are accessible to individuals released from prison. This information should be furnished to the prisons and probation offices.*
- 9 *The workgroup should share the Vocational Surveys administered by DOE/DOC with the DOL on a continuing basis to inform training planning.*
- 10 *The workgroup should explore job readiness certification/card that could be earned by reentrants.*
- 11 *The workgroup should expand the number of incarcerated students earning GEDs and high school diplomas as a component of reentrants' readiness to join the workforce.*

Baseline Metric	Goal Metric
Identify how many incarcerated reentrants are earning GEDs and high school diplomas, with consideration of eligibility based on sentence length, special education status, etc.	Identify a specific and appropriate improvement goal to be achieved within 36 months.
Identify how many incarcerated reentrants achieve advances in educational attainment.	Identify a specific and appropriate improvement goal to be achieved within 36 months.

## Strengthen connections to work for inmates completing vocational training while incarcerated.

A successful transition to the community depends upon employment. A more robust process for providing access to vocational training is needed. Prison-based programs should prepare incarcerated individuals for their release through work-based learning experiences. To connect justice-involved individuals with employment, Delaware needs to intentionally and strategically build bridges to employers that are ready and willing to hire people returning to the community. To support that process, the DCRC is recommending that the State engage dedicated employees whose responsibilities include facilitating wraparound support for successful reentry and employer engagement. The DCRC also supports the DOC, DOE, and DOL's plan to create an Industry Advisory Board that would help to steer vocational training priorities at the prisons.

- 1 *The workgroup should create and/or expand existing Industry Advisory Boards for the industries represented by the most heavily utilized vocational training programs in the prisons.*
- 2 *The workgroup should explore if an employee should be designated to act as an employment placement specialist to work at the case-level for participants in designated vocational programs; if so, the workgroup should identify a staff person to fulfill this role.*



- 3 *The workgroup should ensure that the State employs and sustains an issue ambassador for reentrant employment. This ambassador will focus on engaging employers on overcoming criminal history barriers and promote the positive branding of employing reentrants.*
- 4 *The workgroup should explore the state's capacity to provide services to address wraparound needs of reentering workers (transportation, soft skills, etc.), identify the wraparound services available for reentering workers, and make recommendations for addressing any identified gaps.*

**Determine how many reentrants exiting prison obtain employment in the community post-release.**

The Executive Committee will compile and create a report on the “state of the state on reentry,” and must include information about how many reentrants exiting prison terms obtain employment in the community post-release.

- 1 *The workgroup shall produce an annual report-out on how many reentrants released from prison terms are successful in obtaining employment. The report should indicate whether those who received vocational programming while incarcerated fared differently than the general reentry population.*

Baseline Metric	Goal Metric
Identify how many reentrants released from prison terms are successful in obtaining employment.	Identify a specific and appropriate improvement goal to be achieved within 36 months.



# HOUSING

## Determine how many reentrants exiting prison obtain housing in the community post-release.

The Executive Committee will compile and create a report on the “state of the state on reentry,” and must include information about how many reentrants exiting prison are facing housing insecurity and whether housing was successfully obtained.

- 1 The workgroup shall produce an annual report-out on how many reentrants released from prison terms are facing housing instability. The report should indicate success levels for achieving housing stability at a set period post-release.

Baseline Metric	Goal Metric
Identify how many reentrants released from prison terms are facing housing instability (consider stratifying by release... detention, jail, prison, etc.).	Identify a meaningful improvement goal to be achieved within 24 months.

## Expand the availability of shelter beds for reentrants

- 1 The workgroup should collaborate to increase capacity for emergency shelter and access to shelter for reentrants for whom pre-release housing planning was not successful. The workgroup should advocate to develop an availability of shelter beds that specifically meet the needs of reentrants.
- 2 Research other models of providing for per diem shelter beds (VA, past contracts). Estimate needs and costs, evaluate potential resources, and make specific recommendations for what is needed and identify a funding source.

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### Expand the availability of rental units available to reentrants.

- 1 The workgroup should expand security deposit and short-term rental assistance subsidies available (increase housing stock) for reentrants. The workgroup should identify the needs, costs, and make specific recommendations for what is needed, with a special focus on special needs reentrants.*
- 2 The workgroup should work together and with partners on efforts to increase the number of landlords who will accept rental assistance vouchers and other forms of housing assistance and consider establishing mitigation funds and incentives that may assist.*

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### Address barriers to housing experienced by reentrants.

- 1 The workgroup should explore guidelines on scope of background checks and tenant screening for rental housing, collaborate with fair housing and reentry groups to educate landlords, and consider establishing mitigation funds and incentives that may assist.*
- 2 The workgroup should advocate to urge public housing agencies, private owners, managers of subsidized or income-restricted housing, and landlords generally to adopt criminal history eligibility criteria for renters that is consistent with HUD guidance.*
- 3 The workgroup should also spread awareness about the impact of third-party background check organizations and the impact that this has on fair housing practices for reentrants.*
- 4 The workgroup should investigate how many individuals in custody at DOC Level IV facilities are held in custody due to not having an appropriate housing host (a requirement for release for some inmates). The findings should include recommendations for addressing this, if found to be problematic.*

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### Develop housing options for reentrants with special needs.

- 1 The workgroup should facilitate and support partnerships that will help to expand the number of supportive housing program beds for reentrants.*
- 2 The workgroup should develop a plan to expand housing for reentrants with special needs, such as reentrants who identify as LGBTQ, reentrants who have been convicted of sexual offenses, and reentrants with ambulatory issues. The workgroup should develop training for housing providers on the need for these types of supports.*

## CONCLUSION

In its next iteration of efforts under the FSCC, the DCRC will work towards the recommended system, policy, and investment recommendations set forth in this Blueprint. The new infrastructure of an Executive Committee and three workgroups (Employment and Education, Medical and Behavioral Health, and Housing) will create accountability and structure for implementing improvements and achieving goals. The DCRC will continue to measure impact against baseline measures, and will develop annual reports detailing progress for the next three years. This work that the DCRC set forth will continue the efforts towards improving prisoner reentry into the community after a term of incarceration.