

South Dakota Prisoner Reentry Initiative

Governor Mike Rounds issued an executive order March 11, 2009, to create a special council to deal with the issue of state prison recidivism, or the return to prison of people who have been freed and commit more crimes or violate their parole. On January 26, 2011, Governor Daugaard issued Executive Order 2011-03 updating the membership of this Council.

Approximately 2,000 inmates are released from state prisons each year. Approximately 30 percent of them return to prison within one year because they are convicted of subsequent crimes or violate terms of their parole or suspended sentence supervision.

The Reentry Council brings together various officials in an effort to reduce recidivism by concentrating on the needs of people released from state custody and developing collaborative approaches to reduce recidivism. Reentry Council members include the state secretaries of Corrections, Education, Labor and Regulation, Health, Human Services, Military, Veterans Affairs, Social Services and Tribal Relations, the Executive Director of the SD Housing Development Authority, the mayors of Rapid City and Sioux Falls, and the Executive Director of the Council of Mental Health Centers.

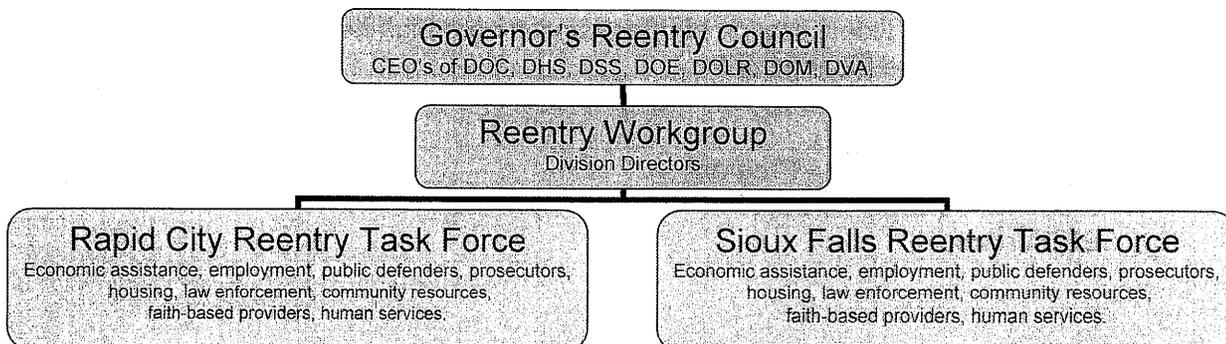
The Reentry Council established a Reentry Workgroup to serve as a state wide multidisciplinary implementation team to identify existing services as well as gaps and barriers for inmates in the community. In addition, Reentry Task Forces are in place in both Sioux Falls and Rapid City, made up of local leaders and community-based organizations that provide services to offenders. The Task Forces provide direct case management support for high risk offenders releasing to their communities.

Most inmates released from prison have individual needs that must be addressed in the community upon their release, including substance abuse, medical and mental health issues, education, employment, and housing. If these needs are not met, the inmate is at greater risk for committing new crimes or violating supervision conditions and returning to prison.

Reentering prisoner's needs cannot be met solely by corrections. Recidivism reduction requires collaborative and concerted efforts of many agencies and providers.

Adult Reentry Program Design & Implementation:

The goal of the Reentry Project is to increase public safety and positive outcomes for offenders by reducing recidivism. A five-year Reentry Strategic Plan has been developed in collaboration with DOC adult corrections and parole divisions and project collaborative teams. Three tiers of interagency groups are operational to guide the development and implementation of the project. See model below:



If the processes, services, and programs under the Reentry Project reduce recidivism, the project will show a cost savings to the state. Through the interagency process of identifying ways to pool resources, it is anticipated that additional resources to support reentry programs will also be identified.

Key Precepts of Reentry:

Public Safety – recidivism reduction serves public safety and sound reentry provisions reduce recidivism

Evidence-Based Practices – there are programs and services that are proven to reduce recidivism that can be applied to how we do reentry

Collaboration – state department level, state and local level, government and private sector, institutional and community corrections

Intensive Case Management – effective case management intervention reduces high risk behaviors, assists in locating adequate housing, and assists in finding and maintaining employment.

Second Chance Act Grant

On August 27, 2009, Governor Mike Rounds announced that the State of South Dakota was the recipient of a Second Chance Act Prisoner Reentry Initiative grant. The Second Chance Act is federal legislation designed to improve outcomes for people returning to the community from prisons or jails. On April 9, 2008, President Bush signed the Second Chance Act into law. This first-of-its-kind legislation authorizes federal grants to government agencies and nonprofit organizations to provide employment assistance, substance abuse treatment, housing, family programming, mentoring, victims support, and other services that can help reduce recidivism. This grant is a valuable tool to assist in the state's overall initiative to reduce recidivism.

The state received \$750,000 to implement programs and strategies to reduce recidivism. In 2007, South Dakota's one-year adult recidivism rate was 29.9 percent. The state's goal is to reduce recidivism by 50 percent within five years.

Offenders releasing to parole who transition to the Sioux Falls and Rapid City areas are considered for the target group of the Reentry Project grant based on their assessed risk and needs. High risk offenders and/or offenders with high needs are served under this project.

Programs and services developed under the reentry initiative and supported by the Second Chance Act grant include the following:

Institutional based:

- Assessment and identification of offenders who are high risk to recidivate
- Risk based Case Management
- Cognitive Behavioral Programming (Thinking for a Change and Moral Recognition Therapy)
- Job Search Assistance Program
- Credit where Credit is Due
- GED services

Transitional:

- Intensive Case Management for high risk to recidivate
- Referral of Local Reentry Task Forces for high risk

Community based:

- Start up and Transitional Housing Assistance
- Chemical Dependency Services
- Mental Health Services
- Employability
- Mentoring
- Case Management
- Proactive Community Supervision (risk based supervision)
- Drop in Reentry Center in Sioux Falls as delivery site for community based services

Policy and Practice:

- Staff training on recidivism reduction, evidence based practices and motivational interviewing
- Parole policy adjustments to avoid technical parole violations with additional support and services
- Critical review of systems to remove barriers and support safe reentry
- Comprehensive factors in release planning
- Collaboration with other agencies for offender services to assist with reentry
- Evaluation – track, review and measure effectiveness

The project adheres to correctional practices that have proven to be effective in reducing recidivism by utilization of assessments to identify risk to recidivate and criminogenic needs; focus on high risk offenders; and providing services and programs to address identified criminogenic needs.

Second Chance Act Budget Detail:

The grant funds are used to supplement existing programming needs.

- \$749,749 federal funds; \$374,986 cash match; \$374,860 in-kind match
- Program funding through March, 31, 2012.
- 75% of the grant is budgeted for contractual services

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