



# REENTRY AND EDUCATION MUST BEGIN AT FIRST POINT OF CONTACT

We will have a greater educational impact on incarcerated people and their families if we start sooner – at the first point of contact with the criminal legal system.

## IMPORTANCE OF REENTRY AT THE FRONT-END

Planning for reentry must begin at a person's first point of contact with the criminal legal system and extend through the length of stay, release, and reentry into the community.<sup>3</sup>

Reentry must be built systemically on the front end and include educational opportunities.<sup>3</sup>

Front-end reentry is holistic and cyclically restorative. It builds on a continuous process (like points on a circle) starting at a person's point of removal from the community through their return.<sup>3</sup>

## BY THE NUMBERS

Every year in Illinois approximately 32,000 people return home from prison and 267,000 return home from pre-trial detention.<sup>2</sup>

Formerly incarcerated people's attempt to reenter society is exacerbated by enormous obstacles, including their former incarceration, race and socioeconomic status.<sup>2</sup>

The 3-year cumulative recidivism rate has remained relatively consistent over the past 10 years.

In 2016, the rate was 41% compared to the 2014 and 2015 rates of 43% and nearly 40%, respectively. The rate for 1997, 20 years earlier, was reported to be 44%, consistent with current rates.<sup>4</sup>

## VALUE OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN REENTRY

Formerly incarcerated people are 8 times less likely to complete college than the general public because of educational systems that failed them as children, especially in communities experiencing the highest incidents of harm.<sup>1</sup>

Over half of formerly incarcerated people hold credentials that have diminishing value in today's job market, such as a high school diploma or GED.<sup>1</sup>

Planning for reentry services starts across the Higher Education in Prison multi-service delivery system, which includes departments of corrections, higher education institutions, and community-based reentry service providers.<sup>3</sup>

In addition to educational programs, information and technology should be available to provide participants with maximum benefits.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> ILARJ 2022 Reentry Guidelines: [ilarj.org/reentry-guidelines](http://ilarj.org/reentry-guidelines)

<sup>2</sup> Holistic Reentry: A Blueprint for Action 2021-2014: [saferfoundation.org/reentryblueprint](http://saferfoundation.org/reentryblueprint)

<sup>3</sup> Interview with IL-CHEP Member, Gregg Gaither on 10/22/22

<sup>4</sup> The Chicago Reentry Report, UIC Great Cities Institute, 2020

Working to bring opportunities and hope to people who are incarcerated.

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