

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?: HELPING CITIZENS TRANSITION FROM JAIL AND PRISON TO SOCIETY

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**What Common Images do
people have about people who
experience homelessness?**



**What Common Images do
people have about people who
serve time in jails or prison?**



WHAT IS THE REALITY?

What do those who experience homelessness **actually look like?**

What do people who serve time in jails or prison **really look like?**



OUR NEIGHBORS



OUR NEIGHBORS



OUR NEIGHBORS



OUR NEIGHBORS



OUR NEIGHBORS



What do people who experience homelessness have **in common with people who serve time in jails/prisons?**

FACTORS LEADING TO HOMELESSNESS OR REINCARCERATION?

Poverty

Unemployment

Lack of Affordable Housing

Family Instability

Mental illness

Addiction

Social Isolation



CONTEXT

REENTRY AND RECIDIVISM IN U.S.

U.S. – 5% world's population

– 25% world's incarcerated population

2.3 million incarcerated

7 million in Criminal Justice System (e.g., parole, probation)

95% people who are incarcerated return to community

1800 per day; 700,000 people released every year

HOMELESSNESS AND REENTRY

- “NOWHERE TO GO: HOMELESSNESS AMONG FORMERLY INCARCERATED PEOPLE” – LUCIUS COULOUE (2018)
-

5 Million Formerly Incarcerated in U.S.

10X More Likely to Be Homeless than general public

Rates of Homelessness Higher for These Groups:

People incarcerated more than once (Revolving Door)

People recently released from prison

Racial and Ethnic Minorities

Women



SNAPSHOT – HOMELESSNESS IN ALABAMA

Jan 2020 – 3,351 experience homelessness on any given day

267 family households

329 Veterans

175 young adults (aged 18-24) **503** chronic homelessness

2019 – 505 people were homeless in Mobile + Baldwin Counties

*Reported by Continuum of Care to Dept of Housing and Urban Development

2018-2019 School Year – 16,118 public school students

*Reported by Alabama Schools to Department of Education



“HOUSING IS ESSENTIAL TO SUCCESSFUL REENTRY”

Challenges to Housing Faced by Returning Citizens in Alabama

No documentation (e.g., social security card or number, current valid I.D.)

Lack of income

Unemployment

Credit checks

Discrimination of property owners (NIMBY)

Housing authorities do not allow former inmates with certain convictions

High security deposits

Shortage of affordable housing

“Transitional Housing for Alabama’s Former Inmates” study

Public Manager Program at Auburn University at Montgomery (2019)



4 KEY ELEMENTS TO **SUCCESSFUL REENTRY PROGRAMS**

I. Start Early (Pre-Release Programs)

Federal Bureau of Prisons philosophy: “release preparation begins the 1st day of incarceration, [and] focus on release preparation intensifies at 18 months prior to release.”

source: socialsolutions.com



4 KEY ELEMENTS TO SUCCESSFUL REENTRY PROGRAMS

II. Clients Not Offenders

Mark of a Criminal Record – “Scarlet Letter F” (RCs, Neighbors)

People and Individuals who need support

Address attitudes towards work and crime

Succeed at getting and keeping jobs → less likely to reoffend

source: socialsolutions.com

4 KEY ELEMENTS TO SUCCESSFUL REENTRY PROGRAMS

III. Risk-Needs-Responsivity (RNR)

Risk Needs Assessments (risk for recidivism)

e.g., Ohio Risk Assessment System (ORAS) from UCCI

Address specific needs (Low – Medium – High)

Provide appropriate levels of response

source: socialsolutions.com

4 KEY ELEMENTS TO SUCCESSFUL REENTRY PROGRAMS

IV. Evidence-Based Approaches

Systematic Study of What makes reentry programs successful?

- Documentation and Reporting
- Improve Outcomes

source: socialsolutions.com

CASE STUDY:

MOBILE AREA INTERFAITH CONFERENCE

Mission

History (since 1979)

Impact (Gulf Coast Food Bank, Housing First)

Merged with Quest for Social Justice (Advocacy)

Current Focus: Reentry Support



CASE STUDY:

MOBILE AREA INTERFAITH CONFERENCE

Reentry Programs:

Pre-Release:

Metro Jail Chaplaincy Program (2002)

Post-Release:

The Neighbor Center (2016)

Academy for Career Development (2020)



A VILLAGE OF COMMUNITY SUPPORT

MAIC Community Partners include ...

- Goodwill Gulf Coast, Inc.
- Bishop State Community College
- AL Works Career Center
- Fatherhood Initiative
- Ransom ReProgram



THE NEIGHBOR CENTER **HOUSING PROGRAMS**

Homeless Prevention (ADECA-ESG)

- 1 year (every 3 months assessment)**
- 30% or below avg. income in Mobile County (\$12K/individual)**

Transitional Housing (CoC)

Rapid Rehousing (ADECA & CoC)

THE NEIGHBOR CENTER **HOUSING PROGRAMS**

Challenges

- Lack of Affordable Housing
- COVID and Moratorium on Evictions
- Stigma and Discrimination (NIMBY; low VI ranking)
- Poverty and Unemployment
- Charges – Sex Offenders and Drug Distribution
- Wait List: 6 months – year for placement

THE NEIGHBOR CENTER HOUSING PROGRAMS



ANY QUESTIONS?



WHO ARE THE PEOPLE IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD?

Now we get to know more about your community ...

Written Reflections

Pair Shares

Group Discussion



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- Describe some efforts or programs in your community to assist people who are homeless.
- Do any reentry programs exist in your area? What do they do? If you do not know about any, what efforts could be started to assist returning citizens in your community?
- Do housing or homeless reduction programs work with reentry programs to serve people in your community? How could they start working together or collaborate more?

THANK YOU
FOR YOUR
ENGAGEMENT!

