

NEWSLETTER



INCLUSIVE INNOVATION:

Leveraging Technology to Support Employment among People Who Were Formerly Incarcerated

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The Critical Role of Stable Employment in Reentry

Stable employment is not merely an economic necessity; it's a crucial factor that significantly reduces the likelihood of recidivism among individuals who have been through the criminal justice system. However, the path to employment after incarceration is fraught with challenges, including employer discrimination and skill gaps. According to an analysis of the National Former Prisoner Survey, over 27 percent of formerly incarcerated individuals in the United States are unemployed, a stark statistic that underscores the issue's urgency.

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Beyond Borders:

GLOBAL PRACTICES IN
CRIMINAL JUSTICE REENTRY



Beyond Borders: Global Practices in Criminal Justice Reentry

The United States faces significant challenges within its criminal justice system, including high incarceration and recidivism rates. As of midyear 2022, the United States had 663,100 individuals in local jails and 1,230,100 in state and federal prisons, collectively accounting for a significant incarceration population. Furthermore, a 2021 Bureau of Justice Special Report on recidivism shows that 66 percent of released prisoners were re-arrested within 3 years, and 61 percent returned to prison within 10 years. These stark figures illustrate the urgent need for effective reentry programs to help individuals transition back into society more successfully.

As the United States strives to evolve its reentry strategies, a wealth of knowledge can be drawn from select reentry strategies from countries with legal systems akin to the United States, including Canada, Norway, and Australia. By examining the role of mental health and substance use treatment and highlighting innovative models like Norway's restorative justice and Australia's "throughcare," this article aims to provide insights and potential directions for enhancing reentry programs in the United States. For policymakers, practitioners, and vested partners, the challenge lies in learning from these programs and adapting them to fit the United States' unique social, cultural, and institutional contours.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

on Peers, Recovery,
and Workforce Wellness

Upcoming Events on Peers, Recovery, and Workforce Wellness

Peer Recovery Center of Excellence

[Community Dialogue - The Intersection of Harm Reduction and Peer Support: Moving Beyond Abstinence-Based Models](#)

December 13, 2023, 1:00–2:30 p.m. CT

The Peer Recovery Center of Excellence is hosting a community dialogue. Moderated by Tim Saubers and featuring panelists Jose Martinez, Azzy-Mae Ní Mháille, and Arc Tellos Saint Amour, the event examines the traditional abstinence-based peer services models. The discussion will focus on integrating harm reduction approaches as an alternative. Intended for peer leaders, recovery professionals, and policymakers, the dialogue seeks to provide a platform for reassessing the prevailing norms in peer

services and considering the inclusion of harm reduction principles. Attendees are expected to gain actionable insights for evolving more inclusive and comprehensive peer support models.

[Peer Supervisors: Returning Power to Staff: Exploring New Ways to Understand Workplace Wellness](#)

January 24, 2024, 1:00–2:30 p.m. CT

The Peer Recovery Center of Excellence is convening a community of practice. Facilitated by Christina Carney, the session aims to address the role of supervisors in peer recovery support services (PRSS). Specifically, the focus will be on reevaluating traditional methods of monitoring staff recovery and exploring strategies centered on staff wellness and workplace well-being. Intended for supervisors and managerial staff in the field of PRSS, the community of practice seeks to provide a platform for discussing the balance between effective workplace oversight and respecting the autonomy and wellness of staff. Attendees will acquire new perspectives and tools for enhancing workplace wellness while maintaining appropriate oversight.

Office of Justice Programs [Post-Traumatic Growth](#)

December 12, 2023, 2:00–3:30 p.m. ET

The Innocent Justice Foundation is hosting the webinar "Post-Traumatic Growth" as part of an online series titled "Shielding Your Well-Being: Post-Traumatic Growth." This series aims to equip professionals with the knowledge to better handle the unique stressors of their field. The series addresses the concept of "soul wounds" and their impact on professionals in the field of child sexual exploitation. These professionals are often exposed to situations that can lead to chronic stress, affecting them both professionally and personally. The webinar will focus on the roles of transformational meaning and post-traumatic growth in mitigating these adverse effects. Tools and techniques for trauma recovery will be discussed, providing attendees with actionable strategies to improve well-being in their personal and professional lives.

Office for Victims of Crime [Building a Wellness Program from the Ground Up](#)

December 7, 2023, 1:00–2:15 p.m. ET

The Justice Clearinghouse is sponsoring a webinar titled "Building a Wellness Program from the Ground Up." This educational session is designed to assist public safety organizations in creating effective wellness programs. Recognizing that agencies differ in culture, size, and resources, the webinar aims to provide a comprehensive guide based on best practices. Topics will cover obtaining organizational buy-in, establishing a culture of wellness, stakeholder recruitment, inter-agency collaboration, and financial strategies for launching a wellness program. Participants will be introduced to actionable tools and resources at various governmental levels to support program development. The webinar concludes by enabling attendees to draft a blueprint for a wellness program, tailored to their agency's specific needs.

Flashback on Transition-Age Youth



[GAINS Center National Summit: MRSS for Transition Age Youth](#) | May 2023



[GAINS Center National Summit: Diversion Options for Transition Age Youth](#) | May 2023



[GAINS Center National Summit: Reentry Programs for Transition Age Youth](#) | May 2023



[Considerations for Transition-Age Youth in the Adult Criminal Justice System](#) | January 2023



[Lone Star Justice Alliance: Promoting Trauma-Informed, Age-Appropriate Responses to Emerging Adults](#) | November 2022



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