

The Essential Role of Private Voluntary Groups in Rehabilitating Offenders



Presenter:

Steven T. McFarland

Director

Task Force for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives

U.S. Department of Justice

Washington, DC

Steven.T.McFarland@usdoj.gov

How can faith-based and community organizations legally partner with state corrections for pre-release social services?

Faith- or character-based programming in dedicated cellblocks:



- Voluntary and open to inmates of all faiths or none
- Genuine choice (no incentives or disincentives for particular program)

(Con't)

How can faith-based and community organizations legally partner with state corrections for pre-release social services?

Faith- or character-based programming in dedicated cellblocks:



- At least one secular alternative
- Privately funded expenditures for inherently religious activities
- Life Connections (FBOP); 20+ state prison systems

How can faith-based and community organizations legally partner with state corrections for pre-release social services?

Mentoring:

- Training of volunteers is essential; consider certification (e.g. CAPA)
- Establish relationship before release
- Video-conferencing (e.g. CSOSA of Washington, DC)



How can FBCOs be involved in providing post-release reentry services?

FBCOs can be involved in:



- Job coaching and placement assistance
- Vocational training
- Life skills training
- Mentoring children of prisoners
- Treatment for juvenile offenders

(Con't)

How can FBCOs be involved in providing post-release reentry services?

FBCOs can be involved in:



- Literacy
- Financial literacy
- Substance abuse treatment
- Transitional housing
- Language translation

Federal Funding

Sources of federal funding that can help jumpstart some of these initiatives:

Vouchers

- Six Site Anti-Gang Initiative
- Access to Recovery (HHS)

Federal Funding

Sources of federal funding that can help jumpstart some of these initiatives:

Direct Grants

- Prisoner Reentry Initiative (DOL)
- Weed & Seed (DOJ)

Federal Funding

Sources of federal funding that can help jumpstart some of these initiatives:

Cooperative Agreements (Contracts)

- Residential Reentry Centers, a.k.a. "half-way houses" (FBOP)

For More Information



Contact:

Jana Hoisington

Outreach

Task Force for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives

U.S. Department of Justice

Washington, DC

Jana.Hoisington@usdoj.gov

202.514.2987