



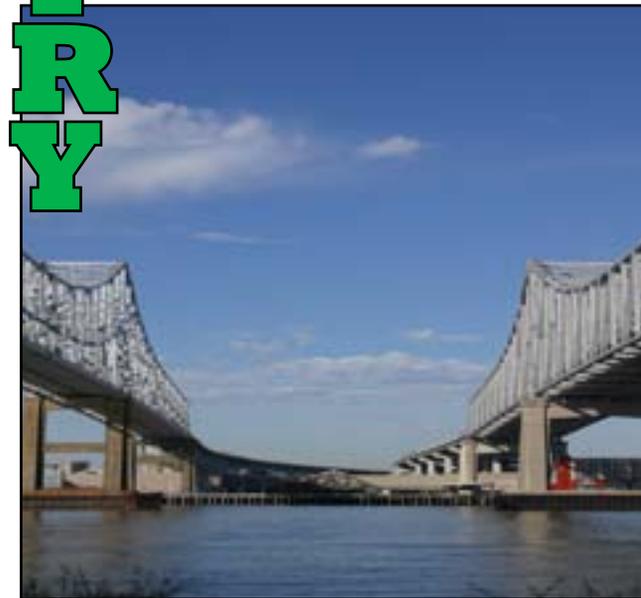
REENTRY

Bridges to Success

Reentry is a word you will hear a lot during your incarceration. However, it is more than just a word. It means starting now to focus on your eventual return to the community.

“Turn the cell into a classroom and the prison into a university.” - Khalil Osiris

Author, professor and pastor who spent 20 years in prison.



What does Reentry mean for you?

It can begin with that first phone call you make asking those who are important to you, like a family member, to visit.

It can mean reaching out to an employer to see if a job may still be available once you return to the community.

Or it can mean taking the steps to get drug or other treatment you need to be successful.

Reentry Vision Statement:

“Promote public safety and offender success from admission to custody through reentry and supervision in the community.”

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Real stories, real people

“I think it’s important to change, to try and do something different. If you keep doing the same things, you get the same exact results. “It’s important to take advantage of the time you have (in prison) and educate yourself. Participate in anything you can to be successful for when you are released. At the very least, it’s a way to pass the time while you’re in there.”

- Joshua Johnson, former inmate

“I went through a cycle of entering the prison system three times over a period of 15 years. The odds would state that I was doomed to continue this pattern and spend the rest of my life in and out of prison ...

In my inner being I knew I was smarter than the life style of in and out of prison. I have been out of prison for 15 years and am now the executive director of the non-profit, Voices Beyond Bars, a Restorative Justice Reentry organization.”

- Jerome Dillard, former inmate

Department of Corrections staff will support you in developing goals to make a positive difference in your future. You are encouraged to take advantage of the opportunities the DOC offers.

The more you and staff understand what your needs, strengths and risks are, the better we can work with you to help prepare you for success.

So it's important for you to be open and honest when answering questions on the Personal Accountability and Goals form, other forms and interview questions you will be asked throughout your prison stay.



Depending on your assessed needs, strengths and the case plan you help develop, you may be offered the chance to participate in educational and/or treatment programs and job skills and/or training while in prison. Some opportunities you may be eligible to participate in include:

Education: The chance to obtain your high school equivalency diploma, job-related technical education, program completion certificates and financial aid.



The U.S. Census Bureau reports on average, high school dropouts earn \$19,000 a year, while graduates earn \$28,000. College grads earn about \$20,000 more than those with a high school diploma.

Cognitive Interventions: Learn how to challenge and change the behaviors and thoughts that led to your incarceration. Help you to understand the need to mend relationships, regain trust and provide you with problem-solving skills.

Institution Jobs: Opportunities include working in food service, barbering, yard and garden work, masonry, custodial, tutoring and more.



Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse: Learn to develop strategies to reduce alcohol and/or drug use, change behaviors and make positive lifestyle choices.

Pre-release Curriculum: Learn about a variety of areas to assist you in making your prison stay and transition from prison back into the community more positive:

Wellness
Learn how small decisions made throughout the day influence your overall health and wellness. These decisions help you achieve countless goals each day. Wellness goals can be as small as, "I'm going to get eight hours of sleep tonight," or as complex as, "I am going to run a marathon before I am 50."

Health
Learn the importance of being healthy. Inappropriate health choices make us vulnerable to dangerous diseases and results in a shortened life. Learn ways to improve and maintain good health.

Family Support
Learn the importance of the parent/child relationship, how to rebuild other relationships and how to reduce conflict. You will also review child care and family court issues.



Personal Development
Learn about goal setting, recognize "risky thinking," dealing with stress, ways to rebuild trust and positive character trait development.

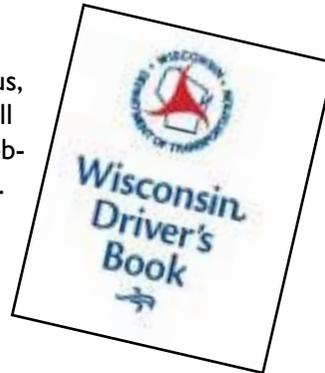
Employment
Review your work-related skills, individual job interests, how to look for work and what things are available to help you get and keep work.



Financial Literacy
Learn about budgeting, borrowing money, checking and savings accounts, what a 401K is, filing taxes and credit. You will also review options for health, automobile and renter's insurance.

Housing
Identify housing options and learn to understand issues relevant to living on your own and social interactions such as getting along with a roommate.

Transportation
Identify options such as bus, bike and taxi routes as well as rideshare and how to obtain a valid driver's license.



Transitional Preparation
Understand the process for transitioning back into the community, how to work with case managers, field agents and social workers, as well as identifying your own support network, such as church/clergy, counselors and other positive influences.

Portfolio
Throughout your time incarcerated you will build a portfolio of positive documents you will be able to use when you return to your community. Your portfolio may include completion certificates, resumes and other personal achievements.

