



Travis County Commissioners Court Agenda Request

Meeting Date: Tuesday, September 16, 2014
Prepared By/Phone Number: Deece Eckstein, (512) 854-9754
Elected/Appointed Official/Dept. Head: Deece Eckstein, IGR, 854-9754
Commissioners Court Sponsor: Judge Biscoe

AGENDA LANGUAGE:

CONSIDER AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION ON SUPPORT OF REAUTHORIZATION OF THE FEDERAL "SECOND CHANCE ACT" DURING THE CURRENT SESSION OF THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS.

SUMMARY AND IGR COORDINATOR RECOMMENDATION:

Legislation has been introduced in Congress to reauthorize and expand the Second Chance Act, a federal grant program for activities that support people returning to their communities after incarceration. The Council on State Governments has asked local governments to express their support, either by signing on to its letter or by sending their own communication.

IGR joins Criminal Justice Planning and the Adult Probation Department in recommending that the Court support Second Chance Act reauthorization, and execute the attached draft letter for transmission to appropriate members of Congress.

BACKGROUND:

First signed into law on April 9, 2008, the Second Chance Act was designed to help prisoners effectively reintegrate into the community. The Act established grants for government agencies and nonprofits to provide services that reduce recidivism by improving outcomes for people returning from prisons, jails, and juvenile facilities.

In the five years since implementation of the Second Chance Act, the Bureau of Justice Assistance in the Department of Justice has awarded more than \$250 million in grants to nearly 500 recipients – including a \$565,345 grant to Travis County CSCD in 2012. The recidivism reduction grants go toward initiatives such as treating substance abuse and co-occurring disorders, and

providing career technology programs for inmates. In addition, the [Second Chance Act National Reentry Resource Center](#), supported by the [Council of State Governments](#) (CSG), serves as a “one stop shop” for technical assistance, webinars and reentry research.

The 2012 grant to CSCD allowed it to bridge a gap in the existing service delivery continuum in our community and positively affected the lives of individuals with co-occurring disorders by providing the resources needed to deliver intensive specialized treatment and case management services for probationers with co-occurring disorders. One client served by the grant program had a lengthy criminal history and lived on the streets of Austin, Texas for 13 years. He has successfully completed the re-entry program, maintained his sobriety, and now, for the first time in 13 years, has a steady home and a job. Without continued support of the Second Chance Act, clients such as this one would continue to fall through the cracks and public safety would be compromised.

ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES:

The Second Chance Reauthorization Act of 2013 ([S. 1690/H.R. 3465](#)), filed last November but as yet not acted upon by the 113th Congress, extends these prisoner reentry programs for an additional five years, including demonstration grants, mentoring, substance abuse and family-based programming. It also expands the number of grant programs available and promotes increased accountability and outcomes from grantees.

The Council on State Governments has taken the lead in asking reentry stakeholders, including local governments, to indicate their support for reauthorization, either by signing on to the CSG’s letter (attached) or by sending a letter or resolution of their own. The National Association of Counties (NACo) is joining in this effort, and have distributed the attached fact sheet.

Both Criminal Justice Planning and CSCD support reauthorization and join IGR in recommending that the Court execute a letter of support for transmission to the chairs and ranking members of the respective committees, as well as to members of those committees representing Travis County in the Congress: Senator John Cornyn, Senator Ted Cruz and Representative Lamar Smith. A draft letter is attached for the Court’s review and execution.

FISCAL IMPACT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING: N/A.

REQUIRED AUTHORIZATIONS: None.

NAMES AND EMAIL ADDRESSES OF PERSONS WHO MIGHT BE AFFECTED BY OR BE INVOLVED WITH THIS REQUEST:

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Travis County Community Supervision and Corrections Department
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Travis County Attorney's Office
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ATTACHMENTS:

- 1) Council of State Governments, Draft support letter for S. 1690/H.R. 3465 to be endorsed by stakeholders, September, 2014.
- 2) National Transitional Jobs Network, *Second Chance Act Fact Sheet*, November 2013
- 3) National Association of Counties, *Policy Brief: Lower Jail Recidivism and Reinvest The Savings: Support the Second Chance Act*, 2014.
- 4) IGR, DRAFT letter to key elected officials expressing support for SCA Reauthorization, September 11, 2014.

September XX, 2014

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee
Dirksen Senate Office Building, SD-224
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bob Goodlatte
Chairman, House Judiciary Committee
Rayburn House Office Building, 2138
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
Ranking Member, Senate Judiciary
Committee Dirksen Senate Office Building,
SD-152 Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Conyers
Ranking Member, House Judiciary Committee
Rayburn House Office Building, 2142
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Leahy and Goodlatte and Ranking Members Grassley and Conyers:

We write to express our support for S. 1690/H.R. 3465, the Second Chance Reauthorization Act of 2013. Our diverse organizations have come together because we represent constituencies working to increase public safety by improving reentry from prisons, jails, and juvenile facilities.

This bipartisan bill, introduced by Senators Patrick Leahy (D-VT) and Rob Portman (R-OH) and Representatives Jim Sensenbrenner (R-WI), Danny Davis (D-IL), Howard Coble (R-NC), Bobby Scott (D-VA), Spencer Bachus (R-AL), Marcia Fudge (D-OH) and Steve Chabot (R-OH), provides resources to state and local governments as well as community-based organizations to improve success rates for people released from prison and jail.

The Second Chance Act will provide crucial resources at a time when they are desperately needed. In 2009, federal and state prisons held over 1.6 million inmates—one in every 199 U.S. residents—and released 729,295 individuals back to their communities. More than 9 million individuals are released from jail each year. Unfortunately, most individuals face numerous challenges when returning to the community from prison or jail, and research indicates that over half are reincarcerated within three years of their release. Research confirms that comprehensive, coordinated services can help formerly incarcerated individuals find stable employment and housing, thereby reducing recidivism.

By providing the resources needed to coordinate reentry services and policies at the state and local levels, S. 1690/H.R. 3465 will ensure that the tax dollars spent on corrections do not simply fuel a revolving door in and out of prison. State and local governments around the country, as well as community and faith-based organizations, are in dire need of these resources to address prisoner reentry and recidivism reduction efforts in our communities.

Please support S. 1690/H.R. 3465, the Second Chance Reauthorization Act of 2013.

Sincerely,

[Signatures are still being collected]

National Organizations:

1. Advocacy, Reentry, Resource, Outreach
2. African American Ministers in Action
3. African Methodist Episcopal Church
4. Aleph Institute
5. Alkermes, Inc.
6. American Civil Liberties Union
7. American Correctional Association
8. American Friends Service Committee
9. American Humanist Association
10. American Jail Association
11. American Probation and Parole Association
12. Armenian Orthodox Church
13. Association of Reentry Professionals
14. Association of State Correctional Administrators
15. Campaign for Community Change
16. Campaign for the Fair Sentencing of Youth
17. Celebrities for Justice
18. Christian Community Development Association
19. Church of Scientology National Affairs Office
20. The Clapham Group
21. The Chuck Colson Center for Christian Worldview
22. Community Action Partnership
23. Community of Christ
24. Corporation for Supportive Housing
25. Correctional Education Association
26. Council of Juvenile Corrections
27. Council of State Governments
28. Crossroads Bible Institute
29. CSG Justice Center
30. CURE
31. CURE – Women Incarcerated
32. Daughters of Destiny
33. Disciples Justice Action Network
34. Equal Justice Initiative
35. Evangelicals for Social Action
36. Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
37. Faces and Voices of Recovery
38. Faith and Family Coalition
39. Families Against Mandatory Minimums
40. Former Incarcerated Persons/Effective Reentry Collaborative
41. Friends Committee on National Legislation
42. Global Youth Justice
43. Goodwill Industries International
44. Healing Communities USA
45. Healthy Families/Thriving Communities Collaborative Council (HFTCCC)
46. Human Rights Defense Center
47. Human Rights Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
48. International Community Corrections Association
49. International Corrections and Prisons Association
50. International Council of Community Churches
51. Jewish Council for Public Affairs

52. JOBS for LIFE
53. JustLeadership USA
54. Justice Fellowship
55. The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights
56. Legal Action Center
57. Major Cities Chiefs
58. Major County Sheriffs Association
59. Men of Standard Ministry
60. Mennonite Central Committee U.S. Washington Office
61. Mental Health America
62. National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
63. National African American Drug Policy Coalition, Inc.
64. National Alliance of Faith and Justice
65. National Alliance on Mental Illness
66. National Alliance to End Homelessness
67. National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
68. National Association of Counties
69. National Association of Drug Court Professionals
70. National Association of Evangelicals
71. National Association of Previous Prisoners, Inc.
72. National Association of Police Organizations
73. National Association of Social Workers
74. National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors
75. National Baptist Convention USA
76. National Coalition for the Homeless
77. National Conference of State Legislatures
78. National Correctional Industries Association
79. National Council of Behavioral Health
80. National Council of the Churches of Christ, USA
81. National Criminal Justice Association
82. National Death Row Assistance Network of CURE
83. National Employment Law Project
84. National Fatherhood Initiative
85. National H.I.R.E. Network
86. National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference
87. National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty
88. National Organization of Forensic Social Work
89. National Religious Campaign Against Torture
90. National Sheriffs' Association
91. National Urban League
92. NETWORK - A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby
93. North American Association of Wardens and Superintendents
94. Open Society Policy Center
95. Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry
96. The Pew Charitable Trusts
97. Presbyterian Church USA
98. Prison Fellowship
99. Progressive National Baptist Convention
100. Robert F. Kennedy Juvenile Justice Collaborative
101. Samuel Dewitt Proctor Conference
102. Sojourners
103. Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission
104. Southern Center for Justice
105. Southwest Key Programs

- 106. Straight Ahead Ministries
- 107. The Advocates Against Felon Employment Discrimination Act
- 108. The Episcopal Church
- 109. The Real Cost of Prisons Project
- 110. The Salvation Army National Headquarters
- 111. The Sentencing Project
- 112. Treatment Communities of America
- 113. Union for Reform Judaism
- 114. Unitarian Universalist Association
- 115. United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries
- 116. United Methodist Church, General Board of Church & Society
- 117. United States Conference of Mayors
- 118. United States Jesuit Conference
- 119. Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc.
- 120. Wings of Freedom
- 121. 9to5

State and Local Organizations:

Alabama

- 122. Alabama CURE
- 123. Alabama Justice Ministries Network
- 124. Greater Birmingham Ministries

Alaska

- 125. Alaska Native Justice Center
- 126. Alaska Correctional Ministries

Arizona

- 127. Arizona Chief Probation Officer's Association
- 128. Arizona Second Chance
- 129. David's Hope
- 130. Middle Ground Prison Reform
- 131. NAMI Sedona/Verde Valley
- 132. Pastor Joy Ministries
- 133. Yavapai Reentry Project

Arkansas

- 134. Arkansas CURE
- 135. Compassion Works for All, Inc.
- 136. End Mass Incarceration – Little Rock Arkansas Chapter
- 137. Life After Prison Ministries
- 138. Catholic Charities of Arkansas

California

- 139. African Descent Lutheran Association
- 140. Associated Prison Ministries of California
- 141. California Association of Alcohol and Drug Program Executives, Inc.
- 142. California Council of Community Mental Health Agencies
- 143. Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice
- 144. Chief Probation Officers of California
- 145. Choices Domestic Violence Solutions
- 146. Community Works West
- 147. Contra Costa County, CA

- 148. Criminon International
- 149. Fatherhood Project at Theo Jail
- 150. The Greater Sacramento Urban League
- 151. HealthRight 360
- 152. Integrated Recovery Network
- 153. Jubilee Jobs
- 154. Mind Body Awareness Project, Inc.
- 155. NAMI California
- 156. Orange County Re-Entry Partnership
- 157. Prisoners Rights Union
- 158. Resource Center for the Arts and Education
- 159. Rubicon Programs
- 160. United Job Creation Council

Connecticut

- 161. Connecticut Center for Social Innovation
- 162. My Brother's Keeper
- 163. New Life Prison Ministry of Old Lyme, CT
- 164. One Million Americans
- 165. Reentry Central
- 166. South Meriden Trinity United Methodist Church
- 167. The Peace Affirmation and Justice Committee of the First Congregational Church

Colorado

- 168. Colorado Criminal Justice Reform Coalition
- 169. Colorado Department of Labor & Employment
- 170. Community Reentry Place Inside/Out
- 171. The Butterfly Effect
- 172. Victim Offender Reconciliation Program of Denver
- 173. FOCUS Reentry
- 174. Colorado Council of Churches

Delaware

- 175. Delaware Center for Justice
- 176. Prison Ministries of Delaware, Inc.

District of Columbia

- 177. Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington
- 178. DC Jobs Council

Florida

- 179. Gateway Community Services
- 180. Florida Alcohol and Drug Abuse Association
- 181. Jail Ministry of Hillsborough County, Tampa, FL
- 182. NAMI of Collier County
- 183. Palm Beach County Criminal Justice Commission
- 184. Pax Christi Florida
- 185. Positive Images Enterprises, Inc.
- 186. S&S Destin Realty, LLC
- 187. St. Peter Claver Prison Ministry
- 188. The Living Harvest, Inc.
- 189. The Unlimited Path, Inc.

Georgia

- 190. Almost There, Inc.
- 191. Camden County Reentry Program, Inc.
- 192. Georgia Association of Community Service Boards
- 193. Georgia State University, School of Public Health
- 194. Griffin-Spalding Reentry Task Force
- 195. Racial Justice Action Center
- 196. Level Ground, Inc.
- 197. Second Chance International Ministries, Inc.

Hawaii

- 198. BHIS, LLC
- 199. Community Alliance on Prisons

Illinois

- 200. The Cara Program
- 201. Community Behavioral Healthcare Association
- 202. CURE Illinois
- 203. Goldie's Place
- 204. Haymarket Center
- 205. Illinois Association of Rehabilitation Facilities (IARF)
- 206. Lutheran Social Services of Illinois: Prisoner and Family Ministry
- 207. Macon County Court Services
- 208. NAMI DuPage
- 209. National Transitional Jobs Network and Heartland Alliance for Human Needs and Human Rights
- 210. Safer Foundation
- 211. Soldiers of Christ Prison Ministries
- 212. TASC Illinois
- 213. The Freedom[®] Road Foundation
- 214. TW Ministry
- 215. Westside Health Authority

Indiana

- 216. Angel's Wings, Inc.
- 217. Center for Community Justice
- 218. Indiana CURE
- 219. PACE, Inc.
- 220. New Life Development Ministries Recycle Force

Iowa

- 221. The Church of Damascus Road, Parish and Reentry Transition Ministry
- 222. Freedom House Ministries
- 223. Glorious Hope Ministries
- 224. Grace Without Borders
- 225. Iowa Association of Community Providers
- 226. Iron Sharpens Iron
- 227. Living Stone
- 228. New Life Prison Community
- 229. Teen Challenge of the Midlands

Kansas

- 230. IBSA Inc.
- 231. Kansas Department of Corrections

- 232. St. Mark United Methodist Church Prison Ministry Team
- 233. United Methodist Church Great Plains Conference Mercy & Justice Ministry
- 234. Seeds of Hope Jail Ministry

Kentucky

- 235. Big Brothers Big Sisters of Kentuckiana
- 236. The Carpenter's Christian Church
- 237. Correctional Healthcare Companies
- 238. Jubilee Jobs of Lexington
- 239. Nia Community of Faith
- 240. NOA Counseling
- 241. Opportunities for Working & Learning
- 242. Reentry by Design

Louisiana

- 243. Louisiana CURE
- 244. Orleans Parish Prison Reform Coalition
- 245. Louisiana Center for Children's Rights
- 246. Voice of the Ex-Offender New Orleans
- 247. Jesuit Social Research Institute, Loyola University New Orleans

Maine

- 248. Maine Association of Substance Abuse Programs
- 249. Maine Prisoner Advocacy Coalition

Maryland

- 250. AdvoCare, Inc.
- 251. Celebration Ministries
- 252. Community Behavioral Health Association of Maryland
- 253. CrossRoads Freedom Center
- 254. Kathy Seifert – ESPS Behavioral Health Company
- 255. Maryland CURE
- 256. Montgomery County (MD) Department of Corrections
- 257. Prison Ministry Task Force, Episcopal Diocese of Maryland
- 258. Redemption Transformation Center (dba) "Fertile Ground"
- 259. Resource Develop Group, Inc.
- 260. Social Solutions Global
- 261. The Chill Station, Inc.
- 262. The National Resource Society for Women Veterans, Inc.
- 263. Unshackled Ministries Inc.
- 264. Volunteers of America Chesapeake, Inc.

Massachusetts

- 265. Alternative Solutions Associates, Inc.
- 266. Association for Behavioral Healthcare – Massachusetts
- 267. Barnstable County Correctional Facility
- 268. The Center for Church and Prison, Inc.
- 269. Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice at Harvard Law School
- 270. NAMI Massachusetts
- 271. On With Living and Learning
- 272. Span, Inc.

Michigan

- 273. 70x7 Life Recovery
- 274. Colleen Conklin Healthcare Training & Consulting, LLC
- 275. Harbor Hall, Inc. - Petoskey, MI
- 276. Michigan Association of Community Mental Health Services
- 277. Michigan Council on Crime & Delinquency
- 278. Michigan CURE
- 279. Ottawa County Michigan Works!
- 280. Prevention Concepts, Inc.
- 281. Prisoners in Christ
- 282. Project Unity for Life

Minnesota

- 283. 180 Degrees, Inc.
- 284. Anderson Professional Training Services
- 285. Momentum Enterprises
- 286. NAMI Minnesota
- 287. OID Dream Center of St. Cloud
- 288. Olmsted County Adult Behavioral Health and Criminal Justice Programs
- 289. Sector Synergies, LLC
- 290. Transform Minnesota

Mississippi

- 291. FAVOR MS Recovery Advocacy Project
- 292. Mississippi Association of Community Mental Health Centers
- 293. John and Vera Mae Perkins Foundation

Missouri

- 294. Anger Alternatives
- 295. Catholic Charities of Kansas City – St. Joseph
- 296. Connections to Success Kansas Missouri
- 297. Dismas House Kansas City
- 298. Fathers Support Center
- 299. Kansas City Metropolitan Crime Commission
- 300. Metro St. Louis Coalition
- 301. Saint Louis University Prison Program
- 302. The Shepherd's Way Ministries, Inc.
- 303. Reconciliation Services

Montana

- 269. Freedom in Christ Prison Ministry
- 270. Montana Catholic Conference

Nebraska

- 304. Houses of Hope of Nebraska, Inc.
- 305. Followers of Christ Prison Ministry - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Nebraska Synod
- 306. Impact One Community Connection
- 307. Compassion in Action, Inc.

Nevada

- 308. Clark County Detention Center
- 309. Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health
- 310. Partnership Carson City
- 311. West Care Foundation

312. Acting in Community Together in Organizing Northern Nevada

New Hampshire

313. Cheshire County Department of Corrections

314. Strafford County Criminal Justice Program

New Jersey

315. Camden Churches Organized for People

316. Constraining Love Ministries, Inc.

317. Doors of Hope Community, Inc.

318. Monarch Housing Associates

319. New Jersey Association on Correction

320. New Jersey Association of Mental Health and Addiction Agencies

321. New Jersey Chapter of the American Correctional Association

322. Point Community Church

323. Saint Peter's Preparatory School

324. The Affordable Homes Group

New Mexico

325. CURE, New Mexico

326. New Mexico's Attorney General's Office

327. New Mexico Conference of Churches

328. New Mexico Women's Justice Project

New York

329. Allegany County Probation Department

330. Buffalo Urban League

331. Center for Community Alternatives

332. Church of St. Charles Borromeo/Resurrection Chapel

333. College and Community Fellowship

334. Education from the Inside Out Coalition

335. InterVarsity New York City Urban Project

336. Judicial Process Commission

337. Lifeline Ministries International Organization

338. NAMI NYS Criminal Justice Committee

339. National Employment Law Project

340. New York CURE

341. New York State Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare

342. New York Therapeutic Communities, Inc.

343. Odyssey House, Inc.

344. Stay'n Out Program N.Y.T.C. Inc.

345. The Coalition of Behavioral Health Agencies, Inc.

346. The Fortune Society

347. The Urban League of Westchester County, Inc.

348. WESPAC Foundation

North Carolina

349. Benevolence Farm

350. Bob Barker Company Foundation

351. Durham Prison Reentry Program (PREP)

352. ExodusFoundation.Org

353. Green Skills Nu-Entry Aftercare Employment

354. Juvenile Justice Project, Norman Adrian Wiggins School of Law, Campbell University

- 355. North Carolinians Against Gun Violence Education Fund
- 356. North Carolina CURE
- 357. North Carolina Faith and Freedom Coalition
- 358. Project LIFT
- 359. University of North Carolina Charlotte / Dept. of Criminal Justice and Criminology

North Dakota

- 360. Centre, Inc.
- 361. Project HOME of My Father's House
- 362. United Methodist Church Dakotas-Minnesota Area Conference

Ohio

- 363. Athens County Reentry Program
- 364. Clark County Reentry Coalition
- 365. Drug Policy Alliance in Ohio
- 366. International Community Corrections Association
- 367. Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction
- 368. Ohio Justice & Policy Center
- 369. OIC of Clark County/Clark County Reentry Program
- 370. Richland County Reentry Court/Richland County Reentry Coalition
- 371. Talbert House
- 372. The Legends Foundation
- 373. The Ohio Council of Behavioral Health & Family Services Providers
- 374. The Ohio Justice & Policy Center
- 375. Truly Reaching You, Inc.
- 376. The RIDGE Project

Oklahoma

- 377. Oklahoma CURE
- 378. Crossover Community Impact
- 379. Criminal Justice & Mercy Ministries, United Methodist Church
- 380. Oklahoma Conference of Churches

Oregon

- 381. Doors of Hope Community
- 382. Mercy Corps Northwest
- 383. The Miracles Club
- 384. Northwest Regional Reentry Center
- 385. Oregon Voices
- 386. Reentry Organizations and Resources
- 387. Reentry Transition Center
- 388. Sponsors, Inc.
- 389. The Association of Oregon Community Mental Health Programs
- 390. Crossways Ministry

Pennsylvania

- 391. Capital Region Ex-offender Support Coalition
- 392. Center for Community Peacemaking
- 393. Christ and St. Ambrose Episcopal Church
- 394. Christian History Institute
- 395. Family Services of Western Pennsylvania
- 396. HPW Associates, LLC
- 397. Micah Leadership Council

- 398. NAMI Pennsylvania Montgomery County
- 399. Pennsylvania CURE
- 400. Quantum Impact, Inc.
- 401. Rhawnhurst Presbyterian Church
- 402. Sound Community Solutions
- 403. Tenth Presbyterian Church
- 404. The Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh
- 405. Treatment Trends, Inc.
- 406. Vision Video

Rhode Island

- 407. The Institute for the Study and Practice of Nonviolence
- 408. Open Doors
- 409. Rhode Island State Council of Churches

South Carolina

- 410. Alston Wilkes Society
- 411. Catholic Charities Diocese of Charleston, South Carolina
- 412. South Carolina Association of Community Development Corporations
- 413. South Carolina Christian Action Council
- 414. Sisters of Charity Foundation of South Carolina

South Dakota

- 415. NAMI Sioux Falls
- 416. South Dakota CURE
- 417. Living Stone Prison Church

Tennessee

- 418. C.O.N.N.E.C.T. Ministries
- 419. Focus Group Ministries
- 420. The Philadelphians Prison Ministry
- 421. Project Return, Inc.
- 422. Mediation & Restitution/Reconciliation Services

Texas

- 423. ATLC CORP
- 424. Austin M.O.V.E. Forward
- 425. Austin/Travis County Reentry Roundtable
- 426. Barabbas Ministries
- 427. Cenikor
- 428. Creative Funding Solutions, Inc.
- 429. Evangel Mission Longview
- 430. Faith Action for Women in Need (FAWN)
- 431. Fertile Ground "Christian Transformation Center"
- 432. Jobs for Progress of the Texas Gulf Coast, Inc.
- 433. Justice Ministries Network of Texas
- 434. Mercy Heart
- 435. NAMI Greater Houston
- 436. Offender Aid & Restoration of Arlington
- 437. Project R.A.R.E.
- 438. Restorative Justice Ministries Council of the Episcopal Diocese of Texas
- 439. Restorative Justice Ministries Network
- 440. Sober Hood

- 441. Texas CURE
- 442. Texas Inmate Families Association
- 443. Texas Offenders Reentry Program
- 444. The Association of Paroling Authorities International (APAI)
- 445. The Drug Policy Forum of Texas
- 446. The Washington Foundation

Utah

- 447. Foundation for Family Life of Utah
- 448. Mentor Works
- 449. NAMI Utah
- 450. Standing Together

Vermont

- 451. Hardwick Area Community Justice Center
- 452. Vermont Council of Development and Health Services
- 453. Vermont Ecumenical Council
- 454. Vermont Interfaith Action
- 455. Prison Justice Committee Vermont Conference of the United Church of Christ

Virginia

- 456. Chaplain Service Prison Ministry of Virginia
- 457. Friends of Guest House
- 458. Goodwill Virginia
- 459. NAMI Virginia
- 460. NAMI – Virginia Beach
- 461. Offender Aid Restoration
- 462. Opportunities for Change
- 463. Resource Information Help for Disadvantaged in Virginia
- 464. Shalom Makers
- 465. Social Action Linking Together
- 466. TASC, Inc.
- 467. Virginia CARES
- 468. Virginia CURE, Inc.
- 469. Yahzkel Prison Ministry of Enoch Baptist Church

US Virgin Islands

- 470. Department of Human Services

Washington

- 471. Pioneer Human Services
- 472. Washington State CURE
- 473. Cascade Prison Ministry
- 474. Match Two Prison Ministries
- 475. Crossways Ministries

West Virginia

- 476. West Virginia CURE
- 477. Roman Catholic Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston Office of Prison Ministry

Wisconsin

- 478. ATTIC Correctional Services, Inc.

- 479. Benedict Center
- 480. CARE Wisconsin
- 481. City of Racine
- 482. European American Lutheran Association
- 483. Genesis Behavioral Services, Inc.
- 484. Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan
- 485. Mental Health America of Wisconsin
- 486. NAMI Wisconsin
- 487. Open Door of Marathon County
- 488. Prison Action Milwaukee, Inc.
- 489. Ryan Community
- 490. Wisconsin Community Services, Inc.
- 491. Wisconsin Police Department
- 492. Word of Hope Ministries

Wyoming

- 493. Second Chance Ministries
- 494. NAMI Wyoming

International

- 495. Association of Paroling Authorities International
- 496. Gambill on Justice - Mexico

November 2013

Summary

Signed into law on April 9, 2008, the [Second Chance Act](#) (P.L. 110-199) is designed to positively impact the life outcomes of individuals transitioning into society after experiencing incarceration. The Second Chance Act authorizes grants to state, local, and federally recognized tribal governments to provide support strategies and services designed to reduce recidivism and create opportunities for people returning from prisons, jails, and juvenile facilities. Some of the key provisions of the Second Chance Act include:

- ✓ **Offender Reentry Substance Abuse Treatment Grants** to improve the availability of drug treatment.
- ✓ **Demonstration Grants** to state, local, and tribal governments that may be used to promote safe and successful community reintegration.
- ✓ **Mentoring Grants** to nonprofit organizations that may be used for mentoring adult offenders or offering transitional services for reintegration.
- ✓ **Technology Career Training Grants** to state, local, and tribal government agencies to assist in establishing programs to train individuals in prisons, jails, or juvenile residential facilities for technology-based jobs and careers during the three-year period before their release.
- ✓ **Recidivism Reduction Grants** to state departments of correction to reduce recidivism through planning, capacity-building, and implementation of effective and evidence-based interventions.
- ✓ **National Adult and Juvenile Offender Reentry Resource Center** which establishes a [national resource center](#) to collect and disseminate best practices and to provide training and support for reentry efforts.

Allowable uses of Second Chance Act Demonstration Grant funds include:

- *Employment services*
- *Substance abuse treatment*
- *Housing*
- *Family programming*
- *Mentoring*
- *Victims services*
- *Methods to improve release and revocation decisions using risk assessment tools*

Current Legislation

In November 2013, Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT), Senator Rob Portman (R-OH), Representative Danny Davis (D-IL), Representative Jim Sensenbrenner (R-WI), and other Senate and House leaders introduced a bill to reauthorize the Second Chance Act. Reauthorizing the Second Chance Act redoubles our commitment to supporting the transition from incarceration to communities and reducing recidivism. It also offers opportunities to continue to add to the strength of the Second Chance Act. The bill includes provisions that will lead to even greater positive impacts on the lives of millions of Americans, including the following:

- ✓ Inclusion of nonprofit organizations as eligible grant recipients;
- ✓ Explicit language listing transitional jobs as an allowable and suggested use of Second Chance Act grants;
- ✓ A detailed definition of transitional jobs that reflects the NTJN's recommendations; and
- ✓ Authorizing career training (including subsidized employment when part of a training program) to people who are incarcerated that would occur within a 3-year period prior to their release.

Second Chance Act Fact Sheet

Everyone Deserves A Second Chance

November 2013

Why Congress Should Reauthorize the Second Chance Act.

The Second Chance Act strengthens communities by creating opportunities for some of our most vulnerable citizens to achieve economic stability. Reauthorizing the Second Chance Act redoubles our commitment to supporting the transition from incarceration to communities and reducing recidivism.

The Second Chance Act addresses a national crisis. In the past three decades the United States has seen a 500% increase in our nation's incarceration rate. There are 2.2 million people residing in America's prisons and jails and each year, more than 700,000 Americans return to communities from prisons and jails across the country. Many of these people are unable to find sustainable employment due to a myriad of barriers they face once released. Now more than ever comprehensive and effective reentry programming that includes employment is critical. Indeed, research shows that individuals recently released from prison who participate in a transitional job program are far less likely to recidivate. The Second Chance Act has been instrumental in expanding access to transitional jobs. The provisions in the reauthorization bill will create even more opportunity for states and local communities to meet the employment needs of people returning from incarceration through the development of transitional jobs programs.

The Second Chance Act is an investment in evidence-based programs that have been proven to reduce recidivism. Recidivism rates in several states have seen substantial reductions due to the types of support strategies and services funded by the Second Chance Act. Examples of those strategies include: the use of risk assessment tools to develop individualized services designed to reduce a person's risk of reoffending; community supervision officers' use of intermediate sanctions as an alternative to incarceration for probation violators; and diversion of non-violent offenders to community supervision coupled with extensive support services. Ensuring successful reentry means both safer communities and improved use of taxpayer dollars. Transitional Jobs are another promising example of the types of initiatives funded by the Second Chance Act. Transitional Jobs not only create long-term savings of nearly \$4 for every \$1 spent, but they have also been proven to reduce recidivism rates; reduce reliance on public benefits and lower tax payer costs; improve educational outcomes for dependent children; create positive economic ripple effects in communities by increasing local demand for goods and services; and benefit employers by increasing productivity, financial well-being, and customer satisfaction.

We encourage members of Congress to cosponsor the Second Chance Act today and move forward toward swift passage of this important legislation.

For more information about the Second Chance Act, we encourage you to visit the [National Reentry Resource Center](#) at the Council of State Governments Justice Center.

The National Transitional Jobs Network (NTJN) is a national coalition dedicated to getting chronically unemployed Americans back to work. To learn more please visit www.transitionaljobs.net, [like us on Facebook](#) or follow @tjprograms on twitter.

We advance effective employment solutions including Transitional Jobs that combine wage-paid work, job skills training, and supportive services to help individuals facing barriers to employment succeed in the workforce. **We believe that every person deserves the opportunity to work and support themselves and their families and that America is stronger when everyone who wants to work can find a job.** We open doors to work through Transitional Jobs programs, research and evaluation, education and training, and policy advocacy.



LOWER JAIL RECIDIVISM AND REINVEST THE SAVINGS: SUPPORT THE SECOND CHANCE ACT

ACTION NEEDED: Urge your Members of Congress, especially those serving on the House and Senate Judiciary committees, to fund and reauthorize the Second Chance Act.

BACKGROUND: First enacted in 2008, the bipartisan Second Chance Act (P.L. 110-199) provides resources to states, local governments and nonprofit organizations to improve outcomes for individuals returning to communities from prisons, jails and juvenile facilities. Specifically, the program improves the coordination of reentry services and policies at the state, tribal and local levels. It funds local demonstration grants, reentry courts, family-centered programs, mental health and addiction treatment, employment, mentoring and other services needed to improve the transition from prison, jail or juvenile detention centers. Additionally, the Act established the National Offender Re-entry Resource Center which manages, monitors and disseminates information to state and local service providers and community organizations.

Second Chance Act (SCA) grants have been awarded to community and faith-based organizations as well as state, local and tribal governments spanning nearly every state in the country. SCA grants have also promoted the public/private partnerships that are required to tackle the complex task of reducing recidivism. NACo had a significant role in developing the re-entry and re-investment legislation and making the case for strong local government involvement and an expansion of pretrial services.

Because 2,977 counties own and operate a jail, and over 11 million individuals are admitted each year, SCA has been a key legislative priority since its inception. Furthermore, counties spend more than \$70 billion each year on criminal justice and more than \$69 billion on health and human services, so reducing recidivism in our communities yields savings, while enhancing public safety.

Both House and Senate Appropriations Committees included funding for Second Chance Act programs in their respective FY2014 Commerce, Justice, Science and related agencies (CJS) appropriations bills which passed both chambers in July, 2013. The CJS bill was included in the final omnibus FY2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act which was signed into law on January 16, 2014. The final FY2014 Omnibus Appropriations bill (P.L. 113-76), funded Second Chance Act programs at \$68 million.

QUICK FACTS

- Counties spend more than \$70 billion each year on criminal justice and more than \$69 billion on health and human services. 2,977 counties own and operate a jail, and over 11 million individuals are admitted each year to local jails
- The bipartisan Second Chance Act provides resources to states, local governments and nonprofit organizations to improve outcomes for people returning to communities from prisons, jails and juvenile facilities

NACo members are encouraged to contact their Members of Congress and urge them to fund and reauthorize the Second Chance Act. At a time when Congress is increasingly focused on accountability, programs like SCA assist in reducing recidivism and can yield huge savings in the criminal justice, health care and human services systems.

KEY TALKING POINTS:

- According to the U. S. Bureau of Justice Statistics, there are more than 11 million individuals admitted annually. Of that number, only about 4 percent of jail admissions result in sentences to prison or in other terms—96 percent of jail detainees and inmates return directly to the community from jail.
- Counties spend more than \$70 billion each year on criminal justice and more than \$69 billion on health and human services.
- Since 2009, more than one out of three Second Chance Act awards has gone to county governments. Of the nearly \$300 million that has been awarded to state, local, tribal, and nonprofit reentry programs under the Second Chance Act, \$95 million has gone directly to county governments.
- The reentry population is faced with a number of issues and obstacles upon their return to our communities and often lacking services or support, a large number of these individuals recidivate. They return to their communities with complex health, education, housing and other needs—which, if not addressed, can increase their likelihood of returning to jail or prison.
- The Second Chance Act (SCA) outlines a common-sense, evidence-based approach to reducing crime and improving public safety. It improves the coordination of reentry services and policies at the state, tribal and local levels, and provides financial assistance for demonstration grants, reentry courts, family-centered programs, mental health and addiction treatment, employment, mentoring and other services needed to improve transition from prison, jail and the juvenile justice system.
- Authorization for the program expired in September 2013, but NACo continues to work with lawmakers to pass bipartisan, bicameral legislation to reauthorize the program.
- Please support reauthorization of SCA and continued funding for the program.

For more information, contact: Landis Rush at 202.942.4236 or arush@naco.org

COMMITTEES OF JURISDICTION:

House Committee on the Judiciary	Senate Judiciary Committee
<p>Majority: Robert W. Goodlatte (R-VA), Chairman Trent Franks (R-AZ) Howard Coble (R-NC) Jim Sensenbrenner (R-WI) Trey Gowdy (R-SC) Spencer Bachus (R-AL) Lamar Smith (R-TX) Steve Chabot (R-OH) Darrell Issa (R-CA) J. Randy Forbes (R-VA) Steve King (R-IA) Louie Gohmert (R-TX)</p> <p>Minority: John Conyers Jr. (D-MI), Ranking Member Jerrold Nadler (D-NY) Robert C. Scott (D-VA) Melvin Watt (D-NC) Zoe Lofgren (D-CA) Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX) Steve Cohen (D-TN) Hank Johnson (D-GA) Pedro R. Pierluisi (D-PR)</p>	<p>Majority: Patrick J. Leahy (D-VT), Chairman Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) Charles E. Schumer (D-NY) Richard J. Durbin (D-IL) Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) Al Franken (D-MN) Chris Coons (D-DE) Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) Mazie Hirono (D-HI)</p> <p>Minority: Charles E. Grassley (R-IA), Ranking Member Orrin G. Hatch (R-UT) Jeff Sessions (R-AK) Lindsey Graham (R-SC) John Cornyn (R-TX) Mike Lee (R-UT) Ted Cruz (R-TX) Jeff Flake (R-AZ)</p>



TRAVIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT

RON DAVIS
Commissioner, Pct. 1

SAMUEL T. BISCOE
County Judge

BRUCE TODD
Commissioner, Pct. 2

GERALD DAUGHERTY
Commissioner, Pct. 3

MARGARET J. GÓMEZ
Commissioner, Pct. 4

September 16, 2014

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee
Dirksen Senate Office Building, SD-224
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rob Goodlatte
Chairman, House Judiciary Committee
Rayburn House Office Building, 2138
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
Ranking Member, Senate Judiciary Committee
Dirksen Senate Office Building, SD-152
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Conyers
Ranking Member, House Judiciary Committee
Rayburn House Office Building, 2142
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Leahy and Goodlatte and Ranking Members Grassley and Conyers:

The Travis County Commissioners Court supports S. 1690/H.R. 3465, the Second Chance Reauthorization Act of 2013, because we represent communities working to increase public safety by improving reentry from prisons, jails, and juvenile facilities. This bipartisan bill provides resources to state and local governments as well as community-based organizations to improve success rates for people released from prison and jail.

Here in Travis County, we received a Second Chance Act grant in 2012 that allowed us to bridge a gap in the existing service delivery continuum in our community by providing the resources needed to deliver intensive specialized treatment and case management services for probationers with co-occurring disorders. One client served by the grant program had a lengthy criminal history and was homeless when he entered the program. He has successfully completed the re-entry program, maintained his sobriety, and now, for the first time in 13 years, has a steady home and a job. Without continued support of the Second Chance Act, clients such as this one would continue to fall through the cracks and public safety would be compromised.

The Second Chance Act will provide crucial resources at a time when they are desperately needed. In 2009, federal and state prisons held over 1.6 million inmates—one in every 199 U.S. residents—and released 729,295 individuals back to their communities. More than 9 million individuals are released from jail each year. Unfortunately, most individuals face numerous challenges when returning to the community from prison or jail, and research indicates that over

half are re-incarcerated within three years of their release. Research confirms that comprehensive, coordinated services can help formerly incarcerated individuals find stable employment and housing, thereby reducing recidivism.

By providing the resources needed to coordinate reentry services and policies at the state and local levels, S. 1690/H.R. 3465 will ensure that the tax dollars spent on corrections do not simply fuel a revolving door in and out of prison. State and local governments around the country, as well as community and faith-based organizations, are in dire need of these resources to address prisoner reentry and recidivism reduction efforts in our communities.

Please support S. 1690/H.R. 3465, the Second Chance Reauthorization Act of 2013.

Sincerely,

SAMUEL T. BISCOE
COUNTY JUDGE

RON DAVIS
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 1

BRUCE TODD
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 2

GERALD DAUGHERTY
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 3

MARGARET J. GÓMEZ
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 4

CC: The Honorable John Cornyn, Member, Senate Judiciary Committee
The Honorable Ted Cruz, Member, Senate Judiciary Committee
The Honorable Lamar Smith, Member, House Judiciary Committee