



Supporting Reentry Success for Individuals With Mental Health and Substance Use Treatment Needs

Evidence-based practices for successful community reentry

Individuals released from prison or jail face numerous challenges, particularly when they also struggle with substance use or mental health disorders. Too often, these individuals enter a tragic cycle of crime and imprisonment. Through evidence-based reentry practices, jurisdictions can create opportunities for successful community integration, easing system costs and improving long-term outcomes for formerly incarcerated individuals and their communities.

The Challenge

Local jails across the country book an average of seven million individuals every year, and an additional one million are incarcerated annually in state prisons. Whether confined pending trial, serving a short sentence in a local jail, or held for years in a state prison, more than 95% of those in custody will be released back to the community. Of those, more than half, around four million people, have a substance use or mental health disorder requiring treatment. Without appropriate support, these individuals face significantly higher rates of reoffending and early death, particularly due to increased suicide and overdose risk. Research consistently shows that jurisdictions can interrupt these cycles of crime and improve long-term recovery rates by following a set of strategies that create strong partnerships between justice and behavioral health professionals.

The Solution

All Rise's Center for Advancing Justice can help your jurisdiction implement reentry solutions to break the cycle of crime, incarceration, and early death. While laws and policies impacting jail and prison reentry vary from state to state, the Center for Advancing Justice's approach is grounded in core principles that can be customized for and implemented in any setting.

We focus on core principles, including:

- Quick identification of individuals with behavioral health needs through universal screening practices
- Peer support to enhance engagement in services and justice system navigation
- Access to medication based on the needs of the individual
- Cross-training and collaboration between justice and health professionals
- In-reach services by community-based providers to support release planning and continuity of care

Our Approach

The Center for Advancing Justice has developed the AIRS framework (Assess, Implement, Review, and Sustain) to facilitate our work with local jurisdictions.

Assess: We begin with a comprehensive system assessment to evaluate a jurisdiction's readiness to implement evidence-based reentry practices. Through stakeholder interviews, data analysis, and resource mapping, we help jurisdictions understand reentry practices, existing resources, and current reentry service gaps.

Implement: After the assessment phase, we work alongside local leaders to craft a jurisdiction-specific implementation plan that leverages existing resources and partnerships. We help develop policies and procedures, train partners, create communication plans to facilitate interagency information sharing, and develop referral pathways to rapidly connect defendants to the new services.

Review: As jurisdictions begin to implement improved reentry processes, we provide real-time support to help evaluate impact, gather feedback, and make necessary adjustments.

Sustain: To ensure that changes last beyond the initial implementation period, we support sustainability planning, including long-term funding strategies, staff training plans, cross-system coordination protocols, and the identification of internal champions who will lead ongoing efforts to support system goals.

Why partner with the Center for Advancing Justice?

Our mission is to advance effective interventions for individuals impacted by substance use and mental health challenges at every stage of the criminal and civil legal systems. We have the expertise and experience required to develop trusted, pragmatic solutions to meet your unique needs.

Experts in implementation science: Our team brings a deep understanding of how to translate best practices into real-world, sustainable actions to improve outcomes.

Driven by results: We deploy proven strategies for success and rely on data to tell us what's working and what's not.

Customized, ongoing support: Our process is collaborative and adapted to your local community, capacity, and statutory requirements.

Let's Get Started

Whether you're just beginning to explore reentry services or looking to improve existing processes, the Center for Advancing Justice can help. Contact us today to start the conversation!



Contact us for a custom proposal! Scan the QR code or visit allrise.org/caj