

Local Governance Structure Overview



Overview

This overview provides a quick reference to the roles and responsibilities of stakeholders involved in the local governance structure of reentry councils in communities.

The Local Reentry Council

A Local Reentry Council (LRC) consists of an organized network of individuals and agencies from different disciplines and backgrounds that have a role or significant interest in providing supervision and coordination of innovative responses to the reintegration of offenders/formerly incarcerated individuals at the local level and to use existing program services.

The purpose of the Local Reentry Council is to help bring together all stakeholders who could offer assistance and resources to help offenders/formerly incarcerated individuals to become productive citizens, reduce recidivism and victimization. Each Local Reentry Council will be comprised of community and faith based service providers, an advisory committee, an intermediary agency, local agency staff from the NC Department of Public Safety (Prison and Probation) and a Local Executive Committee.

The Local Reentry Council will develop a comprehensive local reentry plan that addresses barriers that offenders/formerly incarcerated individuals may face in their communities. Focus areas would include employment, mental health and substance abuse treatment, transportation, child care services, vocational training, education and housing.

Major roles of a Local Reentry Council will include, but is not limited to:

- Developing a network of resources within their area.
- Communicating and advocating for offender/formerly incarcerated issues to the community and its' leaders.
- Educating the public on offenders/formerly incarcerated individuals' issues.

Advisory Committee

The Advisory Committee will encompass a wide range of local faith, non-profit, government and business leaders and formerly incarcerated individuals who communicate identified resource gaps and where possible respond to these gaps with local resources. Additionally, the Advisory Committee is responsible for reentry education and community outreach.

Service Providers

Service Providers will consist of local and faith-based community organizations (non-profits, grassroots agencies, churches, ministries, etc.) that offer direct services to offenders/formerly incarcerated individuals in areas of need such as temporary

shelter, permanent housing, employment services, food, clothing, vocational training, transportation, substance abuse and mental health treatment, mentoring programs and any other supportive services.

Intermediary Agency

An Intermediary Agency is a nongovernmental organization with state and/or local recognition and relationships to work with community-based and faith-based reentry service providers, individuals and stakeholders who will constitute the local reentry council membership. Intermediary agencies have established organizational infrastructures and a history of working with government and community-based organizations. Intermediaries are positioned between funding entities and beneficiary organizations and serves as the mechanism to fund and support the creation of local reentry councils.

The intermediary agency will serve as the liaison between the state (Office of Research and Planning) and the Local Reentry Council. The intermediary agency will act as the fiscal agent for the local reentry council and will be responsible for managing, tracking, and disbursing start-up funds to support the creation of the local reentry council.

Other roles and responsibilities of the intermediary agency will include but is not limited to:

- Convening faith and/or community-based organizations, agencies, individuals, and/or stakeholders for the goal of forming a network (local reentry council) to strengthen the collective ability to provide reentry services;
- Providing administrative support, coordination and technical assistance to local reentry council service providers;
- Reporting to the Local Executive Committee
- Hosting the local reentry council staff positions to include a Reentry Coordinator and Job Placement Specialist and manage contracts with service providers.

NC Department of Public Safety

The NC Department of Public Safety (NC DPS)-Adult Correction aim to build better relationships between the agency and local communities. NC DPS/Adult Correction will serve as support to the Local Reentry Council. Local NC DPS staff from Prisons and Community Corrections will serve as members of the Local Reentry Council and the Local Executive Committee.

The goal of NC DPS is to help coordinate and sustain efforts of the Local Reentry Council and to keep abreast of the resources in the community to better assist offenders successfully transition from correctional supervision, including prison, probation, parole and/or post release supervision.

The Local Executive Committee

The Local Executive Committee will guide decision making about the work of the Local Reentry Council including operation, design, implementation and oversight of the comprehensive local reentry plan. This committee is designed to ensure that key decisions about the Local Reentry Council are part of a formal, clear and open process that involves advice, concerns and input of all stakeholders of the Council.

Members of the Local Executive Committee should be comprised of representatives of NC DPS (Prisons and Community Corrections), Service Providers, Advisory Committee and the Intermediary Agency. Critical expectations of the Local Executive Committee are that members have knowledge and expertise of the service area they represent and that they represent their local council, not just their own organization(s).

Major roles of a Local Executive Committee will include, but is not limited to:

- Ensuring that key decisions about the design, implementation and oversight of the LRC comprehensive plan are part of a formal, clear and open process that involves the input all members of the Local Reentry Council.
- Working with the Intermediary Agency to build public knowledge, support and a consistent message.
- Working with the Intermediary Agency to ensure that the day-to-day activities and operations of the Local Reentry Council are completed in an effective and efficient manner.
- Ensuring that support services for the identified barriers are leveraged across their community.
Identifying funding to support local reentry initiatives