

# Resource Guide

## For Reimagine Reentry

**By:**

Arvin Sequeira (PharmD Candidate)  
Andrew Martuscelli (MPH Human Genetics)

**Community Mentors:**

Julia Donnelly, MPH (Data and Project  
Manager)  
Jim Paolicelli (Head Reentry Coach)

**Faculty Mentor:**

Thuy (Twee) Bui, MD (Associate Professor of  
Medicine)

# Background on Reentry

- What is **Reentry**?
  - **Reentry** refers to the transition of offenders from prisons or jails back into the community <sup>1</sup>
  - 2/3 of individuals released, recidivate
    - What is **Recidivism**?
      - Recidivism is measured by criminal acts that resulted in rearrest, reconviction or return to prison with or without a new sentence during a **three-year period** following the person's release <sup>2</sup>



1. <https://nicic.gov/projects/offender-reentry-transition>
2. <https://nij.ojp.gov/topics/corrections/recidivism>

# Background on **Reimagine** Reentry

- An organization providing holistic services for returning services using a strengths based approach
  - What does it mean to be **Strengths Based**?
    - From a strengths-based perspective, the focus is on the offenders' **values** and **priorities** while equipping them with the knowledge, skills, opportunities, and resources that are needed to achieve their goals <sup>3</sup>



<sup>3</sup> Ward T, Stewart C. Criminogenic needs and human needs: A theoretical model. *Psychology, Crime & Law*. 2003;9(2):125–143.

# Background on **Reimagine** Reentry

- Why is this Strengths Based Reentry Model **important**?
  - Reentry is **difficult**
    - Many **barriers** exist
  - Most reentry programs are designed to manage offender risk, through the **Risk-Need-Responsivity (RNR)** model <sup>4</sup>
    - **RNR** prioritizes security and custody goals over efforts meant to address underlying personal, social, and environmental risk factors that drive criminal behavior <sup>4</sup>



<sup>4</sup> Donnelly, J; Rethinking Reentry: a look at how risk-based approaches limit reentry success, and a case for why strengths-based approaches may better reduce recidivism; University of Pittsburgh, 2021

# Population Background

Reimagine Reentry

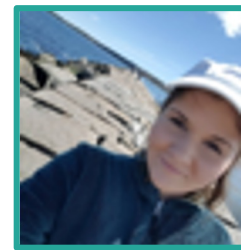
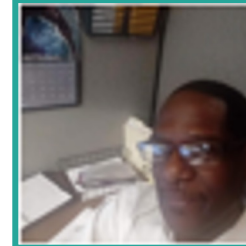
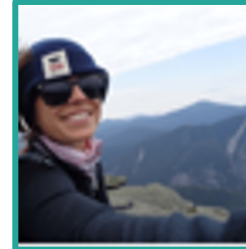


- Clients come from all different backgrounds
    - Various charges
    - Various Degrees
    - Various Ages 18-70s
    - Various Gender (half and half)
-

# Background on **Reimagine** Reentry

- Multi-Craft Core Curriculum (MC3)
  - Paid Training
- One-on-One Reentry Coaching
- Workforce Development and Training
- Family Reunification Education
- Housing Assistance Planning
  - And More!

## Meet Our Team



# What Makes **Reimagine** Reentry Different?



- What other organizations do
  - Typically focus on employment or housing as the end goal in the short term
  - Do not provide long term support
- What we do **differently**
  - We use a strengths based model
  - We stay with our clients for 3 years
  - Holistic Services in all aspects
    - Our current recidivism rate: ~18%

# Project Basis

- Where do **we fit in**?
  - There are many barriers for returning citizens
    - Seeing where structural discrimination and various complex social situations factor in
  - Meeting with various clients to hear about their specific needs and barriers
    - Understanding where the gaps exist for our client population
- How can we **Bridge the Gaps**?
  - Providing a resource guide for returning citizens to utilize
  - Focus on those that are accommodating for those with backgrounds





# Project Development

- Gaps that Exist
  - Legal Resources
  - Healthcare Access
  - Mental Health Resources
  - Substance Use Resources
  - Housing Resources
  - Transportation
  - Education



# Project Description

- Example of a **Resource Guide**



**REIMAGINE  
REENTRY**  
Holistic Services for  
Returning Citizens

REIMAGINE REENTRY - ALLOY 26  
100 SOUTH COMMONS STREET,  
SUITE 102  
PITTSBURGH, PA, 15212

EMAIL:  
CONTACT@RE-  
IMAGINEREENTRY.ORG

Website:  
<https://www.letsreimaginereentry.org/>



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|--|---|---|
| <h3>Legal Support</h3> <p><b>Expungement (Clearing a Past Record):</b><br/><b>Neighborhood Legal Services Association</b><br/>(Pittsburgh Pro Bono Partnership)<br/>Address: 928 Penn Avenue<br/>Pittsburgh, PA 15222-3757<br/>Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.</p> <p>Phone: 412-255-6700<br/>Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m.-2:30 p.m., Monday and Wednesday 5:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.</p> <p>Client eligibility:<br/><b>125% of poverty level income with limited assets</b></p> <p><b>State Pardons:</b><br/>Re-Entry Legal Services Clinic (Duquesne University)<br/>Address: Tribune Building<br/>912-914 Fifth Avenue<br/>Pittsburgh, PA 15219</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:lawclinic@duq.edu">lawclinic@duq.edu</a><br/>Phone: 412-396-4764</p> <p><b>Public Defender (Lawyer)</b><br/>Allegheny County Public Defender Office<br/>County Office Building, Room 400<br/>542 Forbes Avenue<br/>Pittsburgh, PA 15219<br/>Hours: 8:30a.m.-4:30p.m.</p> <p>Phone: 412-350-2401</p> | <h3>Rights while on Parole</h3> <p>Your Parole Officer (PO) is the first point of contact for any questions about your parole. Be sure to talk about the requirements of your parole and what you need to do to keep with the terms. Be sure to discuss the specifics around any violations of your parole.</p> <p><b>Pennsylvania Parole Handbook:</b><br/><a href="https://www.pardole.pa.gov/Information/Documents/Publications/Final%20Parole%20Handbook.pdf">https://www.pardole.pa.gov/Information/Documents/Publications/Final%20Parole%20Handbook.pdf</a></p> <p><b>Violations of Parole</b><br/>As a parolee, you have the right to two hearings: a preliminary hearing before you can be detained for a violation and a secondary hearing to determine if you have or have not violated part of your parole.</p> <p>You are also entitled to legal help in these cases.<br/>You, or your lawyer, have the right to appeal within 30 days of the date on the mail.</p> | <h3>Legal Support</h3> <p><b>General Legal Pro-Bono Work (Free Lawyer Services)</b><br/><b>Pennsylvania Institutional Law Project</b><br/>Address: 100 Fifth Avenue, Suite 900<br/>Pittsburgh, PA 15222<br/>Phone: 412-434-6004</p> <p>Client Eligibility:<br/>Must be housed in the following: Halfway house, Community living arrangement, and others and have the following<br/>Income guidelines: 125% of the federal poverty level</p> <p><b>Obtaining a Social Security Card</b><br/>You must schedule an in-person interview and obtain the following documents:</p> <p>Phone: 1-800-772-1213<br/>Address: 6117 STATION ST<br/>PITTSBURGH, PA 15206</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Birth certificate</li><li>2. U.S. driver's license, State-issued non-driver identification card or a U.S. passport</li></ol> <p>If you do not have anything from Number 2, please bring an Employee identification card, School identification card, Health insurance card (not Medicare ), U.S. military identification card</p> |
|--|---|---|



# Project Description

- Example of a **Resource Guide**

## IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATION

Education is more than taking classes and obtaining a diploma. Education helps you develop your critical thinking skills and teaches you how to be successful throughout your life. These skills are essential in securing a fulfilling job, as well as with maintaining relationships with friends and family. Although cost often gets in the way of pursuing education, the city of Pittsburgh offers many affordable resources to make obtaining your education as easy as possible.



REIMAGINE REENTRY  
HOUSTIC SERVICES FOR RETURNING CITIZENS

## REIMAGINE REENTRY

HOUSTIC SERVICES FOR RETURNING CITIZENS



## CONTACT US

Reimagine Reentry - Alloy 26  
100 South Commons Street, Suite 102  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222  
contact@reimagineentry.org  
<https://www.letsreimagineentry.org/>


## EDUCATION RESOURCE GUIDE



## LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

### FINANCIAL AID

Affording education is often one of the greatest barriers to obtaining educational services. Fortunately, there are many organizations that offer assistance for adults looking to obtain a degree, or just to take a few classes.



#### Literacy Pittsburgh

This program offers free tutoring services and classes to individuals and families living in the Allegheny County.  
<https://www.literacypittsburgh.org/>

#### Goodwill Adult Education Site

This program offers free GED classes both in the mornings as well as at night. Goodwill also assists its students in paying for the GED test, provides assistance with resume writing and job interviewing.  
<https://www.goodwillsw.org/>

#### Petey Greene


This program offers tutoring services to currently, and formerly incarcerated individuals in the Allegheny county. Volunteer tutors from Duquesne University and the University of Pittsburgh come together and focus on math, reading, writing, social studies, and science.  
<https://www.peteygreene.org/pittsburgh>

#### Fox Chapel Area Adult Education

This program offers low cost adult-enrichment classes which are available year-round. Some of their courses include, technology assistance, physical fitness, cooking, art, photography, and swimming.  
<https://www.fcaae.org/>

### TYPES OF FINANCIAL AID

- Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
  - Completing this form determines your eligibility for federal student aid and federal grants
  - <https://studentaid.gov/apply-for-aid/fafsa>
- Private Student Loan
  - These type of loans are offered by schools, banks, credit unions or state agencies. No FAFSA is required to apply
- Federal Student Loan
  - Money borrowed from these loans comes directly from the federal government. Usually these types of loans offer lower interest rates than private loans. To be eligible for these types of loans, a FAFSA must be completed.
- Scholarships/Grants
  - This type of financial aid is great, because the money earned does not need to be paid back. Individuals apply from grants and scholarships by searching for them online and writing a personal statement as to why you deserve the money. This process goes beyond your GPA, and allows agencies to view you as an individual in need of financial assistance.



REIMAGINE REENTRY  
HOUSTIC SERVICES FOR RETURNING CITIZENS

# Project Importance

- Why are these guides **important**?
  - These guides provide organizations that are specifically friendly to those with criminal backgrounds
  - Designed with language that our population can read and comprehend
    - Adjusted for Reading Level
    - Simplicity
  - Easy to use to locate for resources by subject matter
- In what ways do our **clients benefit** from this resource?
  - Allegheny County is a resource rich area
    - .... But it is **hard to know where to look**
    - This is a start to connecting our clients with what is out there



# Project Evaluation

- It is important that these guides **benefit** our clients and their changing needs
  - **How will we assess that?**
    - **Quarterly Surveys** to assess if our clients found these guides valuable
    - **Feedback** for updates and other resources for consideration
    - **Updates** on the organizations
      - Assessing if they are still in operation etc.



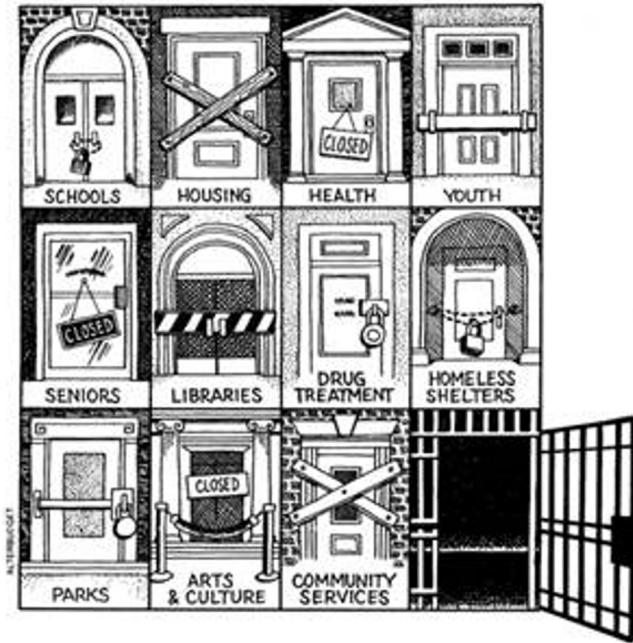
# Why is Healthy People 2030 Important?

- What is **Healthy People 2030**?
  - A set of 355 measurable, national objectives, with a goal of improving the health and well-being of the general population
- Healthy People 2030 **acknowledges** the various structural, environmental, health, and societal factors that impacts a person's life
  - Examples: Substance Use, Transportation, Income, and Housing
    - Especially pertinent for our returning citizen population



# Summary

- The reentry process is not easy!
  - Individuals who are released face many **barriers** and are given little to no guidance
  - Recidivism is a big risk
- **Reimagine** Reentry is one of the few organizations looking out for this underrepresented population
  - **Strengths-Based approach** vs Risk-Need-Responsivity (RNR)



# Summary

- Bridging the Gaps
  - Client **interviews**
  - Considering social determinants of health
  - Utilizing public resources
  - Connecting with **community organizations**
- Resource Guide
  - Address specific barriers reentering citizens face
    - Transportation, education, addiction, housing, employment
  - Recommend services that are:
    - Affordable, local, welcoming to returning citizens





# Personal Quotes

**Arvin:** Oftentimes, people have **misconceptions** that those who were formerly incarcerated cannot contribute much to society. I truly see how **valuable** our population is and how we as a community have often failed them in their efforts to reintegrate. I hope we can do better as a people to aid them, since we should encourage change and the breakdown of barriers instead of emphasizing punishment for wrongdoings (that we all make).

**Andrew:** Recidivism is such a prominent issue in today's society, and this is largely due to the many social and structural obstacles returning citizens are faced with following their reentry. The combination of **stigmatization** and misconception about this population have a profound negative effect on millions of families each year. This experience showed me how much this population has to offer, and how change is necessary if we want to realize the true **potential** of this discriminated population.



# Thank You!

We wanted to sincerely thank the following staff at Reimagine Reentry for providing us an incredibly fulfilling and rewarding experience this summer.

**Julia Donnelly, MPH** (Community Mentor), **Jim Paolicelli** (Head of Coaching), **Richard Garland, MSW** (Executive Director), **Lindsay Angelo, MPA** (Head Administrator), **Gina Brooks, MSL** (Head of MC3), **Rick Cobbs** (Intake and Recruitment), **Caroline Cook** (Financial Manager), and **Sydney Yates** (Social Media)

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## Contact Information:

Andrew Martuscelli (ajm354@pitt.edu)

Arvin Sequeira (ars303@pitt.edu)