

## WHAT IS RE-ENTRY?

### *A working definition*

According to the federal Bureau of Justice Assistance, “**Re-entry** refers to the transition of offenders from prisons or jails back into the community. According to the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, more than 650,000 people are released from state and federal prisons annually. An even greater number is released from local jails.”<sup>i</sup>

### **What Is The Target Population of Re-entry Policy and Services?**

In a broad context, the Re-entry population is defined as all persons who have been convicted of a criminal offense and are returning to society, whether or not they have served executed time on a federal, state, or local level. The type of criminal offense and the type of sentence do not define the Re-entry population. All those convicted of any crime face additional barriers to successful, productive, crime-free citizenship.

Many offenders in our county with extensive criminal histories have not been to prison, yet they require a major expense of time, money and resources for local law enforcement, correctional and criminal justice agencies. None can be overlooked. With regard to those offenders who are incarcerated, if their stay is 30 days or longer, the American Correctional Association (ACA) standards require that re-entry preparation assistance be offered to them.

Although research in effective correctional interventions supports the fact that “correctional programs (including re-entry) should focus their resources on higher-risk offenders”<sup>ii</sup> such offenders may be found in all programs, facilities and phases of re-entry. Programs provided for the Re-entry population need to “target crime-producing factors (“criminogenic” needs) such as anti-social attitudes, beliefs and values; anti-social personality, negative associations; poor problem solving and self-control skills; and substance abuse.”<sup>iii</sup>

As it applies to the Marion County criminal justice system and the work of this Commission, Re-entry services and supports are needed while offenders are in prison, jail, pre-trial programs, parole, community corrections and probation settings.

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<sup>i</sup> <https://www.bja.gov/evaluation/program-corrections/re-entry1.htm>

<sup>ii</sup> “What Science Says About Designing Effective Prisoner Re-entry Programs” ,P.14, by Edward Latessa in Wisconsin Family Impact Seminars

<sup>iii</sup> What Science Says.....P.15