



# Offender Reentry in Ohio

Ted Strickland, Governor

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Terry J. Collins, Director

10th Congressional District Fact Sheet

## Reentry Initiatives within the District:

### Greater Cleveland Reentry Strategy-Office Of Reentry

Cuyahoga County is the largest metropolitan area in Ohio with a total population of 1,305,166. Of that population, 478,403 reside in the City of Cleveland (2000 Census). In 2008, Cuyahoga County, had the highest number of returning prisoners of all 88 counties in the State. Roughly 6,000 prisoners returned to the City of Cleveland alone last year. Supporting ex-offenders in making an optimal reentry transition requires providing them with access to a variety of training and development opportunities, linkages to jobs, and safe and affordable housing. With the number of returning prisoners rising every year, Cuyahoga County was in need of structured reentry programming and assistance. That was the beginning of the development of the Office of Reentry.

The mission of the Office of Reentry is to assist policymakers, community leaders, and service providers identify the reentry challenges facing Greater Cleveland and work to target resources toward sound, comprehensive, and cost effective solutions. It strives to provide the focused leadership and strong organizational capacity needed to address prisoner reentry Cuyahoga County. The Office of Reentry also oversees the implementation of initiatives such as the Greater Cleveland Reentry Strategy, provide direction around reentry policy, advocacy, education, training, funding, data collection, research, and service coordination and contract for reentry services.

### Vision Council Family Behavioral Health Initiative

This initiative is designed to strengthen the behavioral health of these incarcerated, their children, and adult family members to maximize the positive impact of families on successful reentry. It also seeks to re-frame community attitudes and responses to formerly incarcerated persons and their family members to reduce institutional barriers to successful reentry.

### By the Numbers

#### Cuyahoga County

#### Number of Commitments by County to ODRC Reception Centers

Source: FY '08 Commitment Report

**Males: 4,632**

**Females: 589**

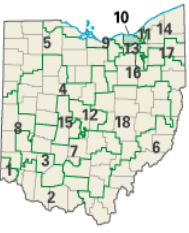
**Total: 5,221**

#### Number of Offenders Under Supervision with ODRC

Source: Adult Parole Authority  
Jan. '09 Monthly Report

**Total: 4,516**

### Congressional District 10



Ohio (18 Districts)

### Ohio Prisons Snapshot

(as of April 2009)

- Incarcerated — 50,889
- Institutions— 32
- Capacity— 38,665
- Male— 92.45%
- Female— 7.55%
- Annual Admissions — 28,178
- Annual Releases — 29,014
- Average Cost Per Inmate
  - Daily = \$67.77
  - Annual = \$24,736.50

The Honorable Dennis J. Kucinich  
U.S. House of Representatives

## **Citizen Circles**

Circles create partnerships that promote positive interaction and accountability for offenders upon release. Membership provides an opportunity for citizens to communicate expectations to the offenders for successful reentry. Offenders are able demonstrate their personal strengths, begin the process of rebuilding social capital, be provided with the opportunity to perform community service, and begin repairing the harm their past behavior has caused others. There are twenty-nine (29) active Circles across Ohio which includes six (6) within Cuyahoga County.

## **Comprehensive Anti-Gang Initiative (CAGI)**

This new initiative incorporates prevention and enforcement efforts, as well as programs to assist released prisoners as they reenter society. Integrating prevention, enforcement and prisoner reentry, this initiative targets gang membership and gang violence at every stage. Cleveland was selected as one of just six cities to implement the CAGI grant funds to support the following areas:

**Prevention** – The Department of Justice make available grant funds to support comprehensive prevention efforts such as the Gang Reduction Program, focuses on reducing youth-gang crime and violence. It does so by addressing the full range of personal, family and community factors that contribute to juvenile delinquency and gang activity.

**Enforcement** – The Department of Justice will make available grant funds to help support enforcement programs that focus law enforcement efforts on the most significant violent gang offenders.

**Prisoner Reentry** – The Department of Justice will make available grant funds to create reentry assistance programs that provide transitional housing, job readiness and placement assistance, and substance abuse and mental health treatment to prisoners reentering society.

## **Community Advocacy Program: Cleveland Reentry Clinic**

The Cleveland Reentry Clinic provides an intake point for members of the reentry community who need health care, especially for chronic conditions, including mental health disorders. New patients see a doctor, obtain needed prescriptions, then choose a convenient MetroHealth clinic and a primary care doctor for ongoing care. A legal assistant on-site assesses legal needs, then assists with applications (e.g., Medicaid, Social Security), appeals of benefit denials, and referrals to Legal Aid services, as well as education regarding legal rights. Each individual works with a financial counselor on qualification for free or reduced cost care and prescriptions.

## **Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) Project**

The ACT team project is a collaboration between the Cuyahoga County Community Mental Health Board, Recovery Resources and the Cleveland Adult Parole Authority Region. The mission of the ACT team is to provide comprehensive community-based treatment for persons with the severe mental illness, specifically with diagnoses of schizophrenia, schizoaffective disorder, and bipolar disorder. Recently, the program expanded the diagnostic criteria to consider any diagnosis that involves psychosis, including Major Depression. The ACT team objectives is to transition the severely mentally ill offender from the prison mental health caseloads to the community without interruption or delays in receiving critical care services. The goal is to ensure that the offender achieves psychiatric stability and independent functioning in areas of self-care, work, and social living, and makes progress toward permanent housing.

## **Cleveland Transition Center (CTC)**

The Cleveland transition Center is a residential program developed through a partnership between the City of Cleveland, Ohio Department of Rehabilitation (ODRC) and Correction and Oriana House designed to meet the needs of Cleveland residents who are returning home from prison. CTC offers men and women the opportunity to develop new life skill strategies to better prepare them for community integration. Even though Oriana is a halfway house, this program is a part of the ODRC halfway house contract. Offenders regardless of their release status can participate in this transitional program. This program is to address offenders only have housing issues after release, and some adjustment barriers.