

# Acknowledgments

**THE RE-ENTRY POLICY COUNCIL IS A NETWORK** of policymakers and practitioners from across the country steered by staff representing numerous organizations. Without the generous efforts of all these individuals, the funding support from the public and private sector, and the contributions of several extraordinary experts, this Report could not have been written. While it is impossible to thank each of these individuals by name here, several people deserve special recognition for their contributions to this Report.

Three state legislators co-chaired this initiative: Eric Bogue, the Senate Majority Leader in South Dakota; John Lored, the Minority Leader in the Arizona House of Representatives; and Jeffrion Aubry, Chair of the Corrections Committee in the New York State Assembly. They provided the project with bipartisan leadership, and they have demonstrated the key role that state legislators can play in convening the right stakeholders and in converting their recommendations into law and policy.

Carl Wicklund (American Parole and Probation Association), John Blackmore (Association of State Correctional Administrators), Kay Farley (National Center for State Courts), and Corina Solé Brito (Police Executive Research Forum) guided the work of the Public Safety Advisory Group. Carl and John deftly balanced the roles of institutional and community corrections—an extraordinary feat in and of itself—while Kay and Corina, along with predecessors at the PERF, made sure that the roles of both court officials and local law enforcement, who do not always see prisoner re-entry as part of their job, were thoughtfully incorporated into the process.

Christine Siksa (National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials), Richard Cho (Corporation for Supportive Housing), Bill Emmet (National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors), and Laura Skufca (National Association of State and Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors) coordinated the Supportive Health and Housing Advisory Group. Christine not only fostered a cohesive team, but also engaged the housing community in ways

many had thought previously impossible. Richard Cho constantly challenged the group to think in new and creative terms about piecing together resources and partnerships to finance a re-entry initiative. Bill Emmet's routine assurances to the group that this seemingly impossible Report could be written, based on his experiences with the Consensus Project, kept the Steering Committee together at crucial junctures. Under Lewis Gallant's leadership, Laura Skufca and her colleagues at NASADAD demonstrated great commitment to the issues faced by millions of people in prison and jail battling addiction.

Scott Cheney and his predecessors at the National Association of Workforce Boards managed a dynamic advisory group, bringing leading workforce investment board directors to the table and building a powerful bridge between One-Stops and corrections facilities.

Amy Solomon, with help from her team at the Urban Institute, made sure that the Report was grounded in research, and that this research was presented in ways that readers could process quickly and easily. Even more important than that, though, was Amy's willingness to provide countless hours of invaluable advice about the organization and structure of the Report.

It is hard to expect anyone to read a 650-page Report, but Dave Williams' skillful layout and design of the document, which built upon a template developed by Cabengo LLC, has made it as easy to read as possible.

David Fairman, Beth Greenland, and Tom Quinn expertly facilitated each advisory group meeting, helping members find common ground, despite the extraordinarily diverse perspectives present and despite agendas that were often unrealistically ambitious about what could be achieved in a day.

A project of the Re-Entry Policy Council's scope and complexity obviously is nothing more than a concept paper without significant financial backing. CSG staff are extremely grateful to federal agency officials from the Department of Justice, the Depart-

ment of Labor, and the Department of Health and Human Services whose funding support made the project possible. Moreover, their support vividly illustrates their commitment to an interagency partnership and to the principle that solutions to complex problems like prisoner re-entry do not come from inside the Beltway, but rather from people in states, cities, and communities who are grappling with these issues on a daily basis.

Federal funding did not cover all the expenses associated with this project. Major support from private foundations was essential to launch the project and disseminate the Report; CSG staff appreciate the faith that officials from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the JEHT Foundation, and the Open Society Institute showed in this initiative.

CSG staff and project partners extend their appreciation for the individuals who attended the original Re-Entry Policy Council meeting, many of whom remained with the project until its completion. Special thanks and gratitude go to the nearly 100 policy-makers and practitioners who served on the advisory groups that make up the Re-Entry Policy Council, as well as the dozens of people who participated in focus group meetings on issues concerning victims and children and families. These individuals contributed, without any compensation, hundreds of hours of their time to crisscross the country for meetings, and review countless drafts of the Report. Although not individually endorsed, the recommendations in this Report are based on their vision for systems that ensure that people's transition from prison or jail to the community is safe and successful.

Not even nine advisory group meetings could do justice to every key aspect of an issue as multifaceted as prisoner re-entry. As was to be expected, gaps emerged in early drafts of the Report, prompting CSG staff to turn to numerous luminaries in the field, who contributed text and expert advice beyond the many hours they may have contributed to the advisory group meetings themselves. For this service, CSG staff and the project partners in particular wish

to thank Jim Austin, Tony Fabelo, Adam Gelb, Dr. Robert Greifinger, Gail Hughes, Dr. Lambert King, Arlene Lee, David Lewis, Stefan Lobuglio, Debbie Mukamal, Mario Papparozzi, Hugh Potter, Roberta Richman, Ed Rhine, Anne Seymour, Carol Shapiro and her staff at Family Justice, Faye Taxman, Jeremy Travis, Vicki Turetsky, and Ashbel T. Wall.

It is important to recognize counterparts to CSG at other organizations, who have gone to great lengths to make sure the work of the Re-Entry Policy Council complements, and effectively leverages, the national re-entry initiatives that they coordinate. To Thomas MacLellan of the National Governors' Association, which established the Re-Entry Policy Academy, and to Liz Barnett of Abt Associates, which assisted the National Institute of Corrections with the development of the Transition from Prison to Community Initiative, thank you.

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Finally, CSG staff and the project partners wish to thank the men and women working daily in communities and prisons and jails across the country who are committed to making neighborhoods and families safer, stronger, and healthier. These are the people upon whom improvements to prisoner re-entry depend, and it is for them that this Report is written.