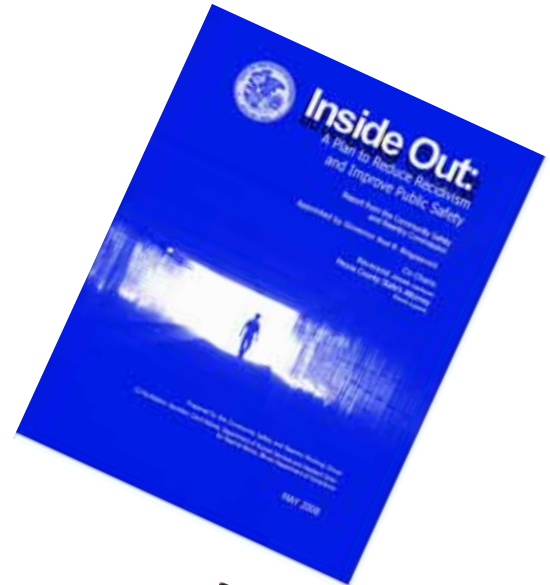


Overview of the Initiative

In May of 2008, Governor Blagojevich released the Governor's Re-Entry Report *Inside Out: A Plan to Reduce Recidivism and Improve Public Safety*. Informed by statewide hearings and extensive input from leaders in the treatment, policy, and corrections fields - and from the State Legislature - this Report provides a comprehensive blueprint for change in Illinois' corrections policies. The Report emphasizes the importance of planning for the eventual return of offenders to the community, in order to facilitate successful reintegration and avoid re-offense. The Report also emphasizes the need for assessment from the beginning of incarceration to help meet the needs of the offender, as well as the need to build community capacity to provide essential resources, including housing.



Target of the Governor's Report

The Governor's Report identified ten (10) Target Areas of the state that account for approximately 84% of the more than 39,000 people returning from prison to their original home communities each year. In addition to representing areas of high need, the communities identified were also balanced geographically, politically, and represented a good cross-section of the state. These communities are identified in red at the illustration at right, and include:

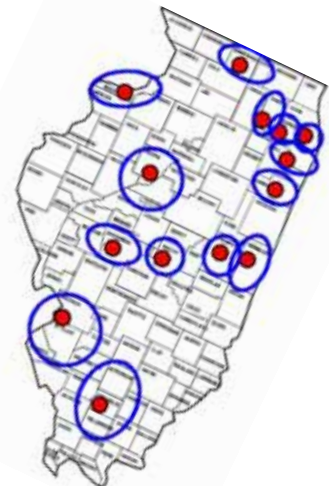
- | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Kane County (Aurora) | 6. Jefferson County |
| 2. Champaign & Vermillion County | 7. Peoria County |
| 3. Cook County (Chicago) | 8. Rock Island County |
| 4. Macon County (Decatur) | 9. Rockford & Winnebago County |
| 5. St. Clair & Madison County (E. St. Louis) | 10. Springfield & Sangamon County |



The Intervention:

Planning Grants Focused on Housing

To support the housing recommendations in the Governor's Re-Entry Report, the Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH) partnered with the Illinois Department of Corrections and the Illinois Division of Mental Health to release fourteen (14) Planning Grants within the ten (10) Target Areas to assist communities in assessing the need for re-entry housing and services in their area. The grantee agency locations are identified in the illustration at right by the red dots, and each will plan for the area encircled in blue. Grantees will work together with criminal justice and homeless services agencies to develop a resource guide and, potentially, to identify a permanent supportive housing project to be developed in their area through additional assistance from CSH.



Initiative Partners

- Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC): Co-developed the Request for Proposals for the Initiative and is an active participant in the ongoing planning process.
- Illinois Division of Mental Health (DMH): Evaluated and assisted in statewide selection of grantees and assisted in the roll-out and planning of the planning process to ensure inclusion of mental health providers.
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation: Philanthropic investment in CSH's *Returning Home Initiative*.

Funding for the Initiative

Through its *Returning Home Initiative*, supported by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, CSH is providing the following funding: \$75,000 for Planning Grants, supporting thirteen (13) \$5,000 grants and one (1) \$10,000 grant; and Project Initiation Loans of up to \$50,000 for supportive housing projects resulting from the Planning Grants, with up to three (3) such loans expected in Year 1.

Selecting the Communities through a Competitive Process

- A Request for Proposals for this grant program was released by CSH in June 2008 asking for applicants from ten (10) targeted and eligible communities identified in the Governor's Report as well as one (1) additional grant available to any other community not included in those areas identified within the Governor's Report.
- Many communities previously unwilling to consider housing competed for a chance to be a part of this process. All applicants were required to bring together homeless services organizations, criminal justice providers, mental health and substance abuse service providers to identify the needs for housing and services in their community. They are to catalog those needs in a standardized resource manual to be made available statewide.
- In September 2008, a committee consisting of CSH, IDOC, and DMH staff identified and selected 14 communities within the target areas within the State of Illinois for grant awards to participate in the planning process for approximately 8 months.
- All groups will be offered technical assistance from CSH and IDOC as well as an opportunity for additional grant resources, project development loans, and additional technical assistance to support the development of a permanent supportive housing project.

About CSH and the Returning Home Initiative

The Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH) is a national non-profit organization and Community Development Financial Institution that helps communities create permanent housing with services to prevent and end homelessness. Founded in 1991, CSH advances its mission by providing advocacy, expertise, leadership, and financial resources to make it easier to create and operate supportive housing. CSH seeks to help create an expanded supply of supportive housing for people, including single adults, families with children, and young adults, who have extremely low-incomes, who have disabling conditions, and/or face other significant challenges that place them at on-going risk of homelessness. For information regarding CSH's current office locations, please see www.csh.org/contactus.

CSH's national *Returning Home Initiative* aims to end the cycle of incarceration and homelessness that thousands of people face by engaging the criminal justice systems and integrating the efforts of housing, human service, corrections, and other agencies. *Returning Home* focuses on better serving people with histories of homelessness and incarceration by placing them to supportive housing.



Corporation for Supportive Housing
Illinois Program
205 W. Randolph, 23rd Fl
Chicago, IL 60606
T: 312.332.6690
F: 312.332.7040
E: il@csch.org
www.csh.org