



This newsletter shares information, policy and program updates and best practice information to 20 County Re-entry Task Forces and community stakeholders.

- Albany
- Bronx
- Broome
- Dutchess
- Erie
- Kings
- Monroe
- Nassau
- Niagara
- New York
- Oneida
- Onondaga
- Orange
- Queens
- Rensselaer
- Rockland
- Schenectady
- Suffolk
- Ulster
- Westchester

The [New York State Council on Community Re-entry and Reintegration](#) aims to reduce barriers for New Yorkers with criminal convictions.

### **CRTFs Continue Operations During COVID-19 in 2020-21**

Amidst COVID-19, the 20 CRTFs continued to provide services and interventions to individuals returning to the community to reduce recidivism. These interventions were provided remotely, as well as in-person with proper social distancing protocols. To the benefit of participants served by the CRTFs, cognitive behavioral interventions, as well as employment readiness group services continued to be provided, with the following completions: 228 *Ready, Set, Work!*, 29 CBI-EMP, 98 Interactive Journaling – Courage to Change, 25 Thinking for a Change (T4C) and 41 Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT). The CRTFs began service coordination for 2,900 individuals during the 2019-2020 contract year despite the onset of the COVID-19. DCJS is in the process of renewing all contracts with the 20 County Re-entry Task Forces for 2020-2021.

### **Vocation, Education and Advocacy Interactive Resource Map**

More than 270 probation and community corrections professionals, as well as professionals who work with the [DCJS-funded SNUG Street Outreach Program and Gun Involved Violence Elimination \(GIVE\) initiative](#) recently participated in a webinar to learn about the new **Vocation, Education, and Advocacy Resource Map**. Created by DJCS staff, the interactive map links to information about more than 400 programs offering education, job training, advocacy and mediation services to assist their clients. Representatives from some of the programs and services featured only also participated. The webinar was recorded and can be viewed [here](#). The resource map is available on the DCJS [website](#).

### **Community Dispute Resolution Centers (CDRCs)**

CDRCs partner with the state's Unified Court System and offer free or low-cost conflict resolution services that can help individuals returning to their community after incarceration. These services can assist with repairing relationships with family members, including disputes between parents and children; helping formerly incarcerated parents be involved with their children's lives by collaboratively developing a parenting plan with their co-parent; housing by addressing landlord-tenant issues; and conflict coaching by talking one-on-one to help individuals manage emotions and develop skills for positive engagement and conflict resolution. Check out the DCJS Vocation, Education and Advocacy Map [here](#) to find a Community Dispute Resolution Center near you.

### **DCJS Training Registration**

The OPCA Training Unit ([opcatraining@dcjs.ny.gov](mailto:opcatraining@dcjs.ny.gov)) will email all training announcements to the CRTF Coordinators and County/DOCCS Co-Chairs and the CRTF ListServ. Please register as soon as you can because these trainings fill up quickly!

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For more information on any of the topics mentioned within, to report any difficulties you may have experienced receiving this email, or if you have any information you would like included in the next issue, please contact [Taylor Alfred](#).

Past issues of *New York Re-Entry Today* are available on the [DCJS website](#). Bookmark the link!

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### **Spotlight: One Stop Career Centers & Job Fair**

The Department of Labor has over 90 One Stop Career Centers across the state. The One Stops offer career counseling, resume development, workshops, resource rooms (computers, phones, fax machines), job search and placement assistance, vocational training and access recruitment events. Andre Leppanen, Workforce Advisor, Rensselaer County One Stop, presented at the December Rensselaer CRTF bi-monthly meeting and shared the various programs they offer and their new initiatives surrounding employment opportunities for justice involved individuals. In addition, the Capital Region Career Centers (Albany, Schenectady and Rensselaer) are partnering together to host a virtual hiring event on January 27 from 11am to 2pm. Individuals interested in the virtual job fair must register [here](#). Check out the DCJS Vocation, Education, and Advocacy Resource Map [here](#) to find a career one stop near you.

### **Northwell Health HIV/AIDS Testing**

At the December Nassau CRTF bi-monthly meeting, Northwell Health presented on their HIV/AIDS program, which includes mobile testing. The testing is free, and results are available in 15 minutes. Northwell Health seeks to partner with community-based organizations to provide onsite testing to individuals arriving for appointments at those other service providers.

### **UPDATE: Offender Workforce Development Specialist (OWDS) Training**

The first-ever virtual OWDS training began last month with 20 participants from probation departments, employment-focused services programs and County Re-entry Task Forces across the state. The first week featured class discussion, breakout sessions/role playing and recorded lectures. The training continues in February and March, with a graduation ceremony via Zoom scheduled for Friday, March 26.

### **Research in Brief**

#### *Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT) for Partner Aggression*

The National Institute of Justice has rated as effective this ACT model, which teaches emotional and behavioral enhancement techniques. The program, which consists of two-hour group sessions for 12 weeks, aims to teach psychological flexibility and decrease unwanted thoughts or feelings by encouraging participants to be adaptable, even when faced with barriers such as fear, anger or shame, and avoid using aggression. The research is available [here](#).

### **John Jay College Impact Report**

The Office for the Advancement of Research at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice recently published its [Impact](#) magazine, which features a wide variety of articles from researchers and student scholars. Articles explore topics including race and gender in the workplace, organized crime, and forensic science, among others.

### **Trainings and Webinars**

#### *National Criminal Justice Association Upcoming and Recorded Webinars*

Information on upcoming webinars and schedules, as well as transcripts and recordings of past webinars, are available [here](#).