

Reentry Housing

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Overview

- ▶ Reentry Assistance Program (RAP)
- ▶ Available resources for housing and employment
- ▶ Barriers in finding appropriate housing and job obtainment
- ▶ Overcoming barriers
- ▶ How you can contribute



About the RAP program

- ▶ Community Corrections program at Douglas County Dept. of Corrections
- ▶ Majority of clients have felony charges
- ▶ Only community corrections program in Nebraska that allows presentenced inmates



About the RAP program

- ▶ All clients work with the case manager to create an individualized reentry plan
- ▶ Clients take a variety of classes to reduce criminogenic thinking and recidivism
- ▶ Earn access to the community to meet a variety of goals on their reentry plan



Current Housing Resources

- ▶ Three Quarter Way Houses/Sober living–
 - Oxford
 - The Bell House
 - Murphy's Turning Point
 - Santa Monica
 - Carla Vista
- (Not inclusive)



Current Housing Resources

▶ Shelters-

- Open Door Mission
- Siena Francis House
- Stephen Center
- VA Housing Program
(Not inclusive)



Current Employment Resources

- ▶ Classes in house – “Employment 101” and Success Prep
- ▶ Community Resources
- ▶ OWDS and GCDF personalized case management
- ▶ Vocational Rehabilitation of Nebraska



Barriers to Housing and Employment

- ▶ Behavioral health issues (addiction and other diagnoses)
- ▶ Lack of resources and support
- ▶ Nature of criminal charges
- ▶ Unknown status of current criminal case
- ▶ Loss of benefits upon incarceration



Overcoming Barriers

- ▶ Reentry Assistance Program addresses all barriers to successful housing
- ▶ Examples- Assistance with obtaining behavioral health services, GED obtainment, personalized case management, in house and out of house employment services and access to the community to address any/all additional barriers



The Big So What...

Addressing barriers to housing and employment = Safer, happier communities



Opportunities for Improvement (Macro)

- ▶ “Ban the Box” - Nebraska LB907
- ▶ Increase education for renters and employers
- ▶ Increase funding for returning citizens
- ▶ Specified government assistance
- ▶ Increase in transitional housing options
- ▶ Public transportation access



Opportunities for Improvement (Micro)

- ▶ What can you do?

Show compassion to people returning to YOUR community. These people are your neighbors and are present in your daily interactions as you live. Be willing to hire people with legal backgrounds and find other ways to invest in an extremely underserved population.



Thank You. Questions?