
INNOVATIVE CRIMINAL JUSTICE STRATEGIES

A monthly newsletter brought to you by the CJCC Strategic Planning Committee

FEBRUARY 2020

Incarceration

Where: New Jersey

Program: Senate Bill 758

<https://www.prisonersofthecensus.org/news/2020/01/21/nj-signed/>

Senate Bill 758, signed January 21, 2020, ends “prison gerrymandering” in New Jersey — the practice of counting incarcerated individuals as residents of the communities they are imprisoned in rather than of their home communities, allowing communities where the prisons are located to have an advantage in representation. After an 11-month campaign, New Jersey has become the 7th state to end prison gerrymandering, and now, over 25% of the US population live in a state that has done the same. According to sponsors, the bill will have no effect on federal or state funds.

Reentry

Where: Milwaukee County, Wisconsin, and Palm Beach County, Florida

Program: Integrated Reentry and Employment Strategies Pilot

<https://csgjusticecenter.org/nrrc/publications/integrated-reentry-employment-strategies-pilot-project-process-evaluation-report/>

The Integrated Reentry and Employment Strategies (IRES) Pilot Project was developed by The Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center in 2013 to test innovative approaches outlined in the Integrated Reentry and Employment Strategies: Reducing Recidivism and Promoting Job Readiness white paper. The white paper outlines a framework that integrates best practices from both the workforce development and corrections systems to reduce recidivism and increase job readiness for people returning to communities after incarceration. Between October 2017 and March 2018, 521 offenders were assessed for participation in the pilot project in order to test the framework. Overall, the pilot was successful in using the resource-allocation and service-matching tools after release, but needed to improve on job-readiness assessment and providing the appropriate employment-related services before release.

Veterans Treatment Courts

Where: Michigan

Program: Veterans Treatment Court Standards, Best Practices, and Promising Practices

<https://courts.michigan.gov/Administration/SCAO/Resources/Documents/bestpractice/VTC-BPManual.pdf>

Michigan’s Veterans Treatment Court Standards, Best Practices, and Promising Practices manual acts as an extension of their adult drug court manual and is intended to assist Michigan’s veterans treatment courts in complying with the veterans treatment court statute, best practices, and the 10 Key Components of Veterans Treatment Courts. Each chapter is divided into relevant topics that include standards, best practices, and promising practices, as well as the supporting authority or research. Topics consist of roles and responsibilities, confidentiality, due process, and other matters relevant to veterans treatment courts.
