



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.

### DCJS Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives Lunch & Learn

The DCJS Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives (OPCA) is delivering a second series of “Lunch and Learn” webinars at 12 p.m. on Wednesdays. Experiences will be shared by direct service providers within the Employment Focused Services, Alternative to Incarceration and/or County Re-Entry Task Force (CRTF) programs in each of these webinars to provide real-life perspectives and deliverable tools. Please join us by registering below!

**April 21:** [County Re-Entry Task Force Membership](#)

**May 12:** [DCJS Distance Learning Modules](#)

**May 19:** [Professional Wellness](#)

**May 26:** [Implementation Strategies for Community Corrections](#)

**June 9:** [Overview of Ready, Set, Work! Career University – Advancing to the Next Level, and Retention Counts!](#)

**June 16:** [Strengthening the County Re-Entry Task Force Referral Process](#)

### Congratulations to the newest class of certified NIC Offender Workforce Development Specialists (OWDS)!

The first-ever virtual OWDS training concluded on March 26<sup>th</sup> with a virtual graduation ceremony. DCJS graduated 18 professionals from probation departments, employment-focused services programs, and County Re-entry Task Forces across the state. All 18 certified specialists will now be able to facilitate the *Ready, Set, Work!* curriculum. *Ready Set, Work!* is a 20-hour employment readiness curriculum designed to equip individuals who have had criminal involvement with the necessary skills and tools to obtain and retain quality employment. Emphasis is also placed on career planning and advancement, to encourage longevity in legitimate employment. Congratulations to all the graduates!

### DCJS County Re-Entry Task Force ListServ

All 20 CRTF coordinators, DOCCS co-chairs, county co-chairs, DOCCS assistant re-entry managers, along with staff from DCJS Offices of Probation and Correctional Alternatives, Program Development and Funding, and Justice Research and Performance, are currently subscribed to the CRTF ListServ. The intent behind the ListServ is to establish a continuous feedback loop, where programs can network, share research, resources and events in your area. In addition, the ListServ is a place to ask questions and discuss best practices.

To post to the CRTF ListServ, email

[dcjs.ls.countyreentrytaskforces@svc.ny.gov](mailto:dcjs.ls.countyreentrytaskforces@svc.ny.gov) and hit SEND!

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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: Capital Region Job Fair**

Rensselaer County Re-Entry Task Force (CRTF) Coordinator Kacie Hull spearheaded a Capital Region Job Fair and partnered with the Capital Region Department of Labor One Stop Career Centers and area coordinators Tim Staples (Schenectady) and Erica Anderson (Albany). The virtual job fair was held on March 24 utilizing a virtual platform called Premier. The platform allowed local employers to register and meet with prospective employees. Over 80 job seekers attended. There were 28 employers stationed in the virtual “job fair room” hiring for over 150 job vacancies. In addition, 10 community organizations and four labor unions attended. Of the individuals who attended, 18 are currently receiving CRTF services; five had interviews scheduled for the following week; one applied to ACCES-VR; one is attending a Finishing Trades Union informational session; and 13 received a phone call or email from an employer at the event to discuss possible job opportunities. There are plans to do another job fair in July or August. Stay tuned for more information!

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

Since launching the *Vocation, Education, and Advocacy Resource Map* in December 2020, the map has over 15,000 hits! Created by DJCS staff, the interactive map links contain information on over 450 programs offering education, job training, advocacy and mediation services to assist clients. The December webinar was recorded and can be viewed [here](#). The resource map is available on the DCJS [website](#).

### **Research in Brief**

*Cognitive Life Skills (CLS)* has been rated promising by the National Institute of Justice Crime Solutions. This cognitive behavioral intervention seeks to reduce recidivism by addressing antisocial attitudes and decision making. In addition, the program addresses common issues justice involved individuals face (antisocial attitudes, poor problem-solving skills and weak decision-making skills) through cognitive thinking. Read more [here](#).

### **NYS Culinary Vocation Program Grant – Niagara CRTF**

Community Missions of Niagara Frontier, Inc. received \$273,083 in grant funding to expand its parole re-entry program to include a 13-week training program in tourism and hospitality occupations, through a combination of real-world work experience and soft skills learning, as a means to build/rebuild work histories, resume and networking. Participants will have the opportunity to obtain industry certifications and placement with hospitality industry partners in Niagara Falls.

### **Funding Opportunities**

[\*Innovations in Reentry Initiative: Building System Capacity & Testing Strategies to Reduce Recidivism\*](#)

This opportunity provides state and local jurisdictions and Indian tribes with the resources to identify assets and gaps in their reentry systems and improve their overall approach to reentry. Learn more [here](#).

[\*Second Chance Act Community-Based Reentry Program\*](#)

Through this opportunity, BJA is seeking applications to implement or expand on reentry programs that demonstrate strong partnerships with corrections, parole, probation, and other reentry service providers.

Learn more [here](#).

### **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](#).