

# ***The National View on Prisoner Reentry***

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# The National Picture: More Individuals Than Ever In Prison and Leaving Prison

- 1.3 million prisoners in state institutions
- And the majority (95%) will be going home someday
- Approximately 670,000 prisoners will leave state prisons this year—nearly 40% growth in 10 years.

# Characteristics of the Returning Prison Population

- 80% have a history of substance abuse.
- 16% are diagnosed with a mental illness.
- Many are or will become homeless.
- 2 –3% of has HIV or AIDS.

# Challenges to Successful Reentry

- Uncoordinated service systems.
- Cuts in funding for prison programs.
- Systemic and legal barriers.

# Strategies to Improving Prisoner Reentry

- Develop an interagency approach—reentry is not only a corrections issue.
- Improve how prisoners are prepared for release in prison.
- Improve how prisoners are released from prison.

# NGA Prisoner Reentry Policy Academy Round 1

- Virginia was one of 7 states selected
- Different stages in development of reentry programs (Virginia was early in their planning)
- The goal: to develop a strategic plan and implement it
- Success!

# Why Virginia has been successful

- Recognition of the problem
- Top-level support
- Non-correctional agency buy-in
- Use of existing resources for new purposes

# National Awareness

- Policy Academy Round 2 – 16 applications (30 states and 1 territory have applied between two rounds)
- Foundation support
- Federal grants
- Money designated for research and evaluation



Questions?

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