

# SMART REENTRY

## GOAL: TO REDUCE RECIDIVISM IN MILWAUKEE BY 50% IN 5 YEARS

Milwaukee's disadvantaged neighborhoods have been plagued by mass incarceration, gun violence, and high rates of recidivism. But the Milwaukee Reentry Council, which is facilitated by the Public Policy Institute and is a subcommittee of the Milwaukee Community Justice Council, has taken on a lofty goal: To cut recidivism in half within five years among high-risk ex-offenders returning to one of Milwaukee's toughest neighborhoods, the Center Street Corridor.

## HOW IT WORKS: OFFERING SUPPORT, ERASING STIGMA & ISOLATION

Overall, the Smart Reentry program's goal is to provide support to ex-offenders during a very vulnerable time in their lives: the months leading up their release from incarceration as well as the year after they return to the community. Specifically, we:

- Support the Alma Center's Walk of Truth & Welcome Home Ceremonies, as well as the Alma Brothers' peer support program to ease returning citizens' transition from incarceration and into the community
- Connect employers with reentry-friendly agencies and supporters to encourage businesses to hire work-ready returning citizens
- Sponsor restorative justice-inspired Circles of Support for returning citizens and community members at three local churches
- Helped to organize a Smart Reentry conference to enable professionals working in this field to adopt best practices and network with peers
- Hold monthly meetings to brainstorm, network, and coordinate reentry efforts

## WHO WE ARE: A COALITION OF DIVERSE MILWAUKEEANS

The US Attorney's Office, Eastern District of Wisconsin | US Department of Housing & Urban Development | Wisconsin Department of Justice | Wisconsin Department of Corrections Reentry Unit | Wisconsin Department of Children & Families | Alma Center | Employ Milwaukee | Community Advocates Public Policy Institute | United Way of Greater Milwaukee and Waukesha County | Ex-Prisoners Organizing (EXPO) | Milwaukee Fatherhood Initiative | Milwaukee Urban League | City of Milwaukee Health Department | Milwaukee County Office of African American Affairs | Medical College of Wisconsin | UW-Milwaukee | Wisconsin Community Services | Badger Institute | The Project Safe Neighborhoods Research Consortium



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