

BWSUSA IRR



Black Wall Street USA Inmate Reentry & Recovery
National Committee Review of:

2007
Second Chance Act

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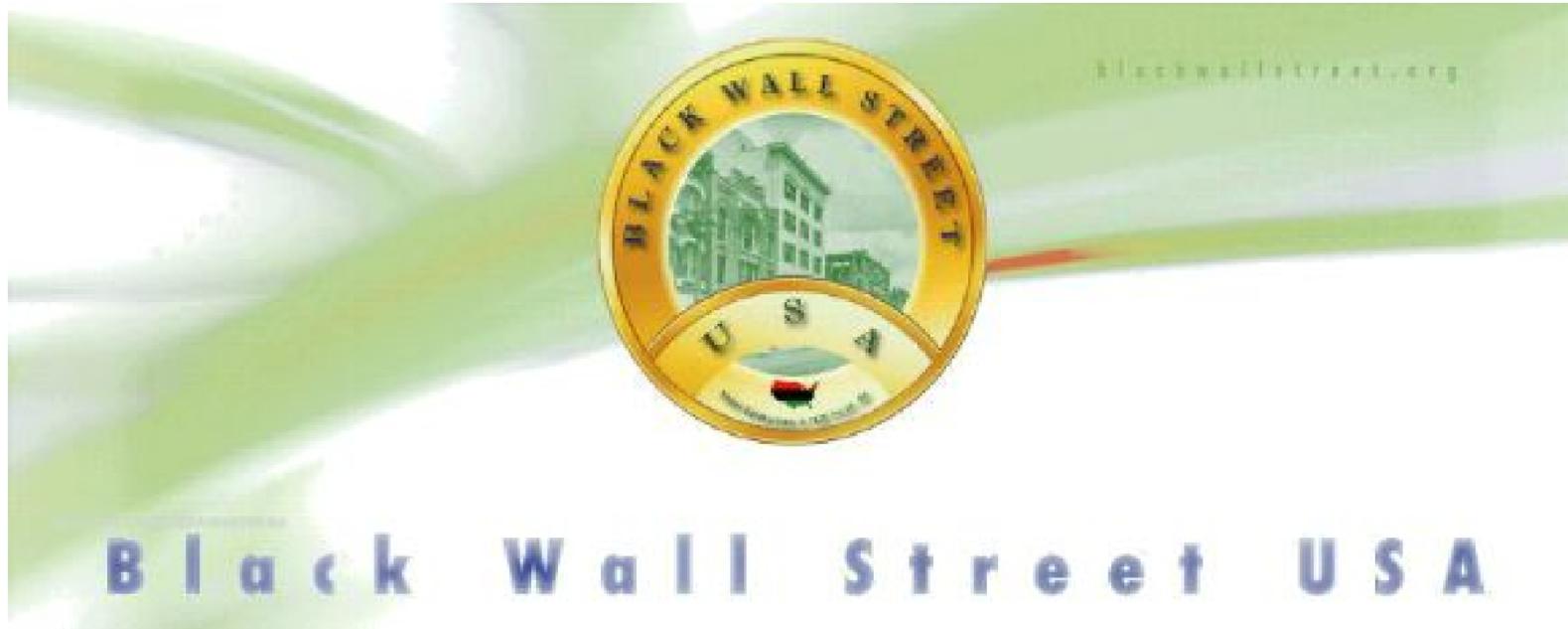


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2007 Second Chance Act Summary

The Second Chance Act of 2007 (H.R. 1593), titled "To reauthorize the grant program for reentry of offenders into the community in the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, to improve reentry planning and implementation, and for other purposes."

H.R. 1593 was submitted to the House by Representative Danny Davis (D-IL) to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to reauthorize, rewrite, and expand provisions for adult and juvenile offender state and local reentry demonstration projects to provide expanded services to offenders and their families for reentry into society. H.R. 1593 was signed into law April 9, 2008.

The Second Chance Act serves to reform the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968. The purpose of the Second Chance Act is to reduce recidivism, increase public safety, and assist states and communities to address the growing population of inmates returning to communities. The focus has been placed on four areas: jobs, housing, substance abuse/mental health treatment and families.

Recidivism

Each year, as approximately 650,000 people are released from state and federal prisons. Between 10 and 12 million more are released from local jails.

Clients struggle with substance abuse, lack of adequate education and job skills, and mental health issues, and a large number of these people return to prison within three years of their released

Willie Simpson, National Director
Black Wall Street USA Inmate Reentry & Recovery

"Community Safety through Recidivism Prevention"

The Second Chance Act of 2007 (H.R. 1593) was submitted to the House by Representative Danny Davis 7th District of Illinois to improve the existing programs of the "Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968." The Act was passed by the House on November 11th 2007.

The purposes of the Second Chance Act of 2007 are:

To break the cycle of criminal recidivism, increase public safety, and help States, local units of government and Indian Tribes better address the growing population of criminal offenders who return to their communities and commit new crimes:

To rebuild ties between offenders and their families, while the offenders are incarcerated and after reentry into the community, to promote stable families and the communities:

To encourage the development and support of, and to expand the availability of evidence-based programs that enhance public safety and reduce recidivism, such as substance abuse treatment, alternatives to incarceration and comprehensive reentry services.

To protect the public and promote law-abiding conduct by providing necessary services to offenders, while the offenders are incarcerated and after reentry into the community, in a manner that does not confer luxuries or privileges upon such offenders

To assist offenders reentering the community from incarceration to establish a self-sustaining and law-abiding life by providing sufficient transitional services for as short of a period as practicable, not to exceed one year, unless a longer period is specifically determined to be necessary by a medical or other appropriate treatment professional

To provide offenders in prisons, jails or juvenile facilities with educational, literacy, vocational, and job placement services to facilitate re-entry into the community.

To provide coordinated supervision and comprehensive services for offenders upon release from prison, jail, or a juvenile facility, including housing and mental and physical health care to facilitate re-entry into the community, and which, to the extent applicable, are provided by community entities (including coordinated reentry veteran-specific services for eligible veterans

To provide programs that encourage offenders to develop safe, healthy, and responsible family relationships and parent-child relationships. Involve the entire family unit in comprehensive reentry services (as appropriate to the safety, security, and well-being of the family and child.

To encourage the involvement of prison, jail, or juvenile facility mentors in the reentry process and enabling those mentors to remain in contact with offenders while in custody and after reentry into the community of offenders

To provide victim appropriate services, encouraging timely and complete payment of restitution and fines by offenders to victims, and providing services such as security and counseling to victims upon release of offenders

Protecting communities against dangerous offenders by using validated assessment tools to assess the risk factors of returning inmates and developing or adopting procedures to ensure that dangerous felons are not released from prison prematurely.

It is essentially important as the Black Wall Street USA Inmate Reentry & Recovery Department work with the Pre-Release & Post-Release programs within the Federal and State prison systems as they prepare the men, women and juveniles to re-enter society after prison incarceration:

Daniel Crooks

Black Wall Street USA Inmate Reentry and Recovery Committee Member

In 2007, the House of Representatives passed the Second Chance Act. The bill promised to provide transitional assistance to ex-offenders in coping with the challenges of reentry. It was intended to reduce recidivism, and help reunite families and protect their communities. The state leaders promised that the bill would protect the community and save taxpayer dollars. These elected officials passed the Second Chance Act in order to respond to the long neglected problem of overly populated prisons in America.

From 1974 to 2007, America's prison population grew from about 200,000 to around two million in less than 33 years (Davis, 2019; Copp & Bales, 2018). Elected officials could not continue to keep quiet, when America's incarceration rate was more than any other developed nation in the world. The imprisonment of so many of its people was not only inhuman, but the social and economic implications were becoming self-evident.

The negative consequences of mass incarceration have been extremely disconcerting. As two Criminology and Criminal Justice professors wrote very extensively about, Copp and Bales (2018) wrote, "Imprisonment reduces future earnings and job opportunities, limits civic participation, contributes to mental and physical health problems, destabilizes families, and further disadvantages economically marginalized communities." These growing concerns are why elected officials chose to respond to America's mass incarceration problem, and so the Second Chance Act was passed also by the Senate on March 3, 2008, then it was sent to the White House. On April 4, 2008, the Second Chance Act was signed into law by President George W. Bush.

I believe the second chance act is not only vital for our society, but also for the people trapped in the revolving door of the prison system. For years, men and women have entered prisons and reentered their communities with no attention given to their special needs. These ex-offenders have had to deal with drug habits, physical and mental health problems, homelessness, and lack of education or qualifications for a job. In face of these adversities, they are challenged with being a burden to their spouses, families, and communities. As their true desire is to successfully reenter their communities, in order to start supporting their families, pay their taxes, and become self-sufficient citizens; however, it's hard to make it happen with no supportive services available.

The Second Chance Act is a second chance for ex-offenders. It is also a second chance for their spouses, their children, and their communities. Like the sentiment of Congressman Danny K. Davis who voted to pass the bill, I believe everyone desires a second chance to turn their life around. An opportunity to beat their drug habit, get help with their physical and mental health problems, and become self-sufficient and productive citizens.

References

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Denise Ragland, Administrator
Black Wall Street USA Inmate Reentry and Recovery Committee

The Second Chance Act of 2007, titled "To reauthorize the grant program for reentry of offenders into the community in the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, to improve reentry planning and implementation, and for other purposes," was submitted to the House by Representative Danny Davis to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to reauthorize, rewrite, and expand provisions for adult and juvenile offender state and local reentry demonstration projects to provide expanded services to offenders and their families for reentry into society. H.R. 1593 was signed into law April 9, 2008 by President Bush

Congressman Davis is responsible for the creation of The Second Chance Act of 2007. His passion is maintaining the family unit, and he proves it while serving on the Congressional Standing and Sub-Committees as he enters into the 116th Legislative Session. Congressman Danny K. Davis will serve as Chairman of the Worker and Family Support Subcommittee on the House Ways and Means Committee.

The Worker and Family Support Subcommittee (formerly known as the Human Resources Subcommittee) has jurisdiction to issues that relate to the public assistance provisions of the Social Security Act, including temporary assistance for needy families, child care, child and family services, child support, foster care, adoption, supplemental security income, social services, eligibility of welfare recipients for food stamps, and low-income energy assistance.

The Second Chance Act was created to ensure that ex-offenders have an Opportunity to migrate back into society with a skill set and be productive citizens with a Fresh Start and new outlook on Life. During the creation of this Legislation, the main focus and purpose was to ensure that ALL Federal, State and Local agencies work together to ensure a successful outcome for all ex-offenders and their families. The intent is to cut crime through current and new programs. Some of these programs include but are not limited to:

- The Department Of Justices 'Serious and Violent Offender Reentry Initiative (SVORI)
- The Anti-Gang Initiative
- Department Of Labor's Ready4Work Program,
- The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Mentoring Children of Prisoners program.

This bill will help state and local governments, Indian tribes, and non-profit groups implement programs that will improve the prisoner re-entry process.

It allows a man or woman the opportunity to seek a better life, develop a skill to become more self-efficient and confident about once again being a productive part of their community. Along with delivering such vital services, these programs advance innovation in reducing crime and breaking cycles of recidivism.

Such community programs will provide ex-offenders with essential services, like housing and medical care. It will help develop prisoner drug treatment programs; support prisoner mentoring

initiatives. It will support family counseling and other services to help prisoners re-establish their place in the community.

Although, this is not an exhaustive list, pieces of this legislation will do the following:

Ø Authorizes the Attorney General to provide for the establishment of a National Adult and Juvenile Offender Reentry Resource Center to collect data and assist grantees in carrying out offender reentry programs. It also requires the Attorney General to ensure that grants are distributed equitably among the geographical regions and between urban and rural populations, including Indian tribes.

Ø Requires states receiving funds under the Residential Substance Abuse Treatment program to provide aftercare services, including case management services and other support services. Requires the Attorney General to conduct a study on the use and effectiveness of funds used for aftercare services.

Ø New and Innovative Programs To Improve Offender Reentry Services - Requires grantees to report annually to the Attorney General on the activities of reentry courts.

Ø Authorizes the Attorney General to make grants to state, tribal, and local prosecutors for drug treatment programs that are alternatives to imprisonment.

Ø Authorizes the Attorney General to make grants for family substance abuse treatment alternatives to incarceration for nonviolent parent drug offenders and for prison-based family treatment programs for incarcerated parents of minor children.

Many, many stipulations are attached to this Bill to make sure that funds are used properly and for the welfare of the ex-offender and their families.

As we move along in our journey, we will witness the vision that God gave to Congressman Davis and see how it has changed and will change thousands of Lives.

Veronica Williams

Black Wall Street USA Inmate Reentry and Recovery Committee Member

The Second Chance Act of 2007 is a law that will be adhered to by various non-profit organizations whose intent is to aid Returning Citizens "in a multiplicity of areas that will help them acquire productive, crime free, and drug free lifestyles. This will in turn enhance the productivity of communities across America making them safer environments in which to reside. This brief synopsis will elaborate on one section of said ACT entitled

RESIDENTIAL SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT PROGRAM DEFINED "RESIDENTIAL SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT PROGRAM DEFINED:—In this part of the Second Chance Act of 2007 , the term..... residential substance abuse treatment program means (a course of comprehensive individual and group substance abuse treatment services, lasting a period of at least 6 months, in residential treatment facilities set apart from the general population of a prison or jail (which may include the use of pharmacological treatment, where appropriate, that may extend beyond such period). "

This is the area in which Al Fredrick & Return Inc. Building Communities from the Inside™ will be most active concerning structuring and or re-structuring In-prison community based establishment for the Gang Renouncement Candidate who through application wishes to be considered for entrance, that upon acceptance to the Program/Process will be exposed to an indoctrination geared towards a crime free and drug free lifestyle.

It is specifically designed to operate under the main three (3) headings of Cognitive Intervention, Education, Substance Abuse Education, and Anger Resolution Therapy. Therefore, Al-Fredrick & Return Inc. Building Communities from the Inside™ ; is a viable alternative for lock-up facilities who currently house confirmed/documentated STG (Security Threat Group i.e. gang members) in Administrative Segregation for the duration of their sentencing. This component is specifically addressed to those facilities who wish to explore the possibility of adding a secured gang renouncement program or process to whatever rehabilitative resources they may have currently in place.

These programs/processes end result is that the gang renouncement candidate is returned to the prison general population giving these former "agents of destruction "access to many in-prison opportunities for educational and vocational training before they return to "the free world "

It is a life recovery/re-entry initiative continuum whose services are geared toward adult learners and soon to be "returning citizens "whose life's situations and circumstances have placed them in one or more disenfranchised/marginalized position(s). Our Mission is to extend an educational component that will investigate, explore, collaborate, examine, re-construct and if necessary recreate each situation by, reaching out to lock-up facilities, individuals, families, community leaders, and others as we empower through partnerships for better societal outcomes to include statistical data that specifically addresses "lowering recidivism rates "

The Al-Fredrick & Return Inc. Building Communities from the Inside™ "idea evolved for the Executive Director (Veronica L. Williams, MS, LCDC, CART, Recovery Coach) over the past 17

years, mostly inside the walls of select prisons within the State of Texas (Texas Department of Criminal Justice) in conjunction with varied programs.

This includes gang renouncement programs/processes, substance abuse education, anger resolution therapy, cognitive intervention skills training, life skills groups, self efficacy development and many others that are infinitively designed to construct or re-construct future returning citizens spiritual (not religious), thought process (mind), the internal belief system on which one acts and reacts upon daily (will), and internal motivation that fuels the mind and the will (emotions). In conclusion, we of AI Fredrick s Return Inc. Building Communities from the Inside™ commit to the tenets of the

2007 Second Chance Act believing that..... Exposure Expands Expectations !

Micah Carter

Black Wall Street USA Inmate Reentry & Recovery

The 2007 Second Chance Act is the reauthorization of grant programs focused on planning and implementation for reentry of offenders into the community based on grant programs authorized by the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968. This reauthorization was first submitted by House Representative Danny Davis expanding the grant provisions to serve adult and juvenile offenders victims and their families. These programs are implemented in state and local reentry demonstration projects.

The 1968 Act in its original form came about when investigations of the President John F. Kennedy assassination increased public knowledge with evidence on lack of gun control, abuse of Miranda Rights and blurred lines of authorization in wiretapping. This Act was the framework of Homeland Security. Further unprecedented expansion of authority was introduced into the Bill for Police "riot control training" by the Federal Bureau of Investigations and research grants in social aspects of crime/ Criminology (Organized Crime).

Most likely the later expansions of authority were influenced by the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in order to coordinate law enforcement and criminal justice effectiveness during civil unrest, and protesting. This Act was considered a major accomplishment of the Johnson administration also known as his War on Crime.

In 2007 Representative Davis amended the 1968 grant provisions to include reentry programs to reduce recidivism, increase public safety and balance community resources for an increasing population of released inmates. There are four areas of focus for programs; Jobs, Housing, Substance abuse/ Mental Health, and family.

The administrative body that oversees effectiveness of these programs and the funding is the Bureau of Justice Assistance. Data collected from program administration is measured and analyzed for the Justice Reinvestment Initiative in order to determine effectiveness as slowing prison growth and decreasing prison population. In addition to community resource funding there are alternative sentencing programs and community supervision expansion, along with specialized treatment services.

The 2007 Second Chance Act enables communities to heal from within if program directors develop mentors and the cycle continues we will have freed people setting people free. It is the desire of Black Wall Street USA Inmate Recovery and Reentry program (BWSUSAIRR) to create a network of alumni program participants with special skills able to travel where needed to identify and reach out to high risk individuals increasing public safety reducing recidivism and criminal justice spending. Last but not least BWSIRR program will provide resources to strengthen offenders' family bonds, serve victims and family members with treatment for mental illness and substance abuse, and address gang culture in effected communities.

Grassroots movements like BWSUSAIRR and the OAA (Offenders Alumni Association) go directly into prisons and set up forums and ministries to determine the needs of offenders coming out. At the same time we are working on the outside resources to transition the offender into a community setting that has mechanisms in place to balance and orientate the unthawing emotions, instincts to go back to the familiar, and fear of the unknown world that has gone on as if he or she never existed.

Finally as all things settle and some normality sets in we must continue working because dynamic family structures, social issues and change in general will come and the current system has no intention for success only control and that leads to resentment which leads to relapse and recidivism.

The work of Reentry and Recovery can only be accomplished in spiritual strength. When one recognizes a power greater than self and that that power can change things we have no control over then the

(1)"Spirit of the Lord" can move in and demonstrate power where were weak. When one knows without learning or experience that is the

(2)"Spirit of Wisdom" and with it we can compare spiritual things with spiritual and carnal with carnal therefore Choose Life everlasting and satisfy not the flesh. With the

(3) "Spirit of Understanding" the heavens were established so in all things that we strive to get in life strive for press for fight for understanding that ye may be established as the heaven and earth. Come let us reason together said the Lord so embrace the

(4)"Spirit of Counsel" to confirm and accept the Wisdom of God walking in and demonstrating Understanding. The knowledge of God is not puffed up nor condemning so one must walk in humility because we have been allowed to live through something for a purpose and that purpose is to help another because it's the right thing to do and God could have done it but the

(5)"Spirit of Knowledge" is telling you that's why you're still here. I can do all things through Christ whom strengthens me so we have the

(6)"Spirit of Might".

(7)"The Spirit of Fear and Reverence of the Lord" rests upon us when we desire to not disappoint the Father and find ourselves more concerned with disappointing those we serve more than failure.

Damon Taylor
National Life & Skills Director
Black Wall Street USA Inmate Reentry & Recovery

On April 28, 2008, the Second Chance Act of 2007, 18 U.S.C. § 3624, was signed into law to improve the outcomes for people returning to communities from prisons and jails. This legislation authorizes federal grants to government agencies and nonprofit organizations to provide programs and services to help reduce recidivism.

A. APPROPRIATIONS

In fiscal year 2010, \$144 million were appropriated for prisoner reentry programs, including reentry initiatives in the Federal Bureau of Prisons and Second Chance grant programs:

- Reentry demonstration projects under Sec. 101
- Mentoring grants to nonprofit organizations under Sec. 211
- Reentry Courts under Sec. 111
- Family-based, substance abuse treatment under Sec. 113
- Grants to evaluate and improve education in prisons, jails, and juvenile facilities under Sec. 114
- Technology career training demonstration grants under Sec. 115
- Reentry Substance Abuse and criminal justice collaboration under Sec. 201
- Reentry research under Sec. 245

B. PRE-RELEASE CUSTODY UNDER SEC. 251

This Act permits eligible inmates to spend some portion of the final twelve months of their sentence in a community correctional facility, also known as a half-way house or residential reentry center.

"The Director of the Bureau of Prisons shall, to the extent practicable, ensure that a prisoner serving a term of imprisonment spends a portion of the final months of that term (not to exceed 12 months), under conditions that will afford that prisoner a reasonable opportunity to adjust to and prepare for the reentry of that prisoner into the community. Such conditions may include a community correctional facility." Id. § 3624(c)(1).

This authority "may be used to place a prisoner in home confinement for the shorter of 10 percent of the term of imprisonment of that prisoner or 6 months." Id. §3624(c)(2).

It should be noted that § 3624 expressly does not override the BOP's authority to designate an appropriate facility, thus a prisoner must meet general eligibility requirements discussed above for these placements. The regulation implementing this mandate provides that "[i]nmates may be designated to community confinement as a condition of pre-release custody and programming during the final months of the inmate's term of imprisonment, not to exceed twelve months." 28 C.F.R. §570.21(a).

This regulation also provides for "home detention as a condition of pre-release custody and programming during the final months of the inmate's term of imprisonment, not to exceed the shorter of ten percent of the inmate's term of imprisonment or six months."

Pursuant to the Second Chance Act, the BOP staff is required to review inmates for RRC placement 17-19 months before their projected release date, and inmates are to be individually considered using the five factors listed in §3621(b).

C. ELDERLY INMATE PILOT PROGRAM UNDER SEC. 231

Pursuant to the Second Chance Act, the Attorney General was directed to conduct a pilot program to determine the effectiveness of removing eligible elderly offenders from a Bureau of Prisons facility and placing such offenders on home detention until their term of confinement has expired.

42 U.S.C. §17451(g)(1)(A). To be eligible for the Elderly Inmate Pilot Program, offenders must satisfy two sets requirements in addition to the requirement that the offender must be not less than 65 years of age: the offender must be serving a term of imprisonment other than life imprisonment based on a conviction for an offense or offenses that do not include any crime of violence, sex offenses, or other offenses enumerated in the statute;

- the offender must have served greater of 10 years or 75% of the term of imprisonment imposed at sentencing;

- the offender must not have been convicted in the past of any Federal or State crime of violence, sex offense, or other offense enumerated in the statute;

the offender must not have been determined by the BOP to have a history of violence or of sex offenses or the other offenses described in the statute;

- the offender must not have escaped or attempted to escape from a BOP institution;

- the BOP must determine that release of the offender to home detention will result in a substantial net reduction of costs to the federal government; and;

- the BOP must determine that the offender poses no substantial risk of engaging in criminal conduct or of endangering any person if released to home detention.

Black Wall Street USA Inmate Reentry and Recovery
blackwallstreet.org/bwsusairr

An effective Holistic Re-entry and Rehabilitation System begins with a Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy Program in the inmate's pre-release program. This is to provide clients with the skills to recognize and change the thoughts and behaviors that led them to incarceration. This process provides them with emotional self-management skills and as well as a life plan upon release. Upon release, their other needs: Health & Wellness, Housing, Education, Life Skills & Employability Skills, Employment & Entrepreneurship, and Restoration of Civil Rights must also be concurrently addressed. Woven into their home setting is a continuation of the Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy that provides them with a supportive peer group and the life skills to be successful in living in the outside world.

Seven Key Areas Met By Black Wall Street USA Inmate Reentry and Recovery and Network Partners

The following are the seven key areas that have been identified as needed by clients that clients concurrently as a system obtain their release from prison.

- Cognitive Behavioral Therapy –meeting the emotional-social-behavioral needs at pre- and post-release See: blackwallstreet.org/bwsusairr1
- Employment & Entrepreneurship –obtaining employment or entrepreneurial opps for those released See: blackwallstreet.org/bwsusairr2
- Housing –meeting housing needs of those released See: blackwallstreet.org/bwsusairr3
- Health & Wellness –meeting medical care needs to those released See: blackwallstreet.org/bwsusairr4
- Education –meeting education needs of those released See: blackwallstreet.org/bwsusairr5
- Life Skills & Employability Skills –meeting the life and employability skills of those releases See: blackwallstreet.org/bwsusairr6
- Restoration of Civil Rights –assisting those released obtain the restoration of their civil rights See: blackwallstreet.org/bwsusairr7

This process provides them with emotional self-management skills and as well as a life plan upon release. Upon release, their other needs: Health & Wellness, Housing, Education, Life Skills & Employability Skills, Employment & Entrepreneurship, and Restoration of Civil Rights are addressed. Woven into their home setting is a continuation of the Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy that provides them with a supportive peer group and the life skills to be successful in living in the outside world.

Black Wall Street USA Inmate Reentry and National Director's 3-Fold Vision and Implementation

Preparation: Beginning 6 to 12 months prior to release, volunteers focus on equipping the prisoners with skills, education, and resources needed to make a successful transition to the outside world.

Transition: When the ex-prisoner leaves the prison gates, reentry volunteers make sure he or she has safe housing, food, clothing, and many other key supports. During the early days of release, most ex-prisoners need daily encouragement and assistance until the initial crisis-levels needed are resolved. Then they need continued weekly contact, spiritual guidance, and emotional support for 6 to 24 months as they find employment, begin to rebuild relationships, and adapt to their new life outside of prison.

Stabilization: Volunteers continue to disciple and assist the ex-prisoner forward establishing consistent personal habits, healthy relationships, spiritual growth, and church commitment. One very important sign of stabilization is when the ex-prisoner become involved in serving others in the community instead of expecting to be served. This phase is an ongoing aftercare process.

Source: Outreach Reentry Ministry, Inc. West Muscle Shoals, AL

BWSUSAIRR Recovery Weekly Open Forum
Every Thursday at 8pm EST

Host: Willie Simpson, BWSUSAIRR National Director or designee.

Status: Conference call is open to all Black Wall Street USA National members.

The BWSUSAIRR are in close meeting on the 11th of every month.
Conference#: 712.451.0683 Conference Code: 614060

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