

The Second Chance Act Statewide Recidivism Reduction Grant Program

An Orientation for Criminal Justice Policy Advisors to State Governors

Phoebe Potter, Senior Policy Analyst, Council of State
Governments Justice Center

Leah Wavrunek, Senior Policy Analyst, National Governors
Association Center for Best Practices

The National Reentry Resource Center

- ▶ The NRRC is a project of the CSG Justice Center and is supported by the Bureau of Justice Assistance.
- ▶ NRRC staff have worked with nearly 600 SCA grantees, including 40 state corrections agencies.
- ▶ The NRRC provides individualized, intensive, and targeted technical assistance, training, and distance learning to support SCA grantees.



- ✓ Please register for the monthly NRRC newsletter at:
<http://csgjusticecenter.org/subscribe/>
- ✓ Please share this link with others in your networks that are interested in reentry!

www.nationalreentryresourcecenter.org

National Governors Association

- ▶ Founded in 1908, the National Governors Association (NGA) is the collective voice of the nation's governors and one of Washington, D.C.'s most respected public policy organizations. Its members are the governors of the 55 states, territories and commonwealths.
- ▶ The Homeland Security & Public Safety Division provides information, research, policy analysis, technical assistance and resource development for governors and their staff about emerging policy trends across a range of homeland security and public safety issues.
- ▶ The Division oversees a network of Governors Criminal Justice Policy Advisors to facilitate information sharing among peers in the states and provide a mechanism to share latest trends and best practices.

**For more information
on the CJPA Network,
please contact Jeff
McLeod at
jmcleod@nga.org or
202-624-5311**

www.nga.org

Webinar Outline

The Challenge of Recidivism: State Perspectives

Overview of the SCA Statewide Recidivism Reduction Grant Program

How the SRR Program Can Help CJPA's Advance Recidivism Reduction Goals

Getting Involved in the SRR Planning Process

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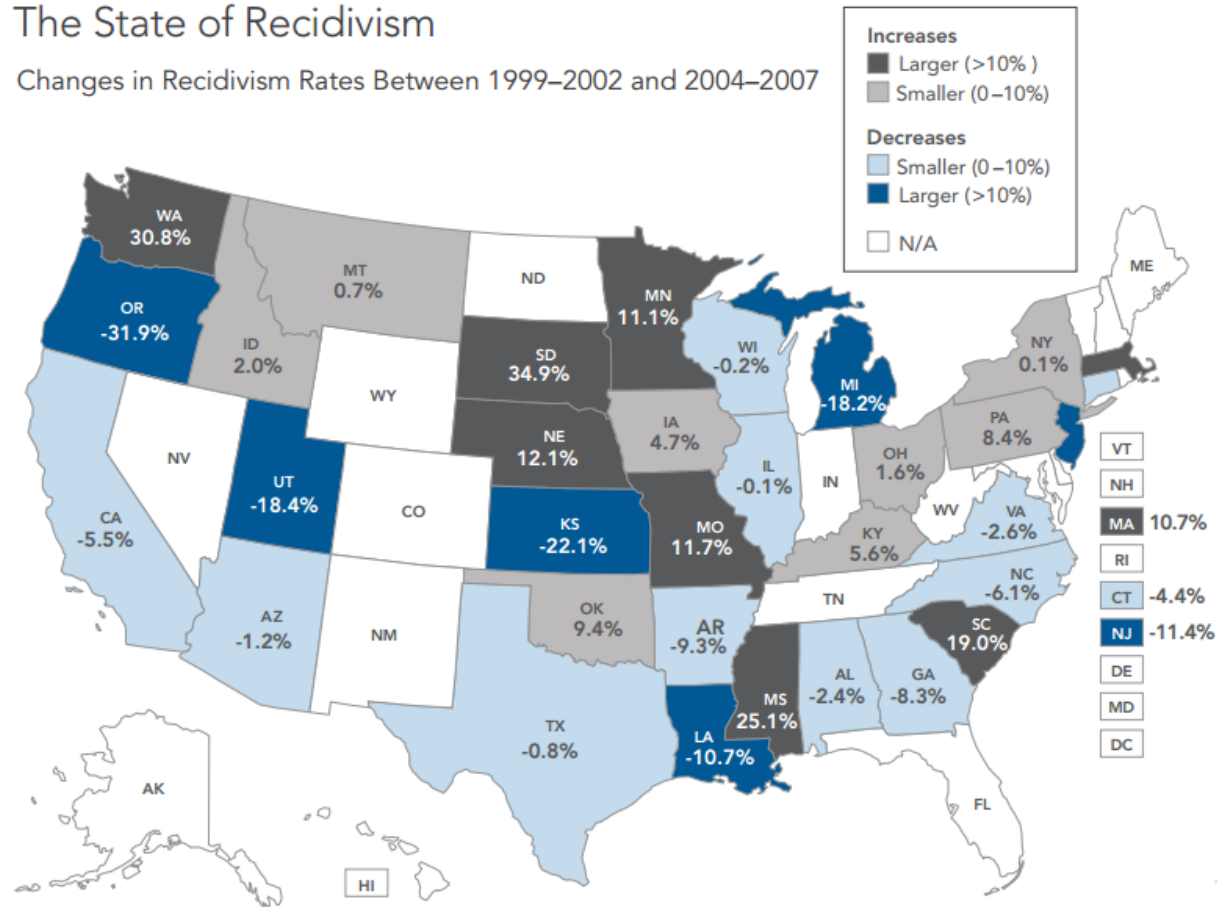
The Recidivism Challenge

Overall, recidivism rates have remained stubbornly high. A number of states have made significant progress in reducing recidivism – but it's difficult to accomplish.

*Note that interstate comparisons should be avoided due to the complexities of these statistics and the policies underlying them.

The State of Recidivism

Changes in Recidivism Rates Between 1999–2002 and 2004–2007



SOURCE: Pew/ASCA Recidivism Survey.

The Importance of Recidivism Reduction

▶ Governors Making Reentry a Centerpiece of their Criminal Justice Policy Agenda



“We must provide offenders who are leaving our prisons with the tools and resources they need to become productive, law-abiding members of society”

Gov. Bob McDonnell (R),
Virginia



“We must be smarter about how we protect public safety... emphasizing prison time without successful reentry has failed.”

Gov. Deval Patrick, (D)
Massachusetts



“Unless we provide the appropriate tools of supervision that facilitate a successful reentry into society, history has shown that offenders simply return to the prison population. ...We must shut the revolving door!”

Gov. Nathan Deal (R), Georgia

The Role of CJPAs in Recidivism Reduction

- ▶ Criminal Justice Policy Advisors play a significant role when a state makes recidivism reduction a priority.
 - ▶ Convening stakeholders across agencies that impact recidivism
 - ▶ Developing a system-wide plan for recidivism reduction
 - ▶ Promoting accountability to the reduction goal
 - ▶ Championing change across the system
 - ▶ Supporting funds for evidence-based programs
 - ▶ Monitoring progress towards the goal

The Recidivism Reduction Checklists


The RR Checklists provide a roadmap to help state officials take a results-oriented approach to reentry:

1. Make recidivism reduction a state priority and a key measure of successful corrections and reentry policy
2. Develop a plan to implement policies and practices that research has shown to reduce recidivism
3. Track progress and ensure accountability for results

<http://csgjusticecenter.org/reentry/reentry-checklists/>

REDUCING STATEWIDE RECIDIVISM:

CHECKLIST FOR **LEGISLATIVE AND EXECUTIVE POLICYMAKERS**



WHY SHOULD RECIDIVISM REDUCTION BE A STATE PRIORITY?
All across the country, states have recognized that in order to advance public safety it is critical to break the cycle of reincarceration for the thousands of individuals returning home from prisons every year. Many states are tracking recidivism rates, setting reduction goals, and implementing policies that have been shown to reduce reoffense rates and supervision violations.¹ The potential benefits of these bipartisan efforts are clear—communities are safer and the growth in state prison populations and related costs are slowing.

WHAT ARE THE KEY STEPS STATE POLICYMAKERS CAN TAKE TO REDUCE RECIDIVISM?

- 1. Make recidivism reduction a state priority and a key measure of successful corrections and reentry policy.**
 - Identify key stakeholders from the different agencies and organizations that impact the reentry process in your state and hold them responsible for their role in advancing recidivism reduction goals
 - Set a clear definition of recidivism, measure current recidivism rates within your state, and set reduction goals related to specific programs or policy changes
 - Support the collection and reporting of recidivism and revocation data on a monthly basis to track progress and drive policy changes
- 2. Develop a plan to implement policies and practices that research has shown to reduce recidivism.**
 - Ensure corrections and reentry-related resources are focused on the individuals who are most likely to reoffend
 - Fund evidence-based programs and services at levels that meet the needs of high-risk offenders and ensure that they are implemented effectively
 - Authorize the adoption of community supervision policies and practices that reduce the risk of individuals reoffending or violating the terms of their release
 - Review laws and policies to determine if they undermine the goals and benefits of recidivism-reduction efforts and make modifications as necessary
- 3. Track progress and ensure accountability for results**
 - Review recidivism data on a regular basis and hold agencies and programs responsible for progress toward meeting goals
 - Provide incentives to agencies or jurisdictions for implementing practices that reduce recidivism and revocations
 - Require that program quality assessments be conducted at least annually to determine the programs' recidivism reduction impact, and use that information to inform budget decisions

Policy in Practice

Prioritizing recidivism reduction: Kansas
In 2007, Kansas policymakers invested \$7.9 million to increase the capacity of treatment programs and strengthen probation and parole. Between 2007 and 2009, state recidivism rates decreased more than 20 percent.

Implementing evidence-based practices: Wisconsin
In 2009, policymakers signed a law requiring that a validated risk assessment tool be used for triaging community supervision resources. The law prompted a re-validation study that resulted in an estimated 25-percent reallocation of workload as a result of supervision resources being focused on individuals that were most likely to reoffend or violate the terms of their release.

Promoting accountability: Ohio
Ohio policymakers have demonstrated their commitment to implementing evidence-based practices by evaluating correctional and community reentry programs' impact on recidivism reduction. Based on recent studies, Ohio is canceling contracts with low-performing programs and restructuring other programs to produce better outcomes.

¹This conclusion is based on a survey of state corrections departments conducted by the Council of State Governments Justice Center and the Association of State Correctional Administrators in January 2012.

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Scope of the Statewide Recidivism Reduction (SRR) Grant Program

Goal: reduce the statewide recidivism rate

Target Population

- ▶ Focus on broad population with disproportionately high recidivism rates.

Policy Focus Areas

- ▶ Risk and need assessment-driven case planning
- ▶ Quality programming that targets criminogenic needs
- ▶ Effective supervision practices

Types of Investments

- ▶ System wide policy reforms
 - ▶ Resource allocation decisions
 - ▶ Supervision intensity
- ▶ Building capacity
 - ▶ Staff skill development
 - ▶ IT infrastructure
 - ▶ Case management and assessment tools
 - ▶ Quality assurance processes

SRR Grant Program Overview

Phase 1: Planning and Capacity-Building

13 states received up to \$100k grants in FY 2013

Must complete planning phase (including P&I Guide) to be eligible for Phase II

Completed in July 2014



Phase II: Implementation

2-4 states will receive up to \$3 million grants in FY 2014

Competitive – not all planning grantees will be awarded implementation awards

Three year-long grants awarded by September 30, 2014

FY 2013 SRR Grantees

FY 2013 SRR Planning Grantees

Alaska Native Justice Center

Arkansas Department of Community Corrections

Georgia Department of Corrections

Illinois Department of Corrections

Executive Office of the State of Iowa

Kansas Department of Corrections

State of Michigan

Minnesota Department of Corrections

North Dakota Department of Correction and Rehabilitation

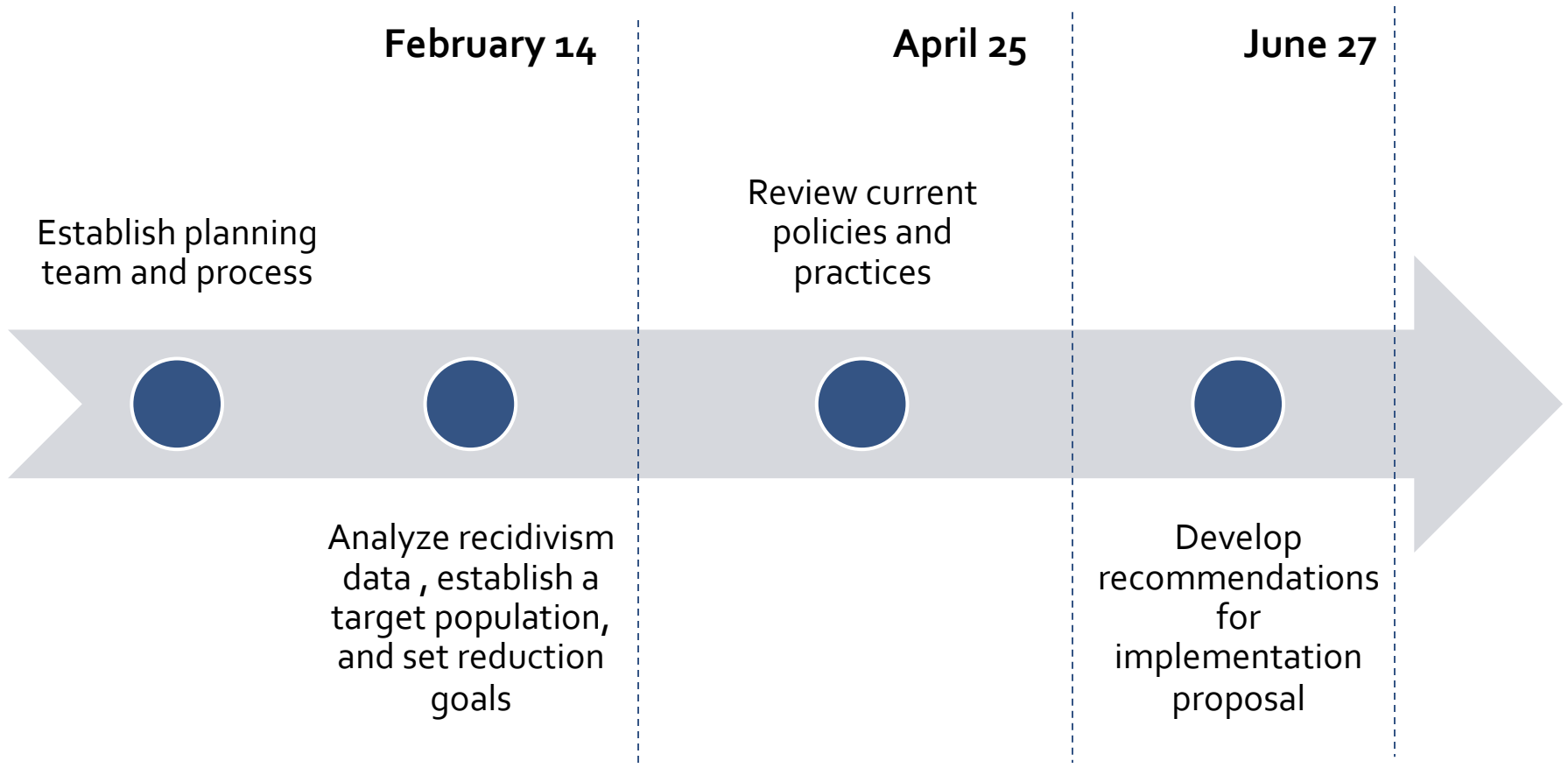
Pennsylvania Department of Corrections

Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction

Vermont Department of Corrections

West Virginia Division of Justice and Community Services

SRR Phase I Planning Process - 2014



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SRR Grant Program Opportunities

- ▶ Mechanism for bringing together stakeholders and developing a statewide strategic reentry plan
 - ▶ Can also be used to build on an existing plan or tie together related initiatives across the state
- ▶ High profile opportunity to bring attention to the Governor's recidivism reduction goals
- ▶ Up to \$3 million in funding available to implement your state's reentry plan

Leveraging the SRR Grant to Accomplish Your Goals

Leadership Commitment

Governor makes recidivism reduction a priority and asks for plan to meet goals

The SRR grant can generate momentum around setting policy goals for the state

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Statewide Plan

Stakeholders are brought together to develop a data-driven, statewide plan for how to be aligned with EBPs throughout the system

The SRR plan can lay out a comprehensive vision for reducing recidivism statewide

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Resource Support

Federal funding used to build capacity

Realign and prioritize state resources

SRR funding can build the state's capacity for implementing EBPs

Examples of SRR Reforms from FY 12 Grantees

New York State



- ▶ **Reducing recidivism by:** using alternative sanctions for parolees who are at risk for violation to address non-compliance rather than having an individual's parole status revoked, resulting in a return to prison. The grant supports enhanced programming during the 45 day sanction, and follow-up community services.

Kansas



- ▶ **Reducing recidivism by:** ensuring cognitive behavioral programs in prison and community corrections are being effectively delivered, and available to offenders with mental illness who also have criminal thinking. Fidelity coaches will observe and coach program staff to promote quality.

Examples of SRR Reforms from FY 12 Grantees

Rhode Island



- ▶ **Reducing recidivism by:** Revising policies and procedures, enhancing institutional programming, and training staff across the Department to ensure evidence based practices are reflected in offender management and risk and needs assessments drive program placement decisions, and community supervision practices.

Louisiana



- ▶ **Reducing recidivism by:** utilizing enhanced community supervision strategies coupled with treatment for high-risk individuals. Parole and probation officers are receiving motivational Interviewing training and cognitive-behavioral programming is being delivered in Day Reporting Centers.

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Getting Involved

- ▶ **Strengthen your competitiveness:**
 - ▶ Demonstrated support by executive policymakers
 - ▶ Tie SRR planning process to state policy goals
 - ▶ Demonstrated commitment to statewide policy reform
- ▶ **How to get involved:**
 - ▶ Connect with SRR planning team
 - ▶ Connect SRR work to other state initiatives
 - ▶ Attend March 27th SRR Forum in Washington, DC
 - ▶ Use grant to champion statewide policy reforms

Questions and Answers

Instructions:

To ask a written question, enter it in the Q&A panel on the bottom right-hand side of your screen. If you did not dial in by phone, you must use this option to ask a question.

To ask your question out loud, click on the “raise your hand” button on the top right-hand side of your screen under the participant names, and we will unmute your line.

Contacts:

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Council of State Governments
Justice Center
ppotter@csg.org | 240-482-8587

Leah Wavrunek, Senior Policy Analyst
National Governors Association
Center for Best Practices
lwavrunek@nga.org | 202-624-5341

