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## Austin/Travis County Reentry Roundtable Newsletter

March 2019

### Roundtable News

Amplify Austin Day has finally arrived!



**Amplify Austin**

The Austin/Travis County Reentry Roundtable has already raised over \$800, and we're determined to keep going strong until Amplify Austin ends at **6pm on Friday, March 1st!**

All funds raised by the Roundtable during Amplify Austin will be used to support opportunities within the [Roundtable Advocacy Fellowship](#).

This unique program develops the leadership and professional skills of Fellows who have significant lived experience navigating the criminal justice system and reentering the community. At the same time, Fellows help expand the Roundtable's capacity to work on reentry-related issues.

We are fired up to reach (and exceed) our goal of \$5,000 to support this impactful program, so please consider donating now!

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## March Planning Council Meeting

Please join us for the upcoming Council Meeting as we continue our “open space” discussions from last meeting focused on:

- Reentry service coordination;
- Further engaging justice-involved individuals and their families;
- Behavioral health & substance use peer support practices for successful reentry; and
- Reframing reentry language to convey community impact.



We will be channeling action steps from conversations into the Roundtable's draft FY19/20 deliverables, so don't miss this critical dialogue!

**When:** 12:30-2 p.m. on Monday, March 11, 2019

**Where:** Goodwill Community Center  
[.1015\\_Norwood\\_Park\\_Boulevard](#)  
[Austin, Texas 78753](#)

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## RAP Speaks Event on April 16th



**Mark your calendars:** the second annual RAP Speaks event will be held in April!

**When:** Tuesday, April 16th from 7-9pm

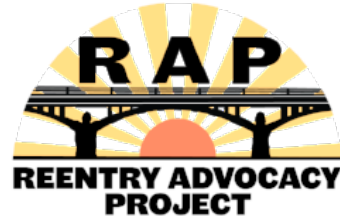
**Where:** Impact Hub North ([5540\\_N\\_Lamar\\_Bldv, Austin, TX 78756](#))

Join us as we celebrate Second Chance Month with a night of storytelling focused around reentry issues. Stay tuned for more details!

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## Reentry Advocacy Project

**Who:** Are you or is someone you are close to directly impacted by the criminal justice system? If so, please join the [Reentry Advocacy Project](#) (RAP) for a monthly conversation with other folks with lived experience with incarceration and reentry.



**What:** A project of the Roundtable, RAP engages formerly incarcerated men and women to advocate for the development and implementation of policies and practices that directly and positively impact the reentry population and their families, as well as provide guidance to the Roundtable. RAP is a place where you can get support and advice to address reentry challenges and barriers.

**When:** RAP generally meets on the first Wednesday of the month from 6–7:30 p.m. with pizza and informal networking starting at 5:30 p.m.

**Where:** Mt. Zion Baptist Church Zion Action Recovery Center at [2951 E 14th St.](#)

You can stay up-to-date with RAP meeting times and other events by following them on [Facebook](#).

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## News & Resources

### Pell Grants For Prisoners Could Save Illinois Millions

*From the [Illinois Newsroom](#):*



Illinois could save millions of dollars on incarceration costs if the federal ban on Pell Grants for inmates was lifted, according to a new report from the [Vera Institute of Justice](#). Pell Grants are awarded to low-income undergraduate students to help them pay for college.

The report, called "[Investing in Futures: Fiscal Benefits of Postsecondary Education in Prison](#)," cites numerous economic and other benefits to states across the country if prisoners were able to apply for and receive federal Pell Grants.

[Read More](#)

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### How Austin's Sobering Center is Offering an Alternative to Jail

*From the [Austin-American Statesman](#):*

The center, at 1213 Sabine St. in downtown Austin, [opened in August](#), started 24/7 operations on Oct. 1 and so far has seen more than 600 clients.

Its goal, [executive director Rhonda Patrick](#) said, is to provide police and emergency officials with an

alternative, safe place to take people under the influence instead of jail or the emergency room. Its services are free.

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## Tribal Reentry Advocacy Guide Launch



Root & Rebound and the [Yurok Tribal Court](#) are thrilled to be releasing a first-of-its-kind best practices guide on increasing access to justice and reentry legal services in tribal communities across the country.

The new publication, [Tribal Reentry Advocacy Guide: A Roadmap for Increasing Access to Justice & Opportunity for Tribal Members with Criminal Records Through Collaboration & Partnership](#), compiles two years of learnings and best practices gained through our tribal justice collaborative, offering free legal clinics and trainings for people with records and those who support them, as well as practical steps for replicating similar partnerships nationwide.

Abby Abinanti, Chief Justice of the Yurok Tribal Court, says of the newly released guide and the partnership, **“At its core, this report reflects the need to collaborate—both for tribal communities and for legal aid practitioners.** We hope that by sharing out what we have learned together, we can serve as a model of holistic, mobile, and responsive tribal justice work that tribes and legal aid organizations across the country can follow.”

[Read the Report](#)

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## Hunger and Mass Incarceration Resources

Bread for the World has made resources from their webinar *"Breaking the Cycle of Mass Incarceration: History, Realities, and Solutions"* available online!

You can access resources via the links below, or visit [Bread for the World's website](#) to learn more about how they are advancing racial equity and criminal justice to help end hunger.



- **Learn the history of mass incarceration and connection with hunger.** Read [“Mass Incarceration: A Major Cause of Hunger”](#) from [Bread for the World Institute](#).
- **Learn successful advocacy strategies on the state level.** Read [“State Criminal Justice Advocacy”](#) from the [Sentencing Project](#).
- **Learn about advancing racial equity through career pathways.** Read, [“Community Centered Solutions”](#) from the [Center on Law and Social Policy](#).



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