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## Austin/Travis County Reentry Roundtable Newsletter

August 2019

### August Planning Council Meeting

Please join us at our next meeting for a reentry-focused legislative recap with the following panelists:

- Traci Berry of [Goodwill Central Texas](#)
- Carl Hunter of [Recovery People](#)
- Lauren Johnson of [ACLU Texas](#)
- Doug Smith of [Texas Criminal Justice Coalition](#)



**When:** Monday, August 12 from 12:30-2 PM

**Where:** Goodwill Community Center

[1015 Norwood Park Blvd Austin, TX 78753](#)

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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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## Upcoming Events & Opportunities

### Volunteers Needed for Reentry Simulation

[Reinventing Reentry](#) provides awareness-raising simulations that allow participants to learn first-hand about the barriers and prejudices experienced by the formerly incarcerated every day. In an interactive simulation with audience engagement, participants not only experience the challenges but also seek solutions for this costly and inefficient system.



**Reinventing Reentry is currently recruiting 15-20 volunteers to help with a local reentry simulation from 9:30am to 1pm on August 14th.** Individuals with justice-involvement are encouraged to volunteer as are those with loved ones directly impacted by the criminal justice system.

If you would like to volunteer, please email Roundtable Advocacy Fellow Laurie Pherigo at [austinreentryroundtable@gmail.com](mailto:austinreentryroundtable@gmail.com).

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**ACC Seeks Workforce Projects Coordinator to Support Correctional Education and Skilled Trades Programs**



Austin Community College is hiring a [Workforce Projects Coordinator](#) that will focus on supporting the growth and sustainability of ACC's Correctional Education and Skilled Trades programs. This position will also involve helping with state agency projects.

**Candidates with experience working with justice-involved individuals and/or operating in correctional settings are encouraged to apply.**

This position will require non-standard hours on a frequent basis as many activities and classes are scheduled in the evenings and on weekends.

***Please note that the deadline to apply is Friday, August 2nd.***

[Learn More & Apply](#)

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## Apply Now for the FREEAMERICA Unlocked Futures Accelerator Program

After a successful inaugural year, [FREEAMERICA](#), together with [New Profit](#), opening the application process for the second cohort of Unlocked Futures.

**Do you know a leader working to break barriers in the criminal justice space? Please share [this link](#) with anyone in your network who you would encourage to apply.**

They are looking for entrepreneurs who:

- have been impacted by the criminal justice system;
- who are seeking strategic support and technical assistance to scale their work;
- who are leading for-profit or non-profit organizations;
- have organizations beyond concept and seed stages with a budget at a minimum of \$150K.



In 2019, this accelerator program will continue to support entrepreneurs who have been impacted by the criminal justice system, featuring the following components:

- \$50K unrestricted grant;
- tailored capacity building support and tools to meet real-time needs;
- leadership and executive coaching;

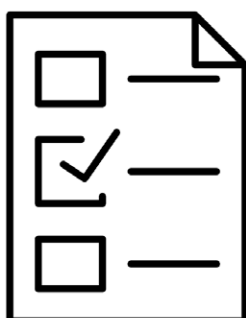
- customized communications materials including high-quality video that tells the entrepreneurs' leadership and organization story;
- connections to potential donors and issue-based partners; and
- a well-curated and supportive peer network of fellow entrepreneurs.

Please reach out to Abir Liben at [abir\\_liben@newprofit.org](mailto:abir_liben@newprofit.org) if you have any questions.

[Submit an Application](#)

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## Survey about System Change Efforts in the Criminal Justice System



The [John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation's Safety and Justice Challenge](#) recognizes that there are better, fairer, and more effective alternatives to excessive jail incarceration. Key to beginning and sustaining reform efforts is an understanding of how jail use has changed, and what impacts this growth has had on individuals, communities, and the economy.

As part of their national evaluation, they have released a survey about the strategies and practices your community is planning to implement, is in the process of implementing, or has recently implemented in the local criminal justice systems.

The survey includes questions about practices and programs implemented by police, pretrial services agencies, jails, prosecutors and defenders, and court systems.

If you have questions about the survey, please email Monica Sheppard at [msheppard@rti.org](mailto:msheppard@rti.org).

*The deadline to respond to the survey is August 5, 2019.*

[Take the Survey](#)

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*Want to learn about additional events and opportunities around the country? We recommend looking up the [Council of State Governments Justice Center](#) and [Vera Institute of Justice](#).*

# News & Resources

## To Safely Cut Incarceration, States Rethink Responses to Supervision Violations

This update comes directly from [The Council of State Governments Justice Center](#).

In July, The Pew Charitable Trusts released [To Safely Cut Incarceration, States Rethink Responses to Supervision Violations](#), a brief that highlights policies states have enacted through the Justice Reinvestment Initiative that have reduced revocations to prison for technical violations of probation and parole conditions.

These policies include using positive incentives, administrative responses, and supervision approaches that emphasize behavioral change and limiting prison time for technical violations. The brief examines each of these four policy solutions and provides state case studies that show how the policies have helped reduce revocations to prison.



This brief comes on the heels of [Confined and Costly: How Supervision Violations Are Filling Prisons and Burdening Budgets](#), a report released by The Council of State Governments Justice Center that reveals the startling extent to which probation and parole violations contribute to states' high prison admissions and populations, as well as the subsequent cost to taxpayers.

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