



# INSTITUTE FOR JUSTICE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

PRIORITIZING RAPID DISSEMINATION OF RESEARCH FINDINGS TO ADVOCATES, PROFESSIONALS, AND POLICYMAKERS.

## 5-Key Model for Reentry Program Demonstration Reentry Program Specialist Position

### **Project Overview:**

Mass incarceration continues to be a significant public health and public safety issue in the United States. At the beginning of the 21st century, there was growing excitement and energy surrounding programs designed to aid the transition from prison to the community. Now well over a decade later, innovations in prisoner reentry programs have fallen into a rut as most are found to only have a negligible impact on recidivism and mass incarceration because the programs simply cannot meet the growing demands on reentry services.

In order to disrupt the current state of poor outcomes for prisoner reentry, a team lead by Institute for Justice Research and Development (IJRD) researchers identified and are refining a program that addresses the five key ingredients to successful reentry entitled the 5-Key Model for Reentry Program. This manual was built on a review of over 100,000 program evaluations. Using the most cutting-edge research available, we selected the most potent interventions and combined them into one reentry program manual. The 5-Key Model for Reentry Program focuses on the social mobility and well-being of formerly incarcerated individuals to ensure individuals will remain crime-free and contribute positively to society. Research indicates that a focus on mobility and well-being best maximizes public health and public safety.

The IJRD team is currently researching and refining the 5-Key Model for Reentry Program using a demonstration project in 7 states. We are conducting this research in collaboration with the Safe Streets and Second Chances (S3C) Initiative. The research entails a randomized controlled trial and involves researchers and practitioners in its implementation and refinement process. We are hiring local teams in each state and this position is a part of one of those local teams

### **Position Summary:**

The Reentry Program Specialist is responsible for coordinating and implementing reentry services with participants returning from prison to the community. Duties include developing and implementing case plans, including utilizing evidence-based interventions. The individual must possess a demonstrated ability to work in a highly collaborative environment. Over time, the Reentry Program Specialist will be responsible for supervising master's level social work practicum students and providing clinically related supervision.

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**Primary Duties:**

- 30%-The Reentry Program Specialist is responsible for implementing an evidence-driven model of reentry services utilizing the 5-Key Model for Reentry program within and outside of prisons, to include but not limited to, community partner sites, participant homes, and public settings. Oversee the coordination and integration of participants pre- to post-release clinical services within a multidisciplinary environment. Conduct biopsychosocial assessments, formulate individualized service plans, and evaluate participant progress.
- 30%-Utilize motivational engagement techniques to support and encourage, retain, and support participants' in services. Provide individual counseling and provide evidence-based interventions, including solution focused brief therapy and harm reduction approaches. Interact with participants' families and other natural and community supports that will aid in reentry and reintegration.
- 25%-Collaborate with other service providers in the delivery of participant services, motivating and training them to deliver clinical care with fidelity and competence. Collaborate with corrections staff pre- and post-release as needed to development of individualized service plans and evaluation of participation and progress.
- 15%-Contribute to team meetings and review participants' progress toward identified goals. Allow graduate student interns to shadow day to day work. Fully participate and adhere to research and practice protocol of the demonstrated project. Participate in fidelity monitoring of own intervention work.

**Required Qualifications:**

- Master's degree required in social work, psychology, or related field.
- Ability to adapt to various hours and be able to work evening and weekends.
- Able to work independently while collaborating with a larger team.
- Must be eligible to pass and maintain security clearance in order to conduct interviews in correctional facilities.
- Must have a valid US driver's license, reliable vehicle, and current auto insurance.

**Preferred Qualifications:**

- Experience with high-risk/high needs populations.
- Knowledge of criminal justice, mental health, substance abuse, trauma, and other related populations.
- Experience providing evidence-based programming and practices to vulnerable populations.
- Experience delivering manualized interventions.
- Proficiency and/or familiarity with motivational interviewing and cognitive behavioral approaches, and a strengths-based focus therapy is highly desired.

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- Ability to engage effectively with both participants and colleagues through verbal and written communication.
- Skilled in writing and maintaining computer-based participant records in an accurate and timely manner.
- Ability to respond to crisis situations and psychiatric emergencies utilizing appropriate crisis intervention techniques.
- Highly organized, self-starter with good interpersonal, problem-solving, and analytical skills.

**Hours:** 40 hours per week

**Location:** Community provider site and travel to study locations.

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