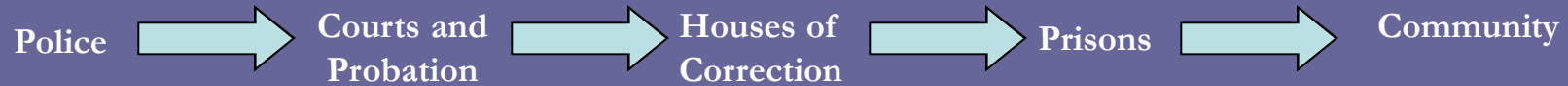


**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Department of Correction**

**Goal:
Public Safety**

**An Effective Reentry-Focused
Correctional System**

Reentry: A Renewed Emphasis

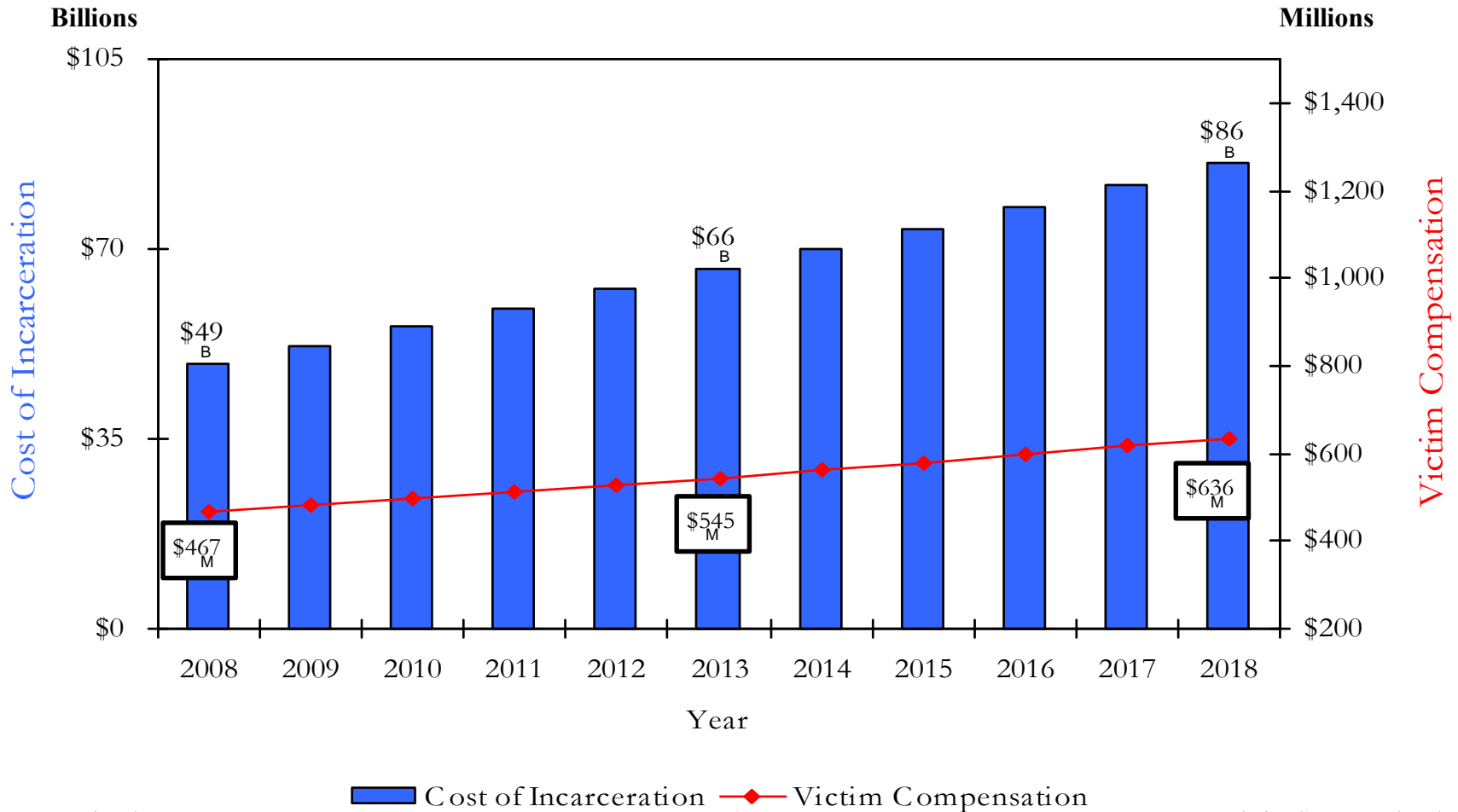


Successful reentry is the cornerstone of enhanced public safety efforts.

- Re-entry is a purposeful commitment that for the HOC and DOC begins at the point of entry in the criminal justice system until the point of discharge from supervision.
- Re-entry is a purposeful commitment that for the community that can begin prior to release and continues in the community.
- A comprehensive system must be established to identify best use of resources and the most promising paths to success.
- Create cohesion among major stakeholders to identify the most appropriate methods for maximum use of resources.
- Agencies shall collect and evaluate data to support the reduction of recidivism.
- Focus interventions and programs on evidence-based practices.
- Establish resources in communities to provide appropriate supervision, treatment and services.
- Effectively illustrate to the public that reducing recidivism through reentry will successfully reintegrate offenders to the community and break the cycle of criminal behavior.

Challenges

National Cost of Crime: 2008-2018



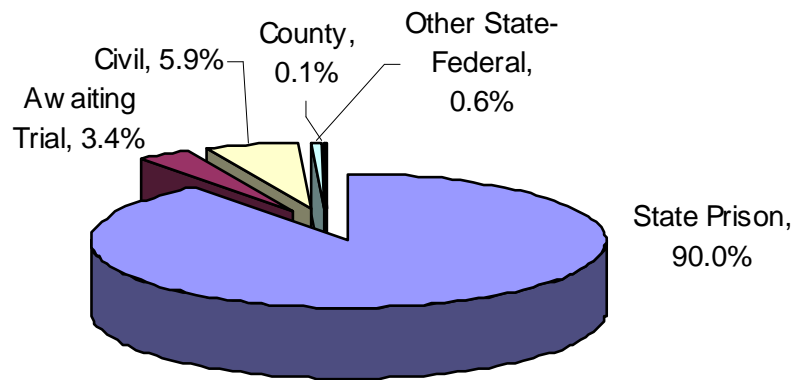
Cost of Incarceration data: Pew Study 4/2008, projected over ten years

Victim Compensation data: National Association of Crime Victim Association Boards, projected over ten years

Challenges

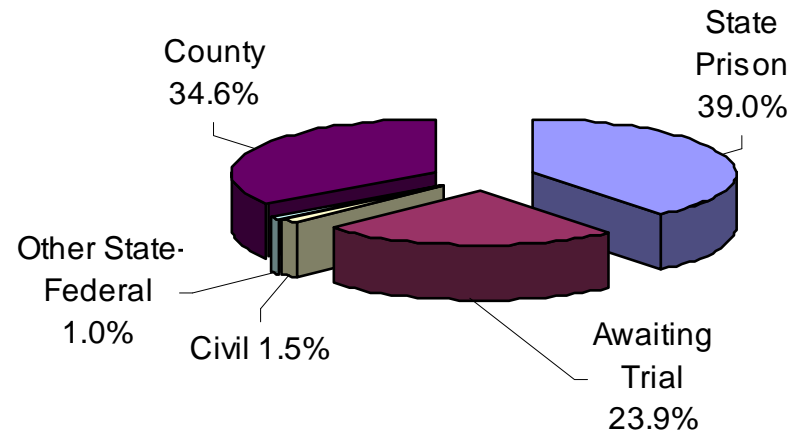
Diverse Offender Populations and Competing Missions

Male MA DOC Custody* Population on September 28, 2009 by Sentence Type



Total Male Custody Population 10,531

Female MA DOC Custody* Population on September 28, 2009 by Sentence Type



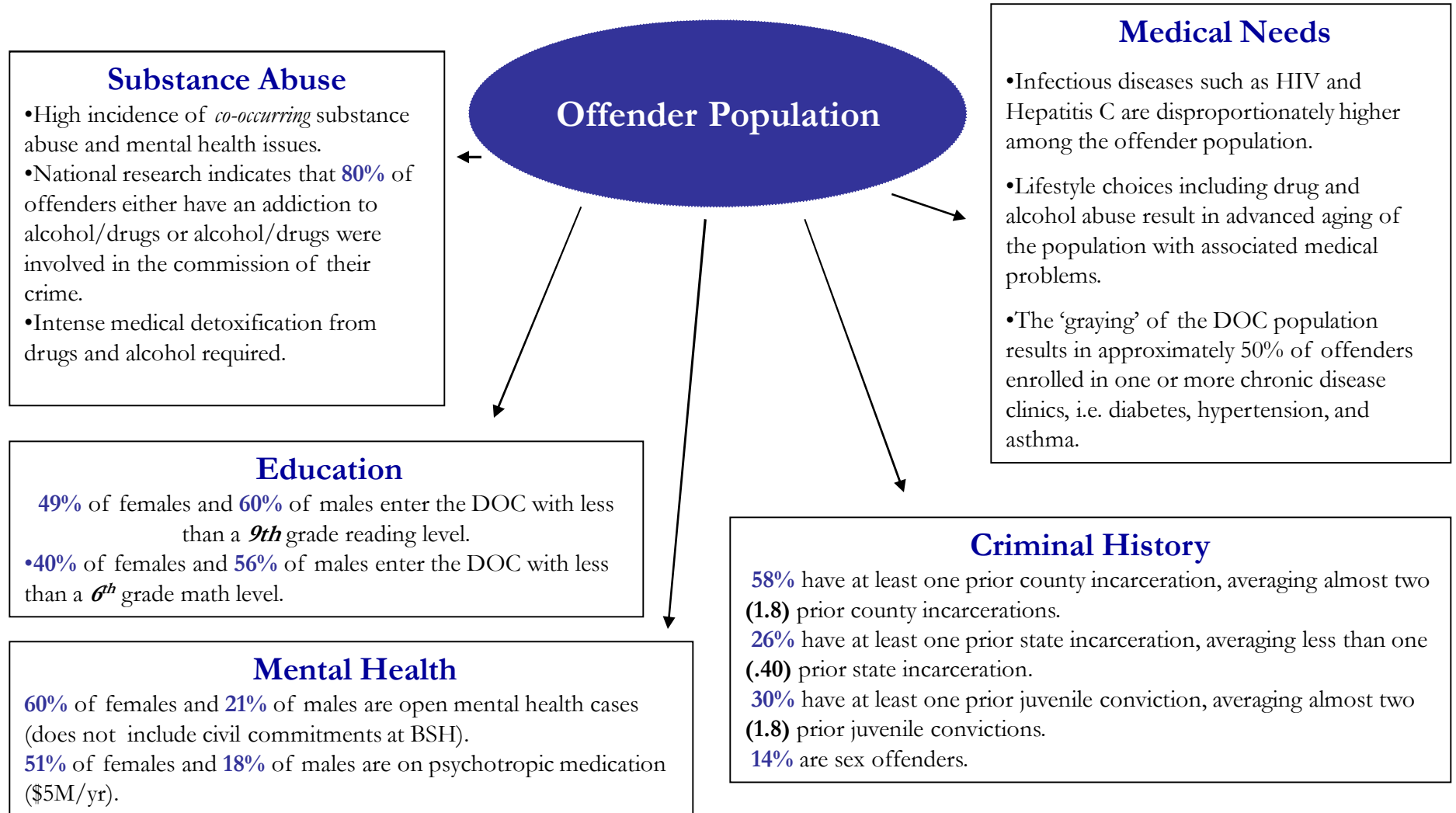
Total Female Custody Population 784

The Department is charged with a number of unique responsibilities requiring considerable resources and management attention.

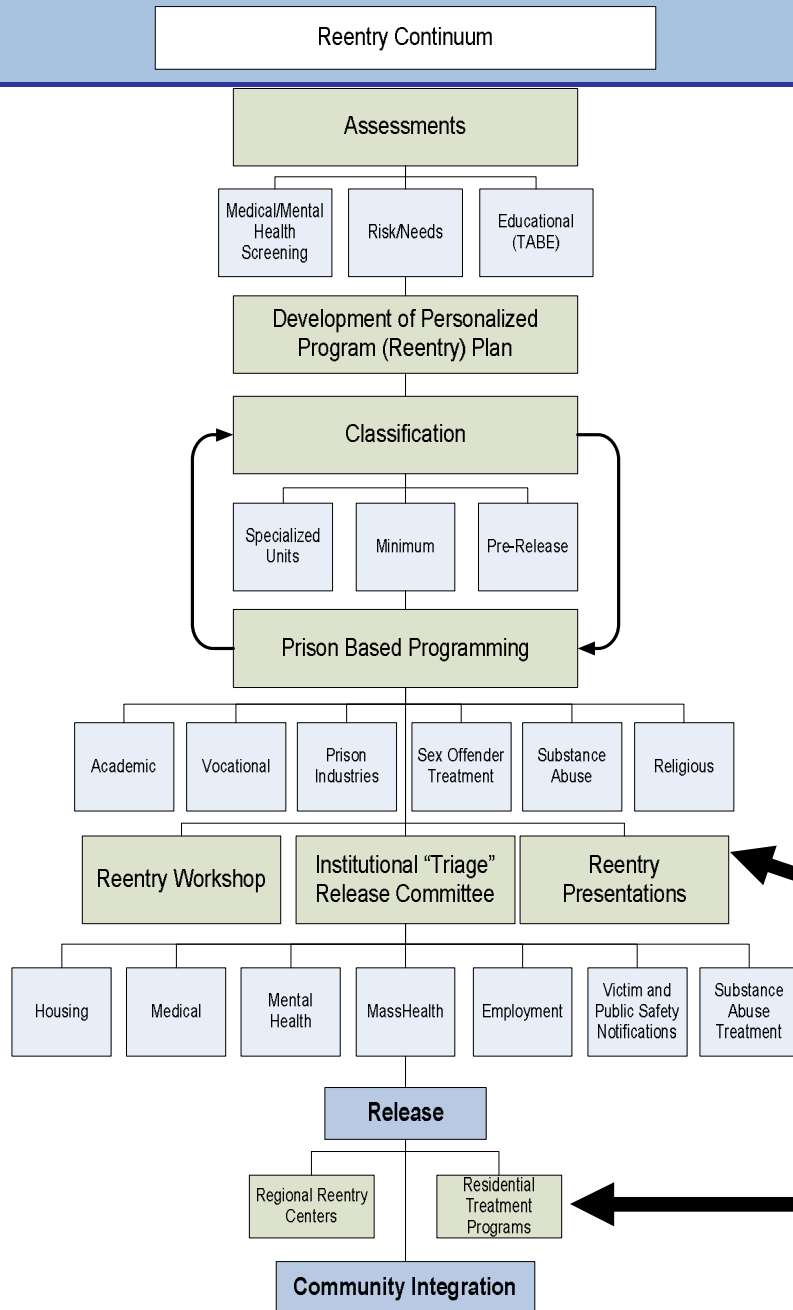
*Custody Individuals in MA DOC facilities

Challenges

Multitude of deficiencies and challenges during incarceration and following them into the community.



Department of Correction



Need for Increased collaboration among state and local agencies. Increased resources and partnerships are needed to successfully reintegrate offenders to the community to decrease recidivism and promote public safety

Principles and Practices of Effective Reentry Programming

- **Target High Risk Offenders** – Those offenders who are assessed as having the highest risk for re-offending should be prioritized for treatment while incarcerated and while in the community
- **Assess Offenders Needs** – The needs of offenders should be assessed using research-based instruments; program participation should be based on assessed needs
- **Design Responsivity into Programming** – Programming should take into account those individual offender characteristics that interfere with or facilitate an offenders ability and motivation to learn
- **Develop Behavior Management Plans** – Individual programming should occur in the context of a larger management plan developed for each offender, which will include the priority sequence of treatment programs and the means for measuring the gains
- **Develop a comprehensive hand off into the community** – Develop partnerships that support case managing individuals at risk to re-offend.

Department of Correction

Re-entering our communities

Current Response

- Policy Revisions
- Agency wide Training for Staff
- Technology Enhancements to Support Reentry
- MassHealth Pilot Program
- Positions dedicated and trained to find residential programs and now housing*
- Parole/Regional Reentry Center Partnership
- Veterans Partnership
- SSA MOU
- Inmate Reentry Presentations
- Reentry Performance Measurements
- Employment/Job Readiness through
- Education/Vocational Programs

Next Steps/Need Areas

- **Need for Increased Collaboration among state and local agencies***
 - Information Sharing
 - Data sharing
- **Increased Housing Resources**
 - Affordable options (SROs)
 - Transitional Housing for Ex-Offenders
 - Long Term Residential Treatment beds
 - Hard to place populations: Sex Offenders and Arsonists
- **Need for Identification**
- **Need for Transportation**
 - Work Release
 - Post Release
- **Expansion of Proven Employment Readiness Programs**

Response

Increasing Stakeholder Partnerships



Re-entry Success Factors	Current Collaborations	Future/Enhanced Collaborations
Housing	Interagency Council of Housing and Homelessness, Veteran's (Federal & State), Office of Elderly Affairs and Parole	Department of Transitional Assistance, Department of Housing and Community Development, Department of Public Health, Local Housing Authorities
Employment	US Department of Justice, Community Colleges, MA Department of Education, US Department of Education, Health and Human Services, Department of Workforce Development	Community Colleges, One Stop Career Centers, Employers, Chamber of Commerce
Identification	Registry of Vital Statistics, Social Security Administration	Registry of Motor Vehicles,
Medical / Mental Health	MassHealth, League of Community Health Centers, Department of Mental Health, Department of Public Health (HDAP)	League of Community Health Centers, Department of Mental Health, Department of Public Health

Speaking Notes (Slide: Increasing Stakeholder Partnerships)

➤ The Department is obligated to identify the offender's need areas, provide programming and services to address their deficits and prepare them for release to the community. The Department's statutory authority ends at the point of release (with or without post release supervision). It's critical to build and expand collaborations with community based stakeholders and other criminal justice partners to address the need areas that are outside of the Department's statutory authority:

Housing:

~ **Department of Transitional Assistance/Dept. of Housing and Community Development/Department of Public Health/Local Housing Authorities** . to create an affordable housing inventory for offenders to obtain housing prior to release when family reunification is not an option.

~ **County/Sheriffs:** Increased or new step down beds to allow inmates to get closer to their communities as their release date approaches to promote successful reentry

~ **Challenging Populations** - Sex Offenders - critical need for transitional housing for sex offenders. Current exclusions (regulatory, local ordinances) make it impossible for transitional housing placement. Sex Offenders are being forced into shelters due to these exclusions.

Identification:

~ **Registry of MV / Social Security Administration** . Partnership needed to create a system to allow offenders to be issued a MA Identification Card and Social Security Card prior to release . for employment, transportation and housing purposes

Employment:

➤ **Community Colleges/One Stop Career Centers/Employers/Chambers of Commerce** . Expanded partnerships are needed to improve employment outcomes for inmates upon release to improve their ability to meet financial obligations and maintain housing

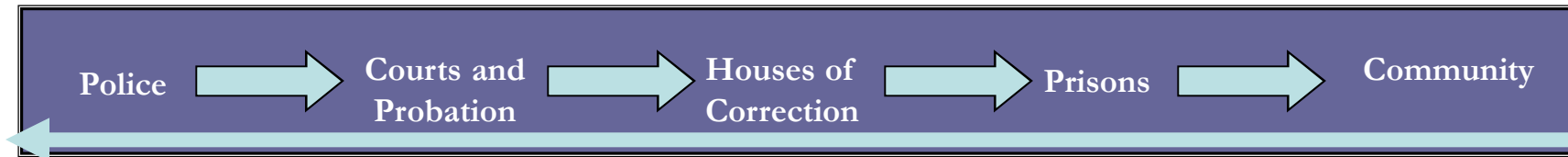
Medical/Mental Health:

▪ **League of Community Health Centers** - Through an existing partnership with MassHealth, most offenders are released with MassHealth coverage. Increased collaboration is needed to improve continuity of care in the community for offenders who have medical and/or mental health issues to utilize their health insurance and access the necessary treatment and medications.

▪ **Department of Public Health** - Enhanced resources to provide additional residential/non residential substance abuse treatment services in the community.

▪ **Department of Mental Health** - Collaborate to broaden eligibility criteria to better meet the needs of the releasing population with mental health issues.

Reentry: Smart on Crime



- Successful reentry is the cornerstone of enhanced public safety efforts.
- By reducing recidivism through expansion of evidence-based programs, while incarcerated and continued in the community, we will have fewer victims, reduce crime victim costs, costs to criminal justice agencies and costs to the community.
- Partnering with local community healthcare providers, housing authorities, substance abuse treatment providers, mental health service providers, career centers, workforce development boards, faith-based organizations, communities colleges, and other community organizations will provide appropriate services and support to **all** offenders following discharge from the criminal justice system.
- The groups here today can effectively illustrate to the public that reducing recidivism through reentry **will** successfully reintegrate offenders to the community and break the cycle of criminal behavior.