

FAMILY

Video

B-roll

Audio

V.O.#1

Prisons separate prisoners from their families, often causing strained relations.

Fran Harris, Former WNBA Star
Families of Incarcerated Loved Ones

“Dealing with the isolation, the unspoken stigma of having someone in the system, even within my own family, there was no conversation about my brother being in prison. The impact that the silence had, my brother and I were very close, very good friends. Dealing with him not being around, dealing with him missing a great part of my athletic career, was really devastating for me personally.”

B-roll

V.O.#2

Many reentry programs are beginning to offer assistance to families in planning for and negotiating the reentry process to reconnect people with their families, like the work that former WNBA star Fran Harris is doing as a result of her brother’s incarceration.

Fran Harris

“We’re developing a program right now with the parole division here in town to work with families who are getting ready to receive their loved ones back to their homes. We’re helping them to understand this is what it’s been like for Johnny for the last three years, and giving a voice and a sense of validation to the things that they feel like. Well, it’s a little bit scary for him to come home, or her to come home, and really brining those pieces back together.”

B-roll

V.O. #3

Reconnecting families is not always an option, particularly when it is family members who have been victimized, as in cases of domestic violence. However, when reunification is possible, those with strong family relationships are less likely to recommit crimes.

JOHN C. INMANN WORK AND FAMILY CENTER **Denver, CO**

B-roll

V.O.#1

The John C. Inmann Work & Family Center was founded in 1999 as a multi-agency program providing comprehensive reintegration services to men and women released from prison and returning to the Denver metro area. It is considered to be one of the success stories of the U.S. Department of Labor-sponsored Ready 4 Work

Initiatives. A one-stop community-based organization, the Center helps about 1500 formerly incarcerated people each year obtain employment, resolve child support issues, and reconnect with their families and children.

Steven Chorak
Director, Community Reintegration
Denver Department of Corrections

“The Director here has done an excellent job of leveraging dollars, grant dollars, and partnering. The partnerships are important, not just for the budgetary part, but again, back to the buy-in of the community. I mean, the Work and Family Center’s a perfect example and it’s a multi-agency program.

Mario Salinas, Director
John C. Inmann Work & Family Center

“The mission of the John C. Inmann Work and Family Center is to assist returning inmates in their reentry to the community. We provide services around work and family-based interventions. We believe that those are the two critical factors that contribute to someone’s success in staying out in the community and not returning to prison.

B-roll

V.O.#2

The Centers core funding is from the Department of Public Safety’s Edward Burns Memorial Fund. The Colorado Department of Labor and Employment is another principal partner.

Larry Beaver
Inmann Work & Family Center Client

“It helped me get all my child support issues organized and financial support on that. They helped me with bus passes, clothes, which were extremely important. They helped me with job search and job placement. They even helped my employers with the tax credits that are available to them for hiring me. They helped my employers with information about me pertaining to my case and things like that. “

Valerie Zamora
Case Manager Supervisor

“Our goal is to help them, first of all, stay out of prison and be a responsible non-custodial parent, if that’s their role, to keep up with their child support payments. Hopefully, in doing that, the person who has the children is more likely to have them do visitations and maybe even get the family back together. So we’ll help them with supportive services.”

B-roll

Gilbert Cruz and family

V.O.#3

Gilbert Cruz has received assistance from the Center in adjusting his child support payments to the child he has that does not live

with him. The Center also assisted him in gaining custody of the four children that do live with him, a process that began while he was still incarcerated.

Gilbert Cruz

Inmann Work & Family Center Client

“I had to do a lot of work trying to get them back, and trying to get a place, continue to go to work, continue to have my kids go to school. It was pushed on me really early. But I endured and luckily they’re with me now.”

Valerie Zamora

“He got a job at the Golden Door program out at Coors, which helps people who have felonies with training. He’s now been promoted up to welding.”

Gilbert

“Now that I have them, I know that this is what I need to do for them as far as to stay out, not do anything stupid like I did before. They need me and I need them.”

B-roll

V.O.#4

Angela Shaw is the program coordinator for the Motherhood Initiative Program, designed to counsel and provide special services that are specific to female offenders.

Angela Shaw, Program Coordinator

Motherhood Initiative

“One of the purposes of the program is to help in the transition, with the female offender starting while she’s still incarcerated and then working with her as she comes to the community.”

B-roll

V.O.#5

Nakia Germany was recently released from the Denver Corrections Women’s Facility and lives at the Restoration Center, a faith-based halfway house, or step-down program for women coming out of prison. Nakia has two children who are currently in foster care.

Nakia Germany

Inmann Work & Family Center Client

“When I first went down, they were both with my mother. My sister had to get them. From there, they went to a foster home, which they’re in right now. That’s what I’m trying to do right now is – to get custody back of my kids, so they can come home with me. In doing that, I have to get myself together and do what I have to do for me before I can take the responsibility back with them.”

Angela Shaw

“Many of her immediate family members have been incarcerated, or connected in some way to the criminal justice system, so we’re talking mother, father, aunt, uncles, cousins. She’s trying to break that and she’s really using the system in a positive way to benefit from the resources that are accessible to her.”

Nakia Germany	“I have to make different choices. So I go down there and speak with my caseworker, Angela, and set a plan and see where I’m going to start off for that day. I take it from there. I can’t rush into things right now because I know what I’m capable of doing and I don’t want to do that anymore.”
Mario Salinas	“One of the objectives that we have here is to leverage all of the resources that we have available so that it’s a community effort to try to assist these individuals in their reentry back into the community.”
Steven Chorak	“I think that offender reentry will be one of the great social issues of the next ten years simply because of the number we’ve got returning. And we as a society, nationally and statewide, need to do something about that.”

FAMILIES IN CRISIS, INC.
Hartford, CT

Video

Audio

B-roll of Dwayne and daughter with Traci

V.O.#1

Families in Crisis was founded in 1977 to focus on the role that families play in helping offenders make successful transitions back into the community. There are four Families in Crisis offices in the State of Connecticut with programs that include family counseling and support, after-school programs for children with incarcerated parents, domestic violence offenders programs, and the Fathers and Children Together program.

B-roll

V.O.#2

The Families in Crisis Center’s Fathers And Children Together program begins behind the walls and provides assistance to fathers between the ages of 18-21 who will be released in six to nine months from the Youth Correctional Institution.

Traci Barry, Case Worker
 Families In Crisis, Inc.

“We deal a lot with child support and paternity, handle that stuff while they’re incarcerated so when they’re going out, there’s not an abundance of stuff being thrown at them. That’s where they can get frustrated. They either give up or end up getting in trouble again.”

Susan Quinlan, Executive Director
 Families in Crisis, Inc.

“We work not just with them, but we’re also out in the community meeting their family, meeting their children’s mothers, their maternal grandmothers, paternal grandmothers that are also very

involved in these children. So we're really making a connection in both places."

B-roll

V.O.#3

The Connecticut Department of Social Services began providing some funding to the Families in Crisis Center about three years ago under the Connecticut Fatherhood Initiative.

Pat Wilson-Coker, Commissioner
Connecticut Department of Social Services

"There is a reciprocal relationship between men in prison and their children, and often these children grow up and go to prison. Men, when they can be connected to families, will find their way out of prison and stay out of prison longer. If we learn what the issues are for men in prison and how to make them better parents and how to help them understand the important role that they play in the lives of their children, we can perhaps break that negative cycle."

Susan Quinlan

"About 70 percent of our funding is through government, both state and federal dollars. We are funded by our local Department of Corrections, our judicial department. We provide, basically, a purchase of service for them around family matters. Social Services funds our Fatherhood initiative. We are also funded by the United Way, corporations, and some individual donors.

B-roll

V.O.#4

Although many of the Center's programs focus on family reunification, there are instances when that is not an option. So they provide counseling to batterers around the issues of violence and abuse.

Dennis Jones, Director of Security
Connecticut Department of Corrections

"After a person is released, we want to invest in their success. To do that, they have to have those support mechanisms on the outside, be it the church, be it family, be it friends, be it programs such as Families in Crisis or Brotherhood programs or organizations on the outside. They have to have some type of support mechanisms out there to aid them in their transition back."

Theresa Lantz, Commissioner
Connecticut Department of Corrections

"When you reinforce the ties to family, that's an important, valuable foundation. It's an important link in ensuring that individuals understand how their actions have hurt others and to understand that they have a responsibility to their families, to their children, to their loved ones, to the community, Being incarcerated does not relieve them of their responsibility to be law-abiding and to be part of a bigger community."

Susan Quinlan

“I think programs such as ours are very much a complement to what Judicial and Corrections are charged with doing. I really think we need to bring all of our resources together and everyone has to approach it as their issue and their problem. I think that’s when it’s most likely to be successful.”

Domestic Violence Survivor

“I’m not against the system, I’m trying to seek a security blanket for the victim and for them to just be let out like that. When mine was let out, he couldn’t find work. I would expect the system to help them find work. But when I got to the end of my three orders of protection and my trying to help him, I saw he couldn’t be helped anymore. Those are the ones we have to worry about.”

Mary Williams, Voices of Women
Domestic Violence Survivor Group

“I think they should be sitting alongside the people who are setting up these services. Who better knows the victim than the victim herself? Who is a better expert to know the guidelines of what should be set up, what safety net should be set up, especially those of us who had to leave our apartments. I had to leave my apartment, surrender it after seventeen years, and go into shelter. Start all over again. Because there was no place for me to go with five children.”

Mary Williams

“It has to be addressed and what better way to address it than to have a victim, a survivor of domestic violence, on the guidelines who’s planning these services.”

LA BODEGA DE LA FAMILIA
New York, NY

Video

Audio

B-roll

V.O.#1

Since 1996, La Bodega de la Familia has been supporting families and their loved ones while they are in prison and when they are released. A project of Family Justice, Inc., La Bodega is funded by the New York City Council, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Department of Criminal Justice Services, the New York State Division of Parole, private foundations, and individual donors.

Carol Shapiro, Founder
La Bodega de la Familia

“Traditionally people know of case management where you focus on an individual. What we look at is the context in which individuals live and how they relate to one another. We do some family counseling, and we also do it in partnership with law enforcement. Parole is very active. When we set a plan, we call it a family action plan. We look at maybe the role of the mother or the child or children in the household. Maybe child welfare is involved. The family case lan takes into consideration all those different elements and how one affects the other.”

B-roll

V.O.#2

La Bodega is housed in a storefront on Manhattan’s lower east side and only serves the folks returning from prison who reside within a 56 square block radius of their site.

David Rosenthal, Executive Director
La Bodega de la Familia

“We have four eligibility requirements. That they live in the 7th or 9th precinct of New York in our community, that they have a history of some substance use issue, that they have a family member who’s willing to participate, and they have some justice involvement.”

Ramone Rivera
La Bodega Client

“Every time I come out, I maybe go two weeks. After a month, ‘no more,’ I tell the parole officer. ‘You aren’t seeing me no more.’ I talk just like that. ‘I’m not coming here no more,’ and I leave. You want to lock me up? But now it’s different.”

B-roll

V.O.#3

What’s different for Ramone who has spent a number of years in and out of prison due to his drug addiction, is his involvement with La Bodega and the relationship they have with his family.

Mrs. Rivera and Ramone

[Mrs. Rivera in Spanish and then Ramone translates]
“She said, when I came home, she was happy and all that. She told me, ‘look, we got to go to the Bodega.’ She already knows what it was like before – I wouldn’t even go to the Bodega. I was, like, Bodega nothing. I ain’t going nowhere, you know? That’s the way I was, But, I said, ‘all right, don’t worry, we’re going.’ We started going every week, you know, every weekend. She likes to go in there, too, especially when she sees Tina. We used to go there all the time.”

B-roll

V.O.#4

Another thing La Bodega attributes to its success is its relationship with the Department of Probation and Parole and connecting them with the family.

Martin Cirincione, Executive Director
New York State Division of Parole

“As a result of that close relationship with the family, and as a result of the close relationship that they have with the parolee, the parolee feels there are resources. There are people out there who are looking to help more. It really provides the parole officer with an incredibly important tool so that the parole officer can be the case manager. If the parolee does violate his terms in an important respect, he will be sent back. But, if it’s for a nonviolent offense and if it’s what we refer to as a dirty urine that comes up, then treatment for the parolee with graduated kinds of sanctions that come along with that really do end up helping. The way you measure again that success is by the numbers of parolees who actually abscond and La Bodega has done an exceptional job.”

Carol Shapiro

“We all have the same goals that are articulated in the family action plan. So a person under parole supervision believes that his mother or his girlfriend or his child wants to help him succeed and that makes a difference. It means they have a confidence, that they’re not, that there’s no game being played. It’s all for that, the same outcome.”

V.O.#5

La Bodega is a recent recipient of the prestigious *Innovations in American Government* award by Harvard University’s John F. Kennedy School of Government and the Ford Foundation. A year-long evaluation by the Vera Institute of Justice suggests that La Bodega’s family-based approach to working with people under criminal justice supervision for drug charges works. Illegal drug use of parolees and identified substance users decreased significantly for those involved in La Bodega’s programs as compared with those in a control group. And a smaller segment of the La Bodega group was sent back to prison in the first six months of parole.

Carole Shapiro

“Our work is now being applied, for example, to the Office of Drug Courts. How can teams who work in the drug court field think about tapping the resource of family? How can public housing, how can HUD, as it develops new public housing with Hope Six, think about returning prisoners in public housing, and the impact, not just on the returning prisoner, but on the mother who might lose her lease if her son returns home? We’re beginning to explore and we have support federally from that, and from foundations and others, who think that by our practice, our laboratory at La Bodega de la Familia, we can affect policy so that people can tap this natural resource.”

Charles Hynes
District Attorney, Brooklyn, NY

“If you can divert someone from getting back into a life of crime or continuing a life of crime, you save a lot of money. It’s a thousand dollars a year to manage a particular case involving a person that’s been released from prison. But you take the cost factor of \$1,000 compared to \$64,000 in a city prison or between \$32,000 and \$40,000 in a state prison, you would have to be bereft of your senses not to understand that this is a perfectly logical thing to do, not only for our society but certainly for a prosecutor.”

COMMUNITY RE-ENTRY
Cleveland, OH

Video

Judge Ronald Adrine
Cleveland Municipal Court

Audio

“We recently took a look at the Web site for the Department of Corrections for the state of Ohio and we determined that every year, they released some 25,000 inmates back into the community. Of that number, almost a third, or about 8,000 people, come back to Cuyahoga County. So, if you think that by simply putting people in, unless you’re planning to put them in for life without possibility of parole for every offense, you’re just missing the ball.”

B-roll

V.O.#1

In 1983 Judge Ronald Adrine was President of the Board of the Community Re-Entry Program in Cleveland, a faith-based program with the mission of resettling individuals who were formerly incarcerated back into the community in such a way as to reduce recidivism and enhance their quality of life and that of the community’s.

Charles See, Executive Director
Community Re-Entry

“I think that over the years, there have been different emphases within the corrections field. We had, I think in the nineties, lock’em up, three strikes and you’re out, send everybody to jail, tougher sentences, and those kinds of things. Before that, I think it was just ignored. You know, people commit crimes, they go to jail and so what? That’s what happens to them. And throughout all of that, we have said, because we are church, that certain things need to be done.”

B-roll

V.O.#2

The Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry was formed in the 1960s in response to urban unrest. An outgrowth of the Ministry was the Community Re-Entry program, which was formed in 1971. It has partnered with federal, county, and city justice systems on a number of programs, as well as with other community-based organizations to provide comprehensive care for its clients. Services are delivered through 14 different programs that address a number of reentry needs and challenges.

Rakin Aziz
Community Re-Entry

“Many of us who worked for community reentry have been incarcerated so, therefore, we have been there, we know the trials and tribulations that they have to go through.

B-roll

V.O.#3

Darnell came to Community Re-Entry when he got out of jail and is now enrolled in a welding training program. He met Mr. Aziz while both of them were incarcerated.

Darnell White
Community Re-Entry Client

“I said, wow, if he can do it, and he did much more time than I did. I said wow, I don’t have any excuses. There’s no room for error or for me to make any excuses. So he was a big inspiration and I don’t know if I ever told him that before and I want to take this time out to tell him that. You have really been an inspiration to me, brother.”

Judge Adrine

“At what point do we give them an opportunity to show that they can actually turn their lives around and that they can shed the yoke of criminal conviction and get on about their life?”

B-roll

V.O.#4

Community Re-Entry recognized the need to focus attention on the numbers of women who are coming out of prison and the challenges they face, particularly when it comes to their families, and started the Women’s Re-Entry Network.

Charles See

“Women unfortunately carry a greater burden because of their felony convictions than do men. Probably because of our sexist concepts, we think, oh, women really shouldn’t be doing those things. And it is more difficult, it’s become more difficult for women to get employment, for women to find housing when they find out that they have a felony conviction behind their name.”

Lisa Elam
Women’s Re-Entry Network Client

“I have an open case with Children and Family Services. Three of my children are in a foster home and one is with his father. Women’s Re-Entry has helped me work on my case plan. They help me a lot.”

Gloria Pickett
Director, Women's Re-Entry Network

"If she's trying to be reunified with her children, she will have some type of plan from the Department of Children and Family Services. But how to get through the steps that are in that plan is sometimes a very large issue. It's troubling, it's difficult, and so our social workers will provide the help that this woman needs to figure out how to field this plan."

Jennifer Moore
Women's Re-Entry Network Client

"They're the foundation that got me started because when I came out of jail, I had nothing, from kids to housing to anything. So they're the ones responsible for making my life get back on track. So I'm really grateful."

B-roll

V.O.#5

Rhonda Wilson has been in and out of prison and battling a drug addiction most of her life. She has already lost two children due to her addiction and was about to lose six-month-old Quanada."

Rhonda Wilson
Women's Re-Entry Network Client

"They were trying to take her just because of my history with the social service department. I filed the case plan. I came here. I joined the parenting class, which was part of my case plan. I joined the support groups. I was real active here. When the time came for my court dates, they went to court with me as advocates. It was wonderful. Once I got reunified with her, I still needed a lot of help and support and they gave me that here."

Gloria Pickett

"We have been able to work with women here and provide them with the skills and the information that they need to become productive members of society and that is a lot more important for our entire society and for the children in our society."

Charles See
Executive Director, Community Re-Entry

"People need to be connected with, people need to be supported, they need to be visited while they are incarcerated. When they come home, they need to be welcomed back into the community and given opportunities to become full-fledged members again."