

# ***LYCOMING COUNTY REENTRY COALITION***

## **2024-2029 FIVE YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN**

### **Background Information of the Lycoming County Reentry Coalition**

The Lycoming County Reentry Coalition was originally established in 2015 after receiving a grant from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency. Following a short lapse of the Reentry Coalition in Lycoming County, due to staffing and organizational changes, the Lycoming County Reentry Coalition was reestablished in 2021. Lycoming County partnered with the GEO Reentry Services to reestablish the coalition in coordination with the County's In-Prison Reentry Program. All community members are welcome to be a member of the Lycoming County Reentry Coalition. Current members include individuals in Lycoming County government, law enforcement, substance abuse and mental health treatment, the judiciary, public defenders, non-profit organizations, and community businesses.

### **Our Vision**

The vision of the Lycoming County Reentry Coalition is to provide every reentrant with the support, knowledge, and tools necessary to successfully and safely reintegrate into the community; and through their own initiative, remain offense-free.

### **Our Mission**

The mission of the Lycoming County Reentry Coalition is to facilitate the successful reintegration of reentrants into the community. This will be achieved by educating the public about reentry and by forming collaborative partnerships with government entities, faith- and community-based organizations, and other community stakeholders to provide support, knowledge, and tools. The reentry process begins when the offender enters the criminal justice system; and through the utilization of a holistic approach with an emphasis on education, family, health services, substance abuse treatment, employment, mentorship, and housing, we shall prominently improve reintegration, reduce recidivism, and enhance public safety.

### **Our Values**

- **Opportunity:** Forging new paths for the justice involved to succeed; new patterns of thinking, new employment, a whole new scope of possibility.
- **Collaboration:** Approaching change as a collaborative effort not only creates opportunities, but achieves solutions
- **Hope and Encouragement:** Provide hope to reentrants and the community that change is possible through encouragement by all involved
- **Education and Awareness:** Fortifying knowledge for the justice involved and the communities they live in by using statistics, evidence, and real-life testimonies.

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### **Accomplishments of the Reentry Coalition**

- ✓ With the help of all members and promotion, attendance and participation increased significantly since starting the coalition, which in turn brings more agencies together to offer additional resources to reentrants and the community
- ✓ Built relationships with local agencies to better assist individuals involved in the criminal justice system, as well as family members dealing with the effects
- ✓ Planned and hosted employment event with local employers, community members, and criminal justice representatives to bring awareness and knowledge about the benefits of hiring criminal justice involved individuals
- ✓ Created employment assessment with the help of local colleges to better understand the barriers to obtaining employment upon release
- ✓ Planned a reentry simulation with the help of the Department of Corrections to better understand the struggles of reentering society after incarceration

### **Subcommittee Breakdowns and Goals/Priorities for Upcoming Years**



#### **Education Subcommittee**

- Local colleges working to utilize grants and other funding available to offer college courses to reentrants while incarcerated and living in the community
- Utilizing other funding to offer training courses to reentrants interested in expanding their education and expertise



#### **Employment Subcommittee**

- Administer employment assessment created by local college with reentrants currently living in the community, to assess and gain knowledge on barriers to employment upon release
- Create new offender friendly employment list that can be given to reentrants for support and guidance in the workforce
- Plan and host local job fair with employers who are offender friendly when hiring



#### **Mental Health/Substance Abuse Subcommittee**

- Work with local mental health and substance abuse agencies to expand services in the area
- Host community awareness events to bring more awareness to the mental health and substance abuse needs

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### **What to Expect in the Upcoming Years**

- Additional Subcommittees being added to focus on additional needs of the community
  - ***Housing Subcommittee-*** Address need for more housing in the community and build relationships with agencies to accommodate to this need
  - ***Justice Involved Youth Subcommittee-*** Early intervention in at risk youth can decrease the likelihood of criminal justice involved adults. Bringing awareness and new ideas to dealing with at risk youth can in turn, assist youth in making smarter decisions and a safer community
  - ***Peer Support/Family Support Subcommittee-*** Providing additional support and encouragement to individuals in the system and their families, can reduce recidivism and create a more promising future
- Due to expansion of members in the coalition and creation of new subcommittees, members will be able to sign up for subcommittees as Chairs, Co-Chairs, and attendees of the subcommittee to collaborate and develop new ideas for the upcoming years