

Prisoner Reentry

Louisiana incarcerates more people per capita than anywhere in the world. One reason is 45% of our prisoners return to prison within three years of release. That makes Louisiana less safe, is extremely expensive and takes a toll on the prisoners and their children and families.

Since 2012 LANO has worked with community leaders and the Louisiana Department of Corrections to provide returning citizens with the support they need to succeed in the community.

LANO's involvement began with strategic planning for the Capital Area Reentry Coalition in Baton Rouge as well as the state's Reentry Advisory Council. In these processes participants identified critical challenges to the reentry process and gaps in services.

In addition, LANO helped build community and statewide reentry coalitions. These coalitions coordinate reentry services and advocate for stronger reentry practices in Louisiana. They are now part of the Louisiana Prisoner Reentry initiative or LA-PRI. LA-PRI was spearheaded by Michigan-based consultant Dennis Schrantz. Schrantz is a national subject matter expert after working in twelve states to improve prisoner reentry statistics.

AS LA-PRI is being implemented, LANO has promoted evidence-based practices for reentry and sharing promising practices for nonprofit management and fund development.

In the last legislative session lawmakers passed justice reinvestment legislation that will provide additional funding for community reentry work. Some of the savings from the reduced costs of incarceration will be allocated to these efforts. It's a pivotal moment for Louisiana as we address our mass incarceration crisis.