

## **Griffin-Spalding Reentry Demonstration Project**

### **Abstract**

Under the auspices of Spalding County Collaborative Authority for Families and Children, Inc., a quasi-governmental entity and 2011 recipient of the planning component of this grant, the Griffin-Spalding Reentry Task Force has designed a reentry process to improve public safety and decrease crime by reducing recidivism for medium- and high-risk ex-offenders. Spalding County's three-year reconviction rate, which is 24.60 percent, will be reduced to 12.30 percent over the next five years.

The reentry process begins inside prison where well-trained case managers, who understand risk-need-responsivity principles and are adept at using motivation interviewing techniques, review risk assessment data generated by Correctional Offender Management Profile for Alternative Sanctions (C.O.M.P.A.S.), an actuarial assessment tool. Non-sex offender males with similar demographics, risk levels, criminogenic needs, and who are scheduled to be released within six months to a year, are placed in a pool. Seventy-five (75) men will be randomly assigned to the treatment group and 75 will be assigned to the control group. Our research partner, University of Georgia, using regression-based analysis, will identify whether our reentry system has impacted medium- or high-risk offenders.

Members of the treatment cohort are administered a Reentry C.O.M.P.A.S., a psychosocial, educational and vocational assessment. The data gathered by these assessments are reviewed by our collaborative service providers, who focus their evidence-based treatment recommendations on meeting the top five criminogenic needs of the men in the treatment cohort. The fulfillment of the top five criminogenic needs will be addressed more fully during the post-release phase. During pre-release, case managers identify and assist with survival needs, i.e., housing, identification, entitlement benefit eligibility, mentor assignment, and finalization of individual reentry plans.

Post-release, treatment cohort members are placed in supportive housing where they receive multiple, intensive services and strong mentor support to re-establish their identity. At the end of the six to twelve month program, the returning citizen is fully employed at or above a living wage and is assisted to ultimately achieve home ownership. With case manager assistance, program participants receive a minimum of 200-300 hours of cognitive behavioral interventions, substance abuse treatment and other services which seek to meet criminogenic needs as identified by C.O.M.P.A.S.

Using Efforts-to-Outcome case management software, we will plot and track the progress of program participants using their unique Georgia Department of Corrections (DOC) inmate number (GDC#), through weekly discussions with case managers and monthly discussions with law enforcement partners. Control group members will be tracked using their GDC# and social security number. Our working relationship with the DOC will allow access to recidivism rates for Spalding County.

We expect to meet the following Priority Considerations:

- We are focused on geographic areas with disproportionate numbers of returning citizens.
- Our research partner will perform a rigorous evaluation of the program using random assignment and regressive analysis.
- We are using C.O.M.P.A.S. as our assessment tool.
- We have a Pay for Success partner.