

**Greater Cleveland Strategy for Children of Incarcerated Parents**  
**Best practices of Non-Cleveland programs**

**Arkansas Voices for Children Left Behind**

www.arkansasvoices.org

1818 North Taylor Street #140

Little Rock, AR 72207

- Provides mentoring, services, and support for children, caregivers, incarcerated parents
- Advocates for children separated from their parents due to parental incarceration, addiction, mental illness, foster care, deportation, and physical disability

Support for families

- **Development for co-parenting agreements** between incarcerated parents and caregivers
- **Family and individual conferences** for families preparing for a parent's incarceration or re-entry or needing additional support
- **Referrals to social workers and other professional services**
- Family literacy services (financial and health literacy)

Support for parents

- **Parenting classes for parents in jail**
- **Parenting classes in the Arkansas State Hospital forensic unit** – pilot project for underserved families with mentally ill parents that reside in the locked-down facility
- **Parenting after release and during re-entry class** – weekly or individually scheduled class or meetings with parents prior to and following release (created in late 1990's)
  - Family Conferencing and Family Decision-Making
  - Assistance with housing and employment
  - Social support for family to cope with a parent returning home
- **Constance Baugh National Award** annually recognizes and rewards \$500 to formerly incarcerated mothers that have given back to the community of fellow prisoners

Support for caregivers

- **Family Matters Kinship Caregivers and Children Support Groups** (located in Delta, Northwest, and Central Arkansas) for relative caregivers
- **Annie E. Casey Innovation Research Grant for Grandparents and Relatives Left Behind by Arkansas Child Welfare System** (led by John Zalenski, PhD) – identifies and interviews relative caregivers denied of permanent guardianship or visitation
- **Monthly support group** for relative caregivers led by peers (funded by the Relatives as Parents program at the Brookdale Foundation of New York)

Support for children

- **School-based support groups** at Hall and Central of the Little Rock School District for youth with incarcerated parents (ongoing for 5 years)
- **Annual scholarship** of \$500 awarded to Arkansas youth of incarcerated or previously incarcerated parent based on a written essay and participation in activities for other children

Community awareness programs

- **Comcast Community TV show** interviews guests to share stories of impacted families two times per month (offered on Channel 18 of the Comcast network for over 10 years)
- **Mothers in Prison, Children in Crisis** – annual public awareness event held on the Friday before Mother’s Day where the women’s choir at the Arkansas Department of Community Correction Pine Bluff Therapeutic Unit perform at the State Capitol Rotunda
- **Justice Week for Children of Incarcerated Parents** – annual public awareness week (third week of June) where faith leaders encourage volunteers to support children with incarcerated parents

Advocacy for children, caregivers, and relatives seeking to stay engaged with children in foster care (Grandparents Left Behind)

- **Arkansas Bill of Rights Coalition for Children of Incarcerated Parents** – collaborative group that meets every 3 months to develop policy and education for policy markers through youth panels, public forums, and outreach events
- **Legislative agenda**
  - Ban shackling of incarcerated women during labor, childbirth, medical transport
  - Refund from One Per Cent to Prevent for services to affected children
  - Require training for officers to mitigate trauma for children witnessing an arrest
  - Establish de facto guardianship for relative caregivers with children in their care for more than 6 months

Training, assistance, and resources

- **Annual Southern Summit Conference for Children Left Behind** (began 2006) – conference of national leaders and practitioners within the field
- **Referrals to state and community services and support**
- **Informational WARM hotline (1866-9-VOICES)** manned by trained staff and volunteers
- **Training and technical assistance, public forums to engage the community, and conference presentations**
  - Children of incarcerated parents 101
  - Grandparents raising grandchildren: issues and needs
  - Family re-entry and co-parenting agreements
  - Creating support groups for children left behind
  - Practitioners advocacy for children left behind
  - Family conferencing and family decision-making

**Chrysalis House, Inc.**

[www.chrysalishouse.com](http://www.chrysalishouse.com)

7395 N. Palm Bluffs Avenue, Suite 106

Fresno, California 93711

Licensed, full-service, non-profit private adoption and foster family agency assisting in infant, foster care, sibling group, international, and special needs adoption since 1985.

- Programs in domestic adoption
  - **“Home study” assessments** for prospective adoptions

- Assistance in **Agency Adoption** or **Independent Adoption** by acting as an Adoption Service Provider (ASP) that can advise birth parents of their rights and assist with consents and petitions for adoption
- Programs in international adoption
  - Home study to comply with the needs of the countries
  - Assistance through international adoption process (application, adoption hearing, adoption certification, citizenship)
  - **China Special Needs program** for children over 6 years old with correctable, minor medical, or complex medical concerns that can be adopted by families with special parenting qualities
- Foster-to-adopt home assessment and approval for families looking to foster with the intention of adopting children permanently removed from their families
- Services available to birth parents
  - Individual consultations with Social Worker for guidance and legal counseling
  - Presentation with adoptive family profiles and photos
  - Liaison and child advocate between birth parents and adoptive parents to create an individual adoption plan and determine ongoing contact agreements
  - Assistance in exploring medical, housing, transportation, and personal resources

**Families in Crisis, Inc.**

www.familiesincrisis.org

60 Popieluszo Court

Hartford, CT 06106

Family services agency that assists criminal offenders and their families through counseling, education, and case management in the community, home, and prison.

Support for families

- **Individual, family, group counseling and case management services** provided at correctional facilities, community programs, client homes, and Families in Crisis offices
- **Weekly van transportation services** from Connecticut centers to far away institutions
- **Transportation and special events during the holidays**
- **Domestic Violence Batterer Intervention** – curriculum-based violence offender group held throughout state of Connecticut that promotes offender accountability, enhance victim and community safety, and help offenders eliminate violent and abusive behavior
- **Re-entry family support sessions** at prisons and within the community to prepare offenders and families for re-connection following imprisonment

Support for parents

- **Parenting programs for mothers in prison** (counseling and case management)
- **Parenting programs for fathers in prison** (counseling and case management)
- **Mentoring for returning offenders** – connects soon-to-be released offenders with community mentors to establish on-going support and resource for services

Support for children

- **Tomorrow's Children** – child-focused counseling program that is based at home

- **Nurturing Families** – weekly home-visitation program for first-time parents that may be at risk for child abuse or neglect that promotes healthy infant development
- **Arts Intervention** (in collaboration with the Judy Dworin Performance Project) – assistance for children to express response to having a parent in prison, develop self-esteem, and form partnerships with other children facing the same struggles

### **Osborne Association CIPP**

www.osborneny.org

- **Bronx location**  
809 Westchester Ave.  
Bronx, NY 10455
- **Brooklyn location**  
175 Remsen Street, Suite 800  
Brooklyn, NY 11201
- **Poughkeepsie location**  
25 Market Street, 6<sup>th</sup> floor  
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

Offer opportunities for reform and rehabilitation through public education, advocacy, and alternatives to incarceration that respect the dignity of people and honor their capacity to change

#### Adopting healthy lifestyles

- **Osborne’s Treatment Services (El Rio)** – substance abuse treatment program that provides family integration, health education, GED classes, vocational training, and employment services
- **Wellness and Prevention Services** – services, interventions, and group activities for individuals living with HIV/AIDS and those at risk for infectious diseases to promote healthy lifestyles and address high-risk behaviors
- **Connecting Families to Care** – new program that increases access to healthcare for children with incarcerated parents and teenagers returning from Rikers Island correctional facility by informing families about health insurance options
- **Osborne Career Center** – comprehensive career development for previously incarcerated men and women to promote long-term economic independence
  - Environmental and financial literacy education
  - Job placement
  - Group/individual counseling and referral services
  - Career coaches to provide family support, educational/vocational support, skill-building activities, goal-setting, civic engagement

#### Reconnecting families

- **FamilyWorks** – comprehensive program operating out of New York state prisons to help incarcerated parents maintain relationships with children
  - Child-friendly Family Centers in visiting rooms
  - Courses on parenting, relationships, and marriage education
  - Family events and outreach
  - Individual and family counseling

- **Family Resource Center (FRC)** – support and assistance to families to understand the criminal justice system, maintain contact with incarcerated person, and address challenges during re-entry period
- **Family Ties** – program that facilitates visitation for children at Albion Correctional Facility women’s prison and provides parenting skills courses for incarcerated mothers
- **Children and Youth Services (CYS)** – provides support services and resources
  - Monthly recreational activities (bowling, pottery, ice skating, pumpkin and apple picking, cooking classes, picnics)
  - Support groups with activities (letter writing, games, acting, field trips, movies)
  - Prison visiting trips and “tele-visiting”
  - College preparation
  - **Youth Advisory Board (YAB)** – semester-long leadership program for youth ages 14-21 that enables affected youth to travel to Albany to meet legislators, visit youth justice programs, and develop advocacy projects for social justice
- **Connecting Families to Care** – assistance for affected children and adolescents after detention to enroll in Child Health Plus/Medicaid and access health services through the Affordable Health Care Act
- **Women’s Services** – peer support and therapeutic counseling for women with incarcerated partners
- **Queensboro Reentry Services** – workshops and individualized transitional planning for men scheduled for release

Achieving economic independence

- **Janitorial Maintenance Services** – hires previously incarcerated men and women for custodial services at public facilities and New York City businesses
- **Fresh State Catering** – trains and employs previously incarcerated men and women in the culinary arts
- **Workforce Intensive** – work-readiness training and career development (2 weeks)
  - Comprehensive career coaching (resume preparation, interview training, job search, job retention support)
  - Training on workplace socialization, financial literacy, address conviction questioning, cognitive behavioral therapy, and goal setting
- **Fatherhood Initiative** – support services for fathers
  - Individual and family counseling, peer counseling, father-to-father mentorship
  - Training in conflict resolution and parenting skills
  - GED, ESOL, and employment classes/counseling
- **Justice Community** – environmental literacy, job readiness training, and career exploration for young adults residing in the Bronx (8 week program)

Reducing reliance on incarceration

- **Court Advocacy Services (CAS)** – forensic social workers and court advocates that conduct psycho-social assessments, collect/review records, and develop pre-trial and sentencing recommendations to seek alternatives to pre-trial detention and incarceration

- **Longtermers Responsibility Project** – works with individuals that have committed homicides and are serving long sentences in New York state prisons to evaluate responsibility, impact, and remorse related to their crime
- **Jail-based Services** – support to help parents reconnect with families, improve their employability, and return home with a viable plan to stay home
- **Adolescent Behavioral Learning Experience (ABLE)** – behavioral intervention, skill-building activities, and reentry planning for incarcerated adolescents that are awaiting disposition in criminal and supreme courts
- **Arches** – curriculum-based mentoring intervention for 16-24 year olds that are currently on probation and struggling with relationships, family, education, employment, goal-setting to change their attitudes, habits, and behaviors
- **I-CAN** – jail-based community re-entry program that supports people at high-risk for re-incarceration through assistance with acquiring a valid ID, earning a GED, resume preparation, job placement and retention, completion of certification programs, and achieving abstinence from substance use

#### Strengthening communities

- **New York Initiative for Children of Incarcerated Parents** – meets 3x/year and hosts multiple advocacy and policy events regarding practices and recommendations for children and families in areas of arrest, sentencing, incarcerating, re-entry, education, child welfare, caregiver support, and children’s health and mental health
- **Dutchess Re-entry** – county-wide re-entry initiative to provide comprehensive re-entry services for men and women returning to Dutchess County from state prisons
  - Case management and support groups
  - Referrals for housing, vocation, medical/mental health services, substance abuse
  - Groups on parenting and healthy relationships
  - Help in employment and obtaining entitlements and public assistance

#### **Safer Return Foundation**

[www.saferfoundation.org](http://www.saferfoundation.org)

571 W. Jackson Blvd.

Chicago, IL 60661

Community-based re-entry initiative aimed at building and implementing a community-focused prisoner re-entry model in the East Garfield Park neighborhood of Chicago.

- Welcome Home Panels – community members and parole officers visit clients beginning in prison to start re-entry planning
- Re-entry planning and coordination – ongoing reentry coaching case management that provides guidance, coordinates resources, and maintains client accountability
- Employment – immediate and long-term employment services
- Mentoring/Stages of Reentry – group and peer mentoring support structure
- Community parole – community-based parole officers (Illinois Department of Corrections) partner with Safer Return coaches

#### Employment services

- **Orientation, Intake, and Retention** – session that assesses personal barriers to employment and potential skills or interests
  - Job readiness class (interviewing, etiquette, addressing criminal background)
  - Supportive services to address barriers to employment
  - Retention services through a Retention Specialist case management to determine skills and interests and to search for jobs
  - Sector Managers work with employers in transportation, warehousing, hospitality, construction, landscaping, and manufacturing to discuss hiring Safer’s clients
- **Adult Transition Centers** allow incarcerated individuals to serve last weeks or months of sentence in a community-based work-release setting to provide opportunities to transition into the community and obtain employment prior to release
  - Case management, assessment, and follow-up
  - Employment services and job readiness training
  - Basic skills training, life skills, family support, parenting skills and GED courses
  - Substance abuse treatment and mental health counseling
- **Green Jobs Programs** – jobs based on the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act
  - **Neighborhood Clean-Up Program** – work crews involved in community beautification projects (snow removal, alley upkeep)
  - **Garfield Park Conservatory** – green jobs training in sustainable landscaping
  - **Deconstruction Work Services Training Program** – training for controlled deconstruction of building and salvaging materials
  - **Department of Environment’s Green Jobs Training and Experience Program** – job and training program in partnership with WRD/Greencorps Chicago
- **Transitional Employment Program** provides training in workplace etiquette and job skills and transitional jobs with support services to establish employment records

Education services

- **GED programs** to increase literacy skills and help clients obtain GEDs
- **Job readiness** on interviewing, workplace etiquette, and addressing criminal background
- **PACE Institute** – independent study program on math, writing, and reading using adult education textbooks and tutors
- **Youth Education Program** – peer-teaching program for youth (ages 16-21) with a criminal record to work with each other to develop skills needed to obtain a GED
- **Project Safer Youth** – out-of-school program for youth (ages 15-17) involved in the Juvenile Justice System
  - Academic enrichment through individualized learning plans
  - Job readiness and career exploration through field trips and guest speakers
  - Life skills training in anger management, conflict resolution, peer pressure, social behavior, financial literacy, fitness and nutrition, family relationships
  - Recreational, cultural, and artistic activities

Supportive services

- **Faith- and community-based initiative**
  - Faith-based mentoring on parenting and job-searching in biweekly group sessions
  - Re-entry counseling that helps with housing arrangements, legal assistance, substance abuse treatment, healthcare, and mental health care

- Employment and retention assistance with life skills and job-readiness training
- **Support services network**
  - Addiction prevention and education
  - Anger management counseling
  - Family-inclusive case management
  - Job-appropriate clothing and transportation
  - Community-based mentoring and legal assistance
- **Housing initiative** – program funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to provide rental and utility assistance, housing, and employment to recently released homeless individuals with criminal records and/or substance abuse issues

#### Public policy

- **Advocacy goals**
  - Increase community awareness of barriers faced by people with criminal records
  - Build coalition of work to reduce these barriers
- **Council of Advisors to Reduce Recidivism through Employment (CARRE)**
  - Comprised of leaders of support groups, community organizations, employment and supportive service nonprofits, government agencies, faith-based groups, civil and human rights organizations, and universities
  - Develops strategies and policies to reduce barriers to employment and promote successful re-entry

#### **San Francisco Children of Incarcerated Parents Partnership (CIPP)**

[www.sfcipp.org](http://www.sfcipp.org)

1563 Solano Ave., #293

Berkeley, CA 94707

Coalition of social service providers, government representatives, and advocates that works to improve lives of children of incarcerated parents by assessing the status of each right (listed on the SF CIPP Bill of Rights) and working with agencies to develop policies and practices

Bill of Rights used under the “Rights to Realities Initiative”

1. **I have the right to be kept safe and informed at the time of my parent’s arrest.**
  - Develop arrest protocols that support and protect children
  - Offer children and caregivers basic information about the post-arrest process
2. **I have the right to be heard when decisions are made about me.**
  - Train staff at institutions that include children of incarcerated parents to recognize and address children’s needs and concerns
  - Tell the truth
  - Listen
3. **I have the right to be considered when decisions are made about my parent.**
  - Review current sentencing law in terms of its impact on children and families
  - Turn arrest into an opportunity for family preservation



- Include a family impact statement in pre-sentence investigation reports
4. **I have the right to be well cared for in my parent's absence.**
    - Support children by supporting caretakers
    - Offer subsidized guardianship
  5. **I have the right to speak with, see, and touch my parent.**
    - Provide access to child-centered visiting rooms that are conducive to bonding
    - Consider proximity to family when assigning prisoners
    - Encourage child welfare departments to facilitate contact
  6. **I have the right to support as I face my parent's incarceration.**
    - Train adults working with young people to recognize their needs and concerns
    - Provide access to specially trained therapists, counselors, and mentors
    - Save five percent for families
  7. **I have the right not to be judged, blamed, or labeled because my parent is incarcerated.**
    - Create opportunities for children of incarcerated parents to communicate with and support each other
    - Create a truth fit to tell
    - Consider differential response when a parent is arrested
  8. **I have the right to a lifelong relationship with my parent.**
    - Re-examine the Adoption and Safe Families Act
    - Designate a family services coordinator at prisons and jails
    - Support incarcerated parents upon reentry
    - Focus on rehabilitation and alternatives to incarceration

#### **Other Child of Incarcerated Parents Programs**

- **Camp Spaulding of Child and Family Services** – summer camp program for children of parents incarcerated in the state of New Hampshire  
[cfsnh.org/pages/programs/CampSpaulding/cip.html](http://cfsnh.org/pages/programs/CampSpaulding/cip.html)
- **Pathfinder of Oregon** – the Children's Justice Alliance provides comprehensive services to children with incarcerated parents and promotes initiatives that impact these children  
[www.pathfindersoforegon.com/systems-change/children-of-incarcerated-parents/](http://www.pathfindersoforegon.com/systems-change/children-of-incarcerated-parents/)
- **The Center for Children of Incarcerated Parents (CCIP)** – organization working to prevent intergenerational crime and incarceration by focusing on parent education, family reunification support, and therapeutic intervention services for incarcerated parents and their children  
[www.e-ccip.org/index.html](http://www.e-ccip.org/index.html)

- **The Family and Corrections Network (FCN)** – program for families of offenders that offers parenting programs for prisoners, assistance with keeping in touch and prison visits, hospitality programs, assistance with reentry, information on the impact on families, assistance with prison marriage, and an Incarcerated Fathers Library (pamphlets for incarcerated fathers)  
[www.fcnetwork.org](http://www.fcnetwork.org)

**Greater Cleveland Strategy for Children of Incarcerated Parents**

**Programs in Cleveland**

**\* indicates that program is listed on Caregivers Guide handout**

**Cuyahoga County Fatherhood Initiative to re-engage absent dads**

- Promote public awareness of the role of fathers and father figures through advertisements and messages delivered via radio, television, billboards, and print ads in kiosks
- Provide resources to fathers
- Fund fatherhood-related programs on the county level (Passages and Rising Above for incarcerated fathers)

Support for children and families

**Big Brothers Big Sisters Amachi Ohio Program\***

1855 E. Dublin-Granville Rd (1<sup>st</sup> floor)

Columbus, OH 43229

(866) 892-2447

[www.amachiohio.org](http://www.amachiohio.org)

Mentorship program specifically for children of incarcerated parents following referral from caregivers, parents, and community members

**Girl Scouts Beyond Bars (GSBB)\***

Girl Scouts of North East Ohio

Macedonia, OH 44056

(330) 864-9933

[www.gsneo.org](http://www.gsneo.org)

[www.girlscouts.org/who\\_we\\_are/our\\_partners/initiatives/gsbb.asp](http://www.girlscouts.org/who_we_are/our_partners/initiatives/gsbb.asp)

- Bi-monthly mother/daughter troop meetings at correctional facilities for girls (ages 5-17) with incarcerated mothers
  - Teaches leadership through life skills development and personal growth
  - Strengthens the mother-daughter relationship through regular visits
- Continued participation in community troop meetings following release

**Family and Corrections Network\***

93 Old York Road, Suite #510

Jenkintown, PA 19046

(215) 576-1110

[www.fcnetwork.org](http://www.fcnetwork.org)

National organization focused on informing, supporting, and empowering families of prisoners through publications, conferences, partnerships, presentations, and consultations

- Publications and resources on parenting programs for prisoners, prison visiting, and caring for children of prisoners
- **Children of Prisoners Library (CPL)** on Internet that provides free specialized pamphlets designed for people serving children of prisoners and their caregivers

- Pamphlets for caregivers (*Caring for Children, Questions from Caregivers, What do Children Need, Tips from Caregivers*)
- Pamphlets for healthcare providers (*Impact of Incarceration, Challenges for Providers, Common Stress Points, Different Children/Behaviors, Strategies for Intervention, Tips for Fostering Trust, Caregivers' Situation*)
- **Training for mentoring children of prisoners**
  - On-site training for 2 days
  - Training-by-telephone conference calls with online handouts
  - Training CDs of previous training-by-telephone workshops

**Cleveland Eastside Ex-Offender Coalition\***

8803 Broadway Ave.  
Cleveland, OH 44105  
(216) 641-9012

[www.clevelandeastside.info](http://www.clevelandeastside.info)

Community- and faith-based non-profit partnership between churches, social services, government agencies, and businesses to provide services to northeast Ohio's incarcerated population and their families

- Programs for offenders
  - Adult Offender Mentoring and case management
  - Youth mentoring
  - Literacy and homework assistance
  - Workforce development and job readiness preparation
- Programs for families
  - **Family Reentry Initiative** – state-funded initiative designed to strengthen inmate families and their children before and following release from prison
    - Individual sessions for children and parenting partners
    - Whole family sessions within setting of family-style dinner in the prison
  - **Family First Fatherhood Services** – programs and services to help fathers become more involved
  - **SOS (Sharing Our Strength)** – mentoring services for families affected by incarceration that promotes positive relationships
  - Video visitation for incarcerated parents with their families (?)

**Reach Out Transportation**

4758 Ridge Road #278  
Cleveland, OH 44144  
(216) 367-5651

[www.reachouttransport.com](http://www.reachouttransport.com)

- Transportation for visits to correctional facilities throughout the state
  - Tickets sold online or by mail

Programs focused on parenting within context of reentry

**North Star Neighborhood Reentry Resource Center (NRRC)**

1834 East 55<sup>th</sup> Street  
Cleveland, OH  
(216) 881-5440

Reentry service through Oriana house with employment and family reconnection programs

- Family reconnection programs (also offered at the Reconnection Center)
  - **Parenthood development group sessions** regarding childhood development, family communications, male/female relations, and punishment vs. discipline
  - **Child Support Navigation** – monthly program regarding the child support system (paternity, child support process, waiver and compromise arrearages, parental rights)
  - **Money Management** – monthly program addressing attitude about money, increasing credit scores, predatory lending, and saving money
  - **PATTHS (Parents are Teaching and Talking about Healthy Sexuality)** – monthly workshop teaching parents to speak to children about sexuality and reproduction
  - **Better Together** – monthly sessions on co-parenting and conflict resolution
- Life skills classes on decision-making, goal-setting, maintaining relationships, money management, employment
- Faith-based programs, self-help meetings (AA, NA, etc.)
- Assistance with food stamp signup
- Healthcare clinics and screenings
- Education and employment
  - GED classes
  - Employment services to assist with job searching, interviews, resumes
  - Internet access and computer training labs
- Referrals and information for food assistance, free clothing, public transportation, MetroHealth medical services, health coverage, student financial aid, and benefits for seniors and children

**Passages Connecting Fathers and Sons**

3631 Perkins, Suite 4HS  
Cleveland, OH 44114  
(216) 881-6776

[www.passages-oh.org](http://www.passages-oh.org)

Faith-based, non-profit community organization assisting parents in child rearing with focuses on the population of ex-offenders

- **Work force development**
  - Life skills development courses
  - Job and career counseling on educational and vocational goals and referral to training programs
  - Resume, interviewing, and job search skills development
  - Follow-up services for job retention
- **Annual retreats for fathers and their children (ages 7-17)**
  - Dads and Daughters Retreat
  - Fathers and Sons Retreat

- **Black and Brown dialogues** – conversations between African American and Latino male youths and their fathers about systemic poverty
- Assistance with reinstating drivers' licenses
- Reentry facilitation through referral to support services and education programs
- **Suited for Men** – provides professional clothing to underserved men for interviews
- **Child custody mediation** – mediated resolution of disagreements between parents with the establishment of a parenting plan regarding custody and visitation

### **The Reconnection Center**

3631 Perkins, 4<sup>th</sup> floor  
Cleveland OH, 44114  
(216) 881-6776

Reentry program as part of the Healthy Fathering Collaborative to provide services for those involved in the criminal justice system

- Fatherhood program (similar programs also offered at the North Star Neighborhood Reentry Resource Center)
  - **Fatherhood Development** – weekly and twice weekly programs regarding childhood development and family communications through the Center for Fatherhood and Family Dynamics
  - **PATTHS for Dads (Parents are Teaching and Talking about Healthy Sexuality)** – monthly workshop teaching fathers to speak to children about sexuality and reproduction and model responsibility
  - **Better Together** – workshops on relationships, communication, and conflict resolution to strengthen families
- **Child Support and Courthouse Navigation** – monthly program regarding the child support and courts system with individual planning and coaching
- Financial literacy
  - **Money Management** – monthly program addressing attitude about money, understanding credit, predatory lending, saving money, and gambling
  - **Financial literacy workshops**
- **Entrepreneurial Business Development** – introduction to entrepreneurship by teaching basic elements needed to develop a business plan

### **Rising Above Initiative**

3631 Perkins Ave., Suite 3C East  
Cleveland, OH 44114  
(216) 881-5866

[www.risingabove-oh.org](http://www.risingabove-oh.org)

Four week program regarding job readiness training and placement, career counseling, and parenting education workshops for non-custodial fathers in Cuyahoga County that are unemployed, underemployed, or ex-offenders

## Reentry-focused programs

### **Citizen Circles**

Regional Parole Office (216) 787-3010

[www.drc.ohio.gov/web/Citizen/citizencircle.htm](http://www.drc.ohio.gov/web/Citizen/citizencircle.htm)

Groups of community members (faith organizations, community organizations, offenders' families, mentors, social service agencies, educators, employers, victims) helping offenders transition back into the community

- Former offenders work with community members to develop a plan (regarding education, employment, community involvement, family, daily living) to be accepted as a productive member of the community
- Community service programs
- Regular meetings to discuss progress, review plans, and admit new members

### **Northeast Ohio Reentry Coalition, Inc.**

(216) 920-0140

[www.thenorc.org](http://www.thenorc.org)

Rehabilitative and restorative programs that provide assistance for formerly incarcerated individuals in Northeast Ohio

- Identifies and eliminates barriers to re-integrating formerly incarcerated individuals
- Pilot project to train community volunteers on prison visits and ex-offender assistance in partnership with the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction

### **Ohio Re-Entry Initiative\***

- Offender assessments and reentry planning (risk assessment, needs assessment, and Reentry Accountability Plan)
- Family involvement through **Family Orientation Program** to engage families during incarceration and/or community supervision
- Employment readiness and discharge planning
  - **“Transitioning the Offender”** policy to prepare offenders for release
  - **Reentry Resource Centers** at institutions and parole regions
  - **Career exploration programs**
- Offender supervision
  - **Adult Parole Authority**
  - Involvement of local community members in rehabilitative and reentry process
  - Community justice partnerships with Faith-Based Advisory Council and regional and larger councils linked with institutions and parole offices
- Resources
  - M.U.S.C.L.E. (Making Use of Services Can Lead to Empowerment) resource guide for individuals with prior criminal history, family/friends, community partners, social service agencies, case managers, parole/probation officers
  - Reentry Resource Guide – comprehensive listing of community resources

**Oriana House\***

P.O. Box 1501  
Akron, OH 44309  
(330) 535-8116

www.orianahouse.org

Chemical dependency treatment and community corrections services to clients in Cuyahoga County, North Central Ohio, and Summit County

- **Chemical Dependency Treatment** – 4-week intensive outpatient chemical dependency treatment program
  - Counseling, self-help groups, family education, relapse prevention
  - 12 weeks of continued aftercare treatment for clients that completed the program with weekly group sessions and individual treatment plans
- **Access to Recovery (ATR)** – services for ex-offenders to help with recovery from drug or alcohol problems
  - Vouchers for services needed by individuals
  - Faith- and community-based recovery support program referrals for employment coaching, spiritual support, child care, temporary housing assistance, literacy training, transportation, budgeting classes
- **One-time assistance for expenses** (rent, clothing, transportation, dental, vision, non-treatment medications)
- Community Corrections – Residential
  - **Community Corrections and Treatment Center (CCTC)** – comprehensive sanction center for pre-release clients and sanctioned federal clients
  - **Halfway House Program** – offenders needing long-term rehabilitative program in lieu of incarceration or to reintegrate into the community
  - **Employment Placement Program** – sentenced community sanction to divert offenders from crowded jails to rehabilitative program that teaches job search and interview skills
  - **Community-Based Correctional Facility (CBCF)** – sentenced facility (4-6 months) of felony offenders in lieu of state prison with substance abuse treatment, job training, education, community service
- Community Corrections – Nonresidential
  - **Electronic monitoring** through electronic surveillance system
  - **SCOPE (Specialized Cognitive Offender Programming and Education)** – group sessions to help individuals control behavior
  - **On-site drug testing** for clients and for other community organizations (cannabis, cocaine, amphetamine, benzodiazepines, barbiturates, opiates)
- **New Employment Transitions (Cuyahoga County)** – employment services (job search assistance, assessment tools, counseling, workshops, GED classes)
- Family reconnection programs through North Star (NRRC) – see above



**Salvation Army Harbor Light Complex (Community Corrections Services)**

Cleveland, OH 44115

(216) 781-2529

Multi-service facility providing services (in addition to emergency family shelter services and food distribution) to disenfranchised individuals (homeless, alcoholic, addicted, felons)

- Health services
  - **Substance abuse treatment** and intensive outpatient treatment with informational classes, AA meetings, cognitive behavior therapy sessions, discussion groups, life skills workshops, and spiritual development
  - **HIV/AIDS early intervention services**
- **Chapel service** – spiritual guidance that reinforces the recovery and rehabilitation process through worship services, Gospel Meetings, and weekly Bible discussion groups
- Transition services
  - **Community Corrections Program (men)** – supervises the transition of ex-offenders back into the community
    - Caseworker assistance to secure GED, job training, and employment
    - Electronic monitoring services
    - Substance abuse treatment
  - **Community Corrections Program (women)** – supervises the transition of female ex-offenders with the same guidelines used for men
- **P.A.S.S. (Pick Up, Assessment, Shelter & Services) Program** – assists homeless men in obtaining permanent housing and jobs
  - Caseworkers help clients develop life-changing skills to secure housing and jobs
  - Transitional housing
  - Group and individual meetings to foster self-sufficiency
- Family Reunification Program (?)

**Towards Employment**

1255 Euclid Avenue

Cleveland, OH 44115

(216) 696-5750

[www.towardsemployment.org](http://www.towardsemployment.org)

- Support with job readiness, placement, and retention for the formerly incarcerated, people coming off welfare, and people with limited work history, housing, education
  - Job-readiness training (search skills)
  - Supportive legal services
  - Access to vocational training
  - Career coaching
- Partnerships with hospitality employers for job placement
- Referral to substance abuse recovery, mental health treatment, literacy training, transitional housing

**Greater Cleveland Strategy for Children of Incarcerated Parents**  
**Best practices employed elsewhere compared to those available in Cleveland**  
**\*Information about programs offered is strictly based on what is detailed under each program’s websites that may not provide a comprehensive listing of what is available**

- I. Comparison of best practices (categorized by support for the family unit, children, caregivers, incarcerated parents, and reentry programs)
  - a. Best practices in Cleveland
  - b. Best practices provided by other programs in the country
  - c. Comparison with Cleveland programs (table)  
x indicates that service is listed under the program’s website  
? indicates that service was listed in a different website but not directly by the program
  - d. Practices missing in Cleveland are noted below tables (in blue font)
  
- II. Other practices regarding public awareness and policy

Cleveland programs

- Support for children and families affected by incarceration
  - Big Brothers Big Sisters Amachi Ohio Program
  - Girl Scouts Beyond Bars (GSBB)
  - Family and Corrections Network (national network based in Pennsylvania)
  - Cleveland Eastside Ex-Offender Coalition
  - Reach Out Transportation
- Programs focused on parenting within context of reentry
  - North Star Neighborhood Reentry Resource Center
  - Passages Connecting Fathers and Sons
  - Reconnection Center
  - Rising Above Initiative
- Reentry programs
  - Citizen Circles
  - Northeast Ohio Reentry Coalition (unable to access website)
  - Ohio Re-Entry Initiative
  - Oriana House
  - Salvation Army Harbor Light Complex
  - Towards Employment

Non-Cleveland programs around the country (not listed in any particular order)

- Arkansas Voices for Children Left Behind
- Chrysalis House (based in California)
- Families in Crisis (based in Connecticut)
- Osborne Association (based in New York)
- Safer Return Foundation (based in Chicago)
- San Francisco Children of Incarcerated Parents Partnership (SF CIPP)
- Camp Spaulding of Child and Family Services (based in New Hampshire)

**Support for the family unit**

Best practices in Cleveland

- Family counseling sessions through a family-style dinner in prison via the Cleveland Eastside Ex-Offender Coalition

Best practices provided by other programs in the country

- **Counseling and support services for the individual, family, group**  
 (Arkansas Voices for Children Left Behind, Families in Crisis, Osborne Association)
- **Assistance with developing co-parenting agreements between caregivers and incarcerated parents**  
 (Arkansas Voices for Children Left Behind)
- **Family literacy services to teach financial and health literacy and understand the criminal justice system**  
 (Arkansas Voices for Children Left Behind, Osborne Association)
- **Reentry family support to engage families in the reentry process**  
 (Arkansas Voices for Children Left Behind, Families in Crisis)

	Counseling			Co-parent	Family literacy	Reentry
	Indiv	Family	Group			
Big Brothers/Sisters						
Girl Scouts Beyond Bars						
Family and Corrections						
Cleveland Eastside	x	x			x	x
Reach Out Transportation						
North Star						
Passages				x		
Reconnection Center						
Rising Above Initiative						
Citizen Circles			x			x
Northeast Ohio Reentry						
Ohio Re-entry Initiative		x				x
Oriana House						
Salvation Army						
Towards Employment						

Practices missing in Cleveland

- Family education and counseling to assist with financial/health literacy and understanding the criminal justice system

**Support for children**

Best practices in Cleveland

- Mentorship services by Big Brother Big Sisters program
- Regular mother-daughter visitation through Girl Scouts Beyond Bars

Best practices provided by other programs in the country

- Direct support regarding parental incarceration
  - Support groups and counseling for children
    - **School-based support groups for children**  
(Arkansas Voices for Children Left Behind)
    - **Counseling provided within home environment**  
(Families in Crisis)
  - Assistance with visitation
    - **Transportation services and prison visiting trips**  
(Families in Crisis, Osborne Association)
    - **Child-friendly visiting rooms** (Osborne Association, SF CIPP)
    - **Tele-visiting** (Osborne Association)

	Support/Counseling		Visitation		
	School	Home	Transport	Visit room	Tele-visit
Big Brothers/Sisters					
Girl Scouts Beyond Bars			x		
Family and Corrections					
Cleveland Eastside					?
Reach Out Transport			x		
North Star					
Passages					
Reconnection Center					
Rising Above Initiative					
Citizen Circles					
Northeast Ohio Reentry					
Ohio Re-entry Initiative					
Oriana House					
Salvation Army					
Towards Employment					

- Additional programs for children
  - Programs for children affected by incarceration
    - **Leadership or mentorship programs** (Osborne Association)
    - **Art intervention** (Families in Crisis)
    - **Recreational activities** (Osborne Association)
    - **Summer camp** (Camp Spaulding)
  - Assistance for children
    - **Access to healthcare** (Osborne Association)
    - **College preparation** (Osborne Association)
    - **Scholarships** (Arkansas Voices for Children Left Behind)

	Programs				Assistance		
	Leader	Art	Rec	Camp	Health	Prep	Scholar
Big Brothers/Sisters	x		x				
Girl Scouts Beyond Bars	x		x				
Family and Corrections Cleveland Eastside							
Reach Out Transportation							
North Star							
Passages				x			
Reconnection Center							
Rising Above Initiative							
Citizen Circles							
Northeast Ohio Reentry							
Ohio Re-entry Initiative							
Oriana House							
Salvation Army							
Towards Employment							

Practices missing in Cleveland

- Support groups and counseling for children based in the school or home setting
- Child-friendly visiting rooms in within correctional facilities
- Options for “tele-visiting” between children and their parents
- Art intervention programs and summer camps
- Assistance for gaining access to healthcare and college preparation
- Scholarships for children of incarcerated parents

**Support for caregivers**

Best practices in Cleveland

- Family and Corrections Network provides online pamphlets and training for caregivers, mentors, and healthcare providers of children with incarcerated parents

Best practices provided by other programs in the country

- **Support groups** (Arkansas Voices for Children Left Behind, Osborne Association)
- **Foster-to-adopt home assessment and assistance** (Chysalis House)

	Support	Foster-to-adopt
Big Brothers/Sisters		
Girl Scouts Beyond Bars		
Family and Corrections		
Cleveland Eastside		
Reach Out Transport		
North Star		
Passages		
Reconnection Center		
Rising Above Initiative		
Citizen Circles		
Northeast Ohio Reentry		
Ohio Re-entry Initiative		
Oriana House		
Salvation Army		
Towards Employment		

Practices missing in Cleveland

- Support groups for caregivers
- Assistance with guardianship and foster-to-adopt for caregivers

**Support for incarcerated parents**

Best practices provided by other programs in the country

- **Parenting classes**
  - **In jail** (Arkansas Voices for Children Left Behind, Families in Crisis, Osborne Association)
  - **Mentally ill parents** (Arkansas Voices for Children Left Behind)
  - **During reentry** (Arkansas Voices for Children Left Behind, Families in Crisis, Osborne Association)
  
- **Classes on anger management and conflict resolution**  
 (Osborne Association, Safer Return)
  
- **Mentorship for incarcerated parents**  
 (Families in Crisis, Safer Return)
  
- **Recognition** for ex-offender parents that have given back to the community of incarcerated parents  
 (Arkansas Voices for Children Left Behind)

	Parenting classes			Conflict	Mentors	Recog
	Jail	Ment ill	Reentry			
Big Brothers/Sisters						
Girl Scouts Beyond Bars						
Family and Corrections						
Cleveland Eastside			x		x	
Reach Out Transport						
North Star			x	x		
Passages			x			
Reconnection Center			x	x		
Rising Above Initiative			x			
Citizen Circles					x	
Northeast Ohio Reentry						
Ohio Re-entry Initiative						
Oriana House						
Salvation Army						
Towards Employment						

Practices missing in Cleveland

- Parenting classes in jails and forensic units
- Recognition for parents that are former offenders that have given back to the community of incarcerated parents

**Reentry programs**

Best practices in Cleveland

- Assistance with food stamps signup at North Start Neighborhood Reentry Resource Center

Best practices provided by other programs in the country

- Human services
  - **Transition center** during the end of sentence (Safer Return)
  - Assistance with housing (Arkansas Voices for Children Left Behind, Safer Return)
    - **Temporary housing**
    - **Assistance with housing arrangements**
  - **Life skills training** (Safer Return)
  - **Medical services** including HIV intervention (Osborne Association, Safer Return)
  - **Mental health services** (Safer Return)
  - **Substance abuse treatment** (Osborne Association, Safer Return)

	Transitn	Temp	Arrange	Skills	Med	MH	Subst
Big Brothers/Sisters							
Girl Scouts Beyond Bars							
Family and Corrections							
Cleveland Eastside							
Reach Out Transport							
North Star				x	x		
Passages				x			
Reconnection Center							
Rising Above Initiative							
Citizen Circles							
Northeast Ohio Reentry							
Ohio Re-entry Initiative		x	x				
Oriana House	x	x	x				x
Salvation Army		x	x	x	x		x
Towards Employment							



- Education and employment
  - Education (Osborne Association, Safer Return)
    - **GED classes**
    - **Financial literacy education**
  - Career development (Osborne Association, Safer Return)
    - Resume, interview, job search
    - Job retention and workplace etiquette
    - Addressing conviction questioning
  - Job placement through partnerships in the custodial, culinary, or hospitality industry (Osborne Association, Safer Return)
  - Career coaches (Osborne Association)
  - Case management (Osborne Association, Safer Return)

	Education		Career development			Jobs	Career Coach	Case mgmt
	GED	Finan c	Searc h	Work	Q's			
Big Brothers/Sisters								
Girl Scouts Beyond								
Family and Corrections								
Cleveland Eastside			x					x
Reach Out Transport								
North Star	x	x	x					
Passages			x	x			x	
Reconnection Center		x						
Rising Above Initiative			x			x	x	
Citizen Circles			x				x	
Northeast Ohio Reentry								
Ohio Re-entry Initiative			x				x	x
Oriana House	x	x	x				x	x
Salvation Army	x		x					x
Towards Employment			x			x	x	

Practices missing in Cleveland

- [Mental health services for previously incarcerated individuals](#)
- [Assistance in addressing questions of conviction](#)

**Other practices regarding children of incarcerated parents**

Community awareness

- Community TV show (Arkansas Voices for Children Left Behind)
- Public awareness events (Arkansas Voices for Children Left Behind)

Advocacy and Policy

- Training for peace officers to lessen trauma for children witnessing arrest (Arkansas Voices for Children Left Behind)
- Provide children and families with information about post-arrest process (SF CIPP)
- Train staff at institutions to recognize needs of children of incarcerated parents (SF CIPP)
- Establishment of de facto guardianship for relative caregivers (Arkansas Voices for Children Left Behind)
- Include a family impact statement in pre-sentence investigation reports (SF CIPP)
- Offer subsidized guardianship (SF CIPP)
- Consider proximity to family when assigning prisoners (SF CIPP)
- Designate a family services coordinator at prisons and jails (SF CIPP)