



A Private-Public Partnership Serving Kalamazoo and St. Joseph Counties  
222 S. Westnedge Avenue, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49007-4628

## Michigan Prisoner Re-Entry Initiative

As one of Michigan's eight pilot sites, Michigan Works, along with other community partners, will focus on addressing the needs of ex-offenders by providing them with the necessary tools to succeed in the community through the **Michigan Prisoner Re-entry Initiative**. The goal is to improve parole success rates and thereby reduce crime. It is estimated that in the next year 13,000 individuals will be released from the Michigan corrections system, with 200-300 of them returning to the Kalamazoo area. Statistics show that 65% return to the corrections system within three years and most do so within 60 days. The MPRI advisory committee elected to use the State's employment system for this program and Michigan Works! will be the fiduciary for the local pilot. The local program is scheduled to begin October 1. The program focuses on working with individuals six months prior to their release from prison in order to address their needs and connect them to community services. In addition to the current subcontractors providing employment and training services for Michigan Works!, other organizations that focus on housing and substance abuse and some faith-based organizations will be involved.

### The MPRI Model

The VISION of the Michigan Prisoner ReEntry Initiative is that every inmate released from prison will have the tools needed to succeed in the community.

The MISSION of the Michigan Prisoner ReEntry Initiative is to reduce crime by implementing a seamless plan of services and supervision developed with each offender – delivered through state and local collaboration – from the time of their entry to prison through their transition, reintegration, and aftercare in the community.

The GOALS of the Michigan Prisoner ReEntry Initiative are to:

- **Promote public safety** by reducing the threat of harm to persons and their property by released offenders in the communities to which those offenders return.
- **Increase success rates of offenders** who transition from prison by fostering effective risk management and treatment programming, offender accountability, and community and victim participation.

If you are interested in further information regarding the Michigan Prisoner ReEntry Initiative or want to discuss how you can be involved, please contact Ben Damerow, Program Administrator at 269-385-0474 or via email at [damerow@upjohninstitute.org](mailto:damerow@upjohninstitute.org) or Rev. Milton Wells, Program Coordinator at 269-598-7718 or via email at [mhwells@ameritech.net](mailto:mhwells@ameritech.net)

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