



# Arkansas Justice Reinvestment Initiative

November 13, 2023

Legislative Recidivism Reduction Task Force Meeting

# So far, CSG Justice Center staff have met with nearly half of the task force members to understand your top priorities.

<p><b>Jerry Bradshaw</b> Division of Community Corrections Director</p>	<p><b>Tabatha Branch</b> Public Defender Commission</p>	<p><b>Chris Chapmond</b> Arkansas Commission on Law Enforcement Standards and Training Director</p>	<p><b>Kim (Sharp) Clifton</b> Exodus.Life Executive Assistant</p>	<p><b>Carol Dalby</b> Representative</p>
<p><b>John Felts</b> Parole Board Chair</p>	<p><b>Jimmy Gazaway</b> Representative</p>	<p><b>Ben Gilmore</b> Senator <i>Task Force Chair</i></p>	<p><b>Tim Griffin</b> Attorney General</p>	<p><b>Tammy Harris</b> Public Defender</p>
<p><b>Benny Magness</b> Board of Corrections Chair</p>	<p><b>Scott McLean</b> Pathway to Freedom Executive Director</p>	<p><b>Elizabeth Pulley</b> Children's Advocacy Centers of Arkansas Executive Director</p>	<p><b>Joe Profiri</b> Department of Corrections Secretary</p>	<p><b>Jerry Riley</b> Former Parole Board Commissioner</p>
<p><b>Melissa Richardson</b> Circuit Judge</p>	<p><b>Tommy Sturgeon</b> Ashley County Sheriff</p>	<p><b>Clarke Tucker</b> Senator</p>	<p><b>TBD</b> Prosecuting Attorney</p>	

# Emerging Themes

Task force members clearly want to ensure that incarcerated individuals are set up for success upon release. This includes:

Reviewing the adequacy and availability of mental health and behavioral health resources within and outside prison walls

Exploring the availability of reentry resources including housing, employment, support, and documents

Ensuring DOC has the resources it needs so that programming in facilities is evidence based and directed toward addressing criminogenic factors

What are other areas this group should examine?

Having timely access to state data is critical to the success of this project.



## Justice Reinvestment Data Requests

Data to be requested	Source	Status
Court Case Dispositions	Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC)	Defining Terms of Data Use Agreement (DUA)
Arrest and Disposition Information for Felonies and Misdemeanors	Arkansas Crime Information Center (ACIC)	DUA Sent
Probation Supervision; ADC Admissions and Releases	Arkansas Department of Corrections (ADC)	Finalizing DUA and Acquiring Data

# The CSG Justice Center is here to work with the task force to meet the goals outlined in the preliminary report.

## Task Force Goals

1. Conduct a comprehensive data analysis to identify the drivers of Arkansas's high recidivism rates.

5. Use data to identify how recidivism contributes to overall crime and incarceration rates.

Analyze data provided by AOC, ACIC, and DOC.

2. Examine the effectiveness of current supervision practices and responses to technical violations of supervision.

3. Identify unnecessary barriers to successful reentry into society.

4. Identify gaps in behavioral health treatment, workforce training, and other services for people on supervision and reentering society from incarceration.

6. Use data to identify how recidivism contributes to overall crime and incarceration rates.

Provide synthesized quantitative and qualitative analyses combined with insights from the literature, as well as other states, to enable the task force to make the most impactful recommendations.

Conduct a qualitative analysis of supervision systems and practices contextualized by data analyses.

Talk to practitioners and individuals with lived experience within the criminal justice system.

# How can we learn from your experiences with the criminal justice system?

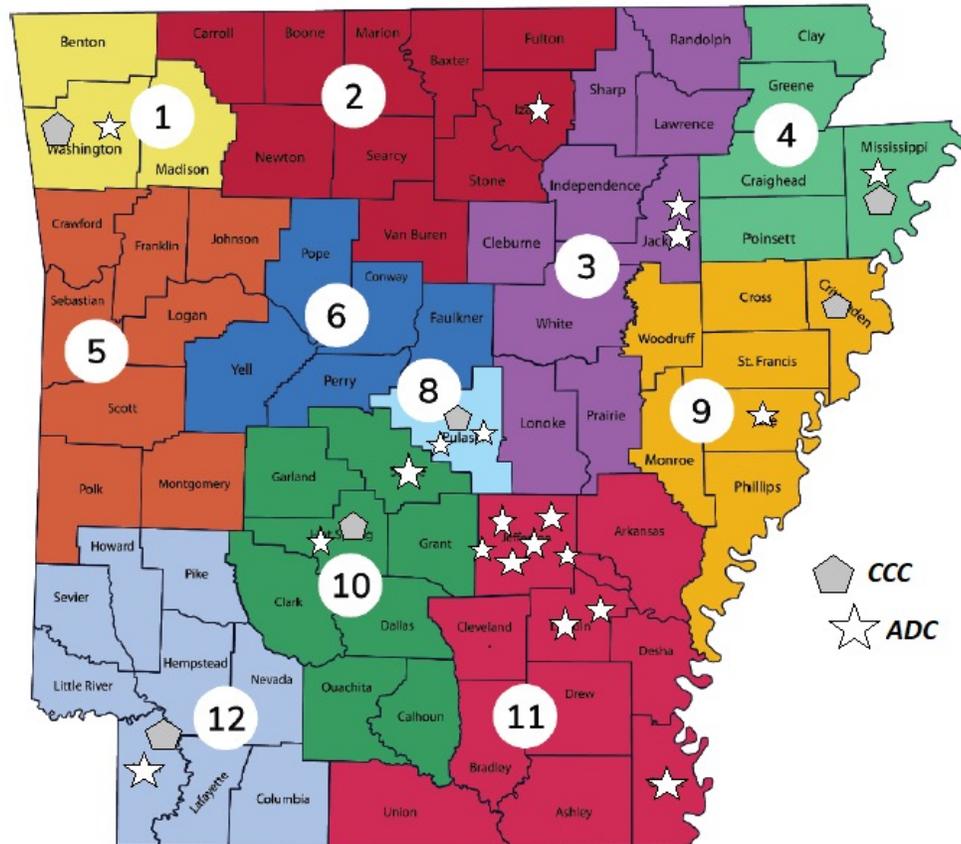


Travel across the state visiting community leaders, local law enforcement, and county representatives to:

- Assess programming for incarcerated individuals, people reentering the community, and individuals on supervision.
- Learn about forces impacting recidivism directly from people who best understand them.

# We will learn more about Arkansas's criminal justice system through those who know it best.

## Arkansas Parole and Probation Areas FY2022



CSG Justice center staff plan to conduct reentry and supervision assessments across the state. As part of that process, we would like to do the following:

- Cover both urban and rural areas.
- Meet with different types of practitioners to take a comprehensive look at your criminal justice system.
- Use data to inform and deepen conversations.

**Is there something you would add?**

# These are some of the questions we want to answer.



**Why do people return to prison, and how have those factors changed—or not—over the last decade?**

- Where have previous initiatives aimed at reducing recidivism in Arkansas succeeded or failed in your view?
- Can existing resources within and outside prison walls better correspond to the needs of the population? What will this take?



**What are the costs (fiscal, human, systemic) when someone cycles in and out of the criminal justice system?**

- From your perspective, who bears the heaviest of these costs, locally and at the state level?
- What do you see as the statewide ripple effects of these costs?



**What types of behaviors and/or criminal activities are driving recidivism in Arkansas?**

- How much of Arkansas's recidivism is driven by new criminal activity, including violent crime?
- What information do you want to see analyzed further to understand the relationship between crime and recidivism?

**We will rely on you as well as other experts and leaders in Arkansas to answer these questions.**

# Thank You!

Join our distribution list to receive updates and announcements:

<https://csgjusticecenter.org/resources/newsletters/>

For more information, please contact Estrella López at [elopez@csg.org](mailto:elopez@csg.org).



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