

Reentry and Restoring Citizenship

More than 40,000 individuals are projected to return to Illinois communities following release from prison in 2006. For most, successful reintegration requires the careful and deliberate navigation of an array of programs, public systems, and the demands and expectations placed on returning offenders.

TASC (Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities) helps parolees complete their justice requirements and successfully reintegrate into their communities by helping them navigate the complex transition from supervision to self-sufficiency.

TASC works to develop collaborative, systems-level responses that balance the supervisory needs of the justice system, the participation requirements in social support systems, and the needs of the ex-offender, his or her family, and community. By acting as an independent entity, TASC can integrate all of these needs into a service delivery plan tailored to the unique needs of each individual, that is also responsive to the need for accountability, public safety, and efficient use of public resources.

Restoring Citizenship

“Restoring citizenship” entails supporting and guiding former offenders as they learn positive ways of thinking, living, and being. Lives formerly characterized by involvement with drugs and the criminal justice system are transformed as individuals learn the meaning and rewards of genuine self-care and respect for others. Individuals develop the skills, attitudes, and behaviors that are consistent with good citizenship, including assuming responsibility for self-direction and making positive contributions to their families, workplaces, and communities. In the process of restoring citizenship, there is a healing of past harms and reassurance to victims, families, and communities that change is possible.

Reentry Case Management

TASC works in collaboration with the Illinois Department of Corrections and the Illinois Division of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse to provide a range of services, including substance use disorder assessments, drug education and clinical reentry management. TASC also provides linkages to community-based substance use disorder treatment, mental health and other supportive services necessary to assist individuals in their transition back into their communities and in becoming self-directed citizens. Follow-up services are designed to reduce recidivism, support recovery, encourage productive self-sufficiency, and maintain long-term public safety.

Recovery Support

Inner Circles and Winners’ Circles are specifically designed to help formerly incarcerated individuals learn the privileges and responsibilities of productive citizenship. As an closed community support group (e.g., in prisons or adult transition centers) for clients in treatment and recovery from substance use disorders, the Inner Circle lays the foundation for successful reentry. The Winners’ Circle program is a peer-led and peer-driven project that provides community-based support for participants (many of whom were formerly incarcerated) and their families. Both circles are designed to aid members with issues found in early recovery and reentry, such as obtaining identification cards, jobs, and housing, and to help them move toward full community involvement.

TASC, Inc. is an independent, not-for-profit agency that provides clinical case management and other services to men, women and adolescents with a variety of social and health-related needs.

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