



After serving their sentence, prisoners return to their community. How do we better prepare them for return?

**Each year, over 11,000 inmates are released from Michigan's prisons. Nearly half will return to prison within two years and cost the state \$112 million dollars per year.**

*Source: Michigan Department of Corrections*

### **Prisons Alone Will Not Reduce Crime**

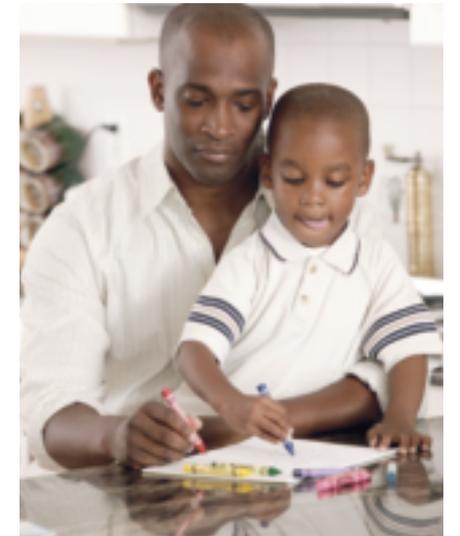
In Michigan, billions of dollars have been spent on prison construction, and their operations cost another \$1.8 billion each year. And yet this investment is not an effective crime-fighting strategy. There is a better way to make our neighborhoods safe.

### **When Prisoners Return**

Research proves family and community support for former prisoners reduces crime. In the absence of a strong network of support, returning prisoners will likely revert to handling life's challenges as they have in the past. Repeat offenders create new victims and cost the state millions of dollars annually. Many former prisoners return to crime because they are unprepared to face the tremendous barriers to successful re-entry. Basic needs, such as employment and housing, are often unattainable with a criminal history. Returning prisoners often lack essential medical services and mental health care, and accessing these services can be very difficult.

### **Breaking the Cycle of Crime**

A bold new approach to public safety is needed—one that recognizes that everyone is affected by crime and that its prevention is everyone's business. Communities that embrace MPRI support a plan for community action to reduce crime through improving prisoner re-entry.



Children with an incarcerated parent have an increased risk of being incarcerated themselves.

***"Strategies to reduce crime in the long run demand creative and multi-faceted approaches, which incorporate the best thinking of educators, social service agency directors, and community leaders. Long-term strategies to reduce and prevent crime will produce results in the short term, as well as for years after their initial implementation, making them a smart investment for the future of Michigan."***

**Governor Jennifer M. Granholm**

**The MPRI reduces crime and the rate of those returning to prison.**

**What is MPRI?**

The primary goal of the Michigan Prisoner ReEntry Initiative is to increase public safety by reducing crime. It is a statewide strategic approach to create safer neighborhoods and better citizens through the delivery of a seamless plan of services, programming, support, and supervision—from the time of entry to prison, through transition, reintegration, and aftercare—to returning prisoners and their communities.



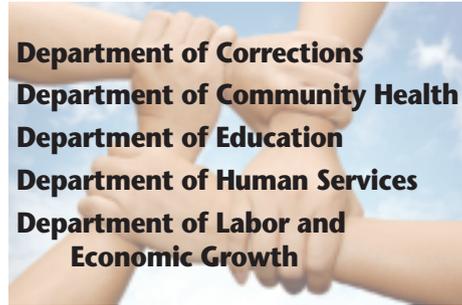
MDOC Director Patricia L. Caruso discussing MPRI with staff.

**Reducing Crime and Its Costs to Taxpayers**

How can we better prepare prisoners as they return to their communities so that they do not commit new crimes? The MPRI addresses the state’s 48%+ return-to-prison rate head on by targeting repeat offenders and increasing their self sufficiency through improved management of personal, institutional, and community challenges. As a result, the MPRI will reduce the prison population and help reduce the cost of the state’s prison system.

**An Integrated Approach**

The vision of the MPRI is that every prisoner will return to the community prepared for success. State departments are working together with local elected officials and human services agencies to coordinate services and integrate support systems that connect the returning prisoner, service providers, and the community. MPRI bridges the work of key state agencies involved in prisoner re-entry and systemically improves the reintegration process.



State departments working together is a smarter use of resources. By pooling community assets, resources are better coordinated and utilized.

MPRI’s comprehensive approach to re-entry capitalizes on existing community resources, including faith-based and community-based organizations and initiatives, and calls upon local leaders to advance these efforts statewide.

Through MPRI, local community coordinators seek input of community members in the development of a local Comprehensive Prisoner ReEntry Plan that helps prepare that community for the hundreds of prisoners who re-enter each year. This planning and coordination are essential for the success of the local MPRI sites.

**The MPRI is founded on principals of evidence-based practices—a foundation of proven crime-reduction research.**

**Supervision and support** are at the center of the re-entry process. Research shows that investing in services in the areas of housing, employment, education, health care, substance abuse, and community and family support is critical. These supports provide returning prisoners with the tools to help themselves. Supervision and accountability are also crucial to the returning prisoner. As they participate in the support services, returning prisoners are carefully monitored by field agents from MDOC. These agents work closely with family and community members, local organizations and the parolee to ensure accountability and encourage responsibility.

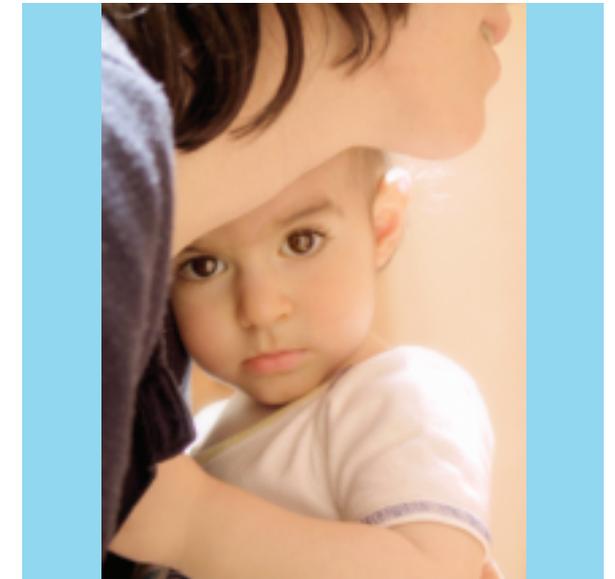


**Housing** – Access to safe and affordable housing is essential for former prisoners. MPRI is creating collaborative, community-based solutions to improve appropriate housing options.

**Employment and Education** – Most prisoners complete their GED and receive some level of vocational training during incarceration. The MPRI builds upon those strengths by providing additional employment readiness services.

**Health Care and Substance Abuse** – Nearly all prisoners incarcerated in Michigan were previously involved in the use of illegal drugs or alcohol. To prevent relapse, the MPRI identifies community support systems prior to a prisoner’s release. This may include qualifying prisoners for Medicaid or other health benefits and addressing specific physical and mental health needs.

**Community and Family Support** – Children with an incarcerated parent have an increased risk of being incarcerated themselves. Providing family support and encouraging family responsibility are vital aspects of the MPRI and begin long before prisoners return home.



**If you care about safer neighborhoods, you care about re-entry.**

Through your awareness and support of the MPRI, you can make a difference and help to reduce crime in your community.

For more information, contact the Office of Offender ReEntry at (517) 373-3653, or visit website [www.michigan.gov/reentry](http://www.michigan.gov/reentry).