

# **Nebraska's Serious and Violent Offender Reentry Program**

## **WORKPLAN**

### **I. Project Abstract**

The Nebraska Serious and Violent Offender Reentry Program will improve adult offenders' access to services and provide a more comprehensive form of case management by coordinating service providers at both the state and local levels. The service providers and agencies will be combining their current services for offenders participating in the Reentry Program. Nebraska's program will offer services to address substance abuse and mental health problems, housing, employment, education, criminal behavior, and family relationships.

Nebraska's Department of Correctional Services (DCS) will act as the lead agency for this program. The target population consists of serious and violent offenders age 18-35. Approximately 60-90 high-risk offenders will either be placed into the Omaha Correctional Center, the Community Corrections Center – Omaha, or under the supervision of Adult Parole. Offender Risk and Need Assessments will be conducted and offenders will be matched with the appropriate level of services and supervision. Offenders selected for the program will have a high level of need and a high level or chance of recidivism if appropriate services are not provided. The intent of the program is to identify and provide critical services to a population of offenders who carry the highest risk to the community. If successful, the program will lower the risk and number of serious and violent offenders who re-offend within a targeted neighborhood of Omaha, Nebraska.

The services of the University of Nebraska will be instrumental for the purposes of coordinating, facilitating, and evaluating this initiative. The College of Public Affairs and Community Services (CPACS) at the University of Nebraska – Omaha has had much experience

aiding the State in the coordination of public service projects and statewide initiatives. While the program focuses on a neighborhood, the project will serve as a statewide example of a community corrections program for those offenders who pose the greatest risk to public safety. If successful, this program of best practices could be applied to the larger population of offenders returning to the community who possess a moderate or lower risk of recidivism.

## **II. Project Narrative.**

### **Step One: Problems to be Addressed**

The funding requested in this proposal would establish the Nebraska Serious and Violent Offender Reentry Program for adults. The reentry program proposes to unify many existing services which may be available to eligible male and female serious and violent offenders primarily age 18 to 35 who are reentering the community from Nebraska's prison system and who are considered to be a high risk for recidivism. The Reentry Program will provide services to address recidivism and individual participant's needs for approximately 60 – 90 offenders over the course of a 12-18 month program period who are returning to the primary project area in north Omaha, Nebraska. The multi-departmental framework of the Reentry Program Steering Committee, with the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services acting as the lead agency, includes the Nebraska Board of Parole, the Nebraska Health and Human Services System, and the Nebraska Department of Labor. This framework has been developed to strengthen and validate the efforts being conducted at the local level.

Nationally, approximately 600,000 individuals – roughly 1,600 a day – will be released from state and federal prisons this year to return to their communities. From the public's perspective, this transition from prison to community might be viewed as unremarkable. Prisons have been around for a long time and individuals have faced the challenges of moving from

confinement in correctional institutions to freedom on the streets of the communities to which they return.

Nebraska Data – In FY2002, Nebraska released 2,007 inmates from its prisons (Table 1). A total of 1,194 of these offenders were mandatory discharges, they went directly into Nebraska’s communities. The remaining released under an average of 9-months of supervised reintegration on parole. Of the 2,007 prisoners released in fiscal year 2002, a total of 813 or 40.5 percent were expected to return to the Omaha metropolitan area.

<u>Release Type</u>	<u>Number/%</u>
Mandatory Discharge	1194 (59.5%)
Paroled	772 (38.5%)
Other	<u>41</u> (2.0%)
Total	2007

Table 1. Releases from Nebraska’s prisons in FY2002.

From a number of policy perspectives, this age-old issue of prisoner reintegration is taking on new importance. Part of the reason is that Nebraska’s prison population has more than doubled during the past 20 years. The diminished tolerance on crime and criminals since the nation launched its ‘War on Drugs’ in the middle 1980’s has meant continuously growing prison admissions in Nebraska. More prison admissions and longer sentences have meant more prisoners eventually returning to their communities. Today with prison populations of over 4,000, Nebraska is witnessing significantly more prisoners returning home, having spent longer terms behind bars, less prepared for life on the outside, with less assistance in their reintegration. Often these offenders will have difficulties reconnecting with jobs, housing, and perhaps their

families when they return, and will remain beset by substance abuse and health problems. Many will be rearrested, and many will be returned to prison for new crimes or parole violations.

The costs of this cycle of incarceration and reentry are high from several perspectives. First and foremost is the public safety dimension. Nationally, nearly two-thirds of released prisoners are expected to be rearrested for a felony or serious misdemeanor within three years of their release. While Nebraska has significantly lower recidivism (25.8%), such recidivism rates nevertheless translate into thousands of new victims each year and an increased citizen concern over public safety. Second, there are fiscal implications. Significant portions of state budgets are now invested in the criminal justice system. Nationally, expenditures on corrections alone increased from \$9 billion in 1982 to \$44 billion in 1997. Over the last decade, the prison population in Nebraska has dramatically increased and prison operation has been one of the fastest growing line items in the state budget. In fiscal year 1997, the Nebraska's prison budget was \$62.4 million. In fiscal year 2003, the appropriated budget was \$121 million, with a budget deficit of another \$6 million. If this trend continues, the cost of prison operation in Nebraska will reach \$246.7 million, or nearly a quarter of a billion dollars, by fiscal year 2009. These figures do not include the cost of arrest and sentencing processes, nor do they take into account the cost to victims. Third, there are far-reaching social costs. Prisoner reentry carries the potential for profound collateral consequences, including public health risks, disenfranchisement, homelessness, and weakened ties among families and communities.

Given what we see happening nationally and in Nebraska, the primary question is what can be done to prepare both ex-prisoners and their communities for their inevitable return home? How can public resources best be allocated to improve public safety and prevent re-offending? What strategies can be crafted that can increase the odds of successful prisoner reintegration?

What kind of program can be designed and implemented that can make a difference in both the short and long terms? How can Nebraska utilize and target limited resources for identified populations of returning offenders where the greatest difference can be made?

The funding requested in this proposal seek to establish a comprehensive Nebraska Offender Reentry Program. This request represents an attempt to successfully demonstrate a pilot reentry program that focuses on serious and violent adult offenders returning to the city of Omaha, Nebraska whom have a high probability to recidivate. The majority of these offenders will be in the 18 – 35 year old age group on entry into Nebraska’s correctional system. Funding is being sought to develop, implement, enhance, and evaluate this reentry program. The proposed project will seek to implement a comprehensive strategy that ensures the safety of the community and the reduction of serious, violent crime. This will be accomplished by carefully selecting and preparing a group of targeted offenders to return to the Omaha community into a critical array of support services, offender accountability, and structured reintegration. It is the intent of this pilot that successful reintegration of these offenders be accomplished by cooperative navigation through the complex field of existing state and community support systems. The access, redeployment, and leveraging of these critical resources will be vital to support all components of the proposed comprehensive reentry program. It is hoped that through this initiative, the city of Omaha will have the opportunity to develop a state-of-the-art reentry strategy and the capacity to effectively, safely, and efficiently reintegrate returning offenders.

#### Recidivism Nationally

Nationally, the Bureau of Justice Statistics Special Report titled “Recidivism of Prisoners Released in 1994” (June 2002), represents a study of rearrest, reconviction, and reincarceration of 272,111 former inmates for 3 years after their release in 1994. The 272,111 represented two-

thirds of all prisoners released in the U.S. They were discharged from prisons in 15 states. Within 3 years from their release in 1994:

- 67.5% of the prisoners were rearrested for a new offense (almost exclusively a felony or a serious misdemeanor);
- 46.9% were reconvicted for a new crime;
- 25.4% were resentenced to prison for a new crime; and
- 51.8% were back in prison, serving time for a new prison sentence or for a technical violation of their release, like failing a drug test, missing an appointment with their parole officer, or being arrested for a new crime.

Released prisoners with the highest rearrest rates were robbers (70.2%), burglars (74.0%), larcenists (74.6%), motor vehicle thieves (78.8%), those in prison for possessing or selling stolen property (77.4%), and those in prison for possessing, using, or selling illegal weapons (70.2%). Released prisoners with the lowest rearrest rates were those in prison for homicide (40.7%), rape (46.0%), other sexual assault (41.4%), and driving under the influence (51.5%). Within 3 years, 2.5% of released rapists were arrested for another rape, and 1.2% of those who had served time for homicide were arrested for homicide.

The 272,111 offenders discharged in 1994 had accumulated 4.1 million arrest charges before their most recent imprisonment and another 744,000 charges within 3 years of release. Within 3 years of their release in 1994, 61.7% of offenders sentenced for violence were arrested for a new offense, though not necessarily another violent offense. Of offenders released from prisons in 15 states in 1994:

- 91.3% were male
- 50.4% were white

- 48.5% were black
- 24.5% were Hispanic
- 44.1 were under age 30
- 22.5% were in prison for a violent offense (for example, murder, sexual assault, and robbery)
- Almost 40 % had served a prior prison sentence

Recidivism in Nebraska

Recidivism in Nebraska is defined as the discharge or release of an inmate during a calendar or fiscal year who returns to a Nebraska prison during the next three years for either being convicted of a new crime or he/she is revoked from parole because of a felony parole violation. Nebraska’s recidivism rate for Fiscal Year 2002 was 21.0%. Recidivism rates by fiscal year (July 1<sup>st</sup> through June 30<sup>th</sup>) since 1990 are as follows (Table 3):

YEAR	RATE
1990	23.5
1991	21.9
1992	20.3
1993	23.6
1994	20.3
1995	20.8
1996	21.1
1997	21.1
1998	22.8

1999	21.6
2000	23.3
2001	18.8
2002	21.0

Table 3. Recidivism Rate for Nebraska Prison System by year.

The recidivism of those prisoners who were originally committed from Metropolitan Omaha in FY2002 is 23.3%. This is the highest for any commitment area. In fact, in fiscal years 1995 through 1999 more recidivists were committed from Metropolitan Omaha than the other regions of the state. Table 4 shows the recidivism rate by offense category:

CATEGORY	% RECIDIVIST
Homicide	4.7
Robbery	21.6
Assault	18.3
Sex Offenses	8.1
Burglary	26.9
Theft	30.5
Restraint	12.5
Arson	0.0
Drugs	14.9
Fraud	26.9
Weapons	23.1
Morals	16.7

Motor Vehicle	30.4
Other	22.6

Table 4. Recidivism by offense category for FY 1999 Releases from the Nebraska Prison System.

Table 5 illustrates Nebraska’s recidivism rate by violent crime history, which is gathered during the presentence investigation.

	Non-Violent Offense		Violent Offense	
	<u>Number</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>%</u>
Non-Recidivist	645	82.0	624	75.4
Recidivist	<u>142</u>	<u>18.0</u>	<u>204</u>	<u>24.6</u>
Total	787	100.0%	828	100.0%

Note: 96 missing cases

Chi Square Probability = .001

Table 5. Recidivism by violent crime history.

Table 5 shows that those with an arrest and/or conviction history of violent crimes are more likely to be recidivists than are those who have not been arrested or convicted of violent crimes. The percentages are 24.6% and 18.0% respectively. The difference is statistically significant.

In general, a recidivist in Nebraska is more likely to be a black male on his second or subsequent conviction, i.e. multiple offender, who is more likely to have a minimum sentence of over 24 months. A recidivist is likely to have a medium or minimum custody level at release. A recidivist is also likely to have an escape history, have an education of less than 12 years, be committed from the Omaha area, and be committed for Motor Vehicle, Fraud, Theft, or Burglary

offenses. Of the violent offenses, they are more likely to be recommitted for robbery, weapons, assault, and sex offenses. Members of criminal threat groups were also more likely to be recidivists than those who were not members of criminal threat groups. This variable approached statistical significance. Those recidivists with an arrest and/or conviction history of violent crimes are more likely to be recidivists. A recidivist spends an average of 20 months out of prison before his/her return. Finally, the combination of successful completion of substance abuse programs with a release type of parole produced the lowest recidivism rate of 9.1%. The next lowest recidivism rate was for those who participated in successful substance abuse programs and were discharged (15.9%). From the data available, it appears that participation in substance abuse programs is beneficial whether the offender is paroled or discharged.

Nebraska’s 10-year Recidivism Study

A ten-year recidivism study was completed using the prisoners released in 1993. That study shows that of the 1,352 prisoners released during fiscal year 1993, a total of 387 had returned to prison in Nebraska under a new prison number for a subsequent offense or had been revoked from parole because of a felony parole violation. The recidivism rate under this ten-year study 28.6 percent (see Table 6 below).

	<u>Type of Release</u>		
	<u>Mandatory Discharge</u>	<u>Paroled</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Nonrecidivist</u>	540	425	965
<u>Recidivist</u>	272	115	387 (28.6%)
Total	812	540	

Table 6. 10-year recidivism rate for FY 1993 releases from Nebraska’s prisons  
10-year study.

As the data illustrates in Table 7, the recidivism rate for Nebraska is significantly lower than that of the 15 state national study when comparing offenders who were back in prison, serving time for a new prison sentence or for a technical violation of their release, like failing a drug test, missing an appointment with their parole officer, or being arrested for a new crime.

National Recidivism Rate	51.8%
Nebraska Recidivism Rate	25.8%

Table 7. Percent of offenders who were back in prison for a new prison sentence or for a technical violation. (Recidivism Rate)

The 10-year recidivism study of FY 1993 releases also indicates the following as seen in Table 8 below.

<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>RECIDIVISM RATE</b>
<b>SEX</b>	
Male	29.6
Female	19.4
<b># TIMES IN PRISON</b>	
1 <sup>st</sup> Prison Term	24.5
Multiple Prison Terms	37.3
<b>RACE</b>	
Black	39.7
Hispanic	21.4

American Indian	39.4
White	24.0
<b>COUNTY OF COMMITMENT</b>	
Metro Omaha	33.9
Metro Lincoln	23.5
Southeast Nebraska	23.6
Northeast Nebraska	19.0
South Central Nebraska	31.3
North Central Nebraska	40.0
Panhandle	22.6
<b>MOST SERIOUS OFFENSE</b>	
Homicide	11.1
Robbery	36.5
Burglary	33.9
Assault	26.7
Sex Offenses	15.0
Restraint	11.1
Arson	9.1
Drugs	26.9
Fraud	31.6
Weapons	42.1
Morals	15.4
Motor Vehicle	44.7

Other	21.4
-------	------

Table 8. Recidivism Rate by Characteristics of FY1993 releases from Nebraska’s prison system based on a 10-year recidivism study.

As the data above has illustrated, Nebraska has a significant number of prisoners coming from and returning to the community of Omaha. Currently, as part of Nebraska’s Serious and Violent Offender Reentry Initiative, the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services is working with national classification and risk assessment authorities on the assessment and redesign of the Department’s offender classification instrument and on the design, implementation and validation of a full diagnostic and risk assessment instrument. Once those tasks have been completed, the Department will be able to more clearly define the serious and violent, high-risk offender returning to the City of Omaha as required by Step 3 of the Reentry Initiative.

**Step Two: Project Goals and Objectives**

**Goal 1. Prevent reoffending.**

Objective 1: Select the target population and begin the reentry planning process within Nebraska’s prisons and initiate contacts with key service providers, law enforcement, and community corrections facilities prior to discharge or parole of the offender.

Objective 2: Ensure the offender is fully engaged in the planning process and clearly understands expectations and consequences.

Objective 3: Identify needs, develop individualized case plans, and provide support and services designed to promote successful reentry through all three phases of the Initiative.

Objective 4: Exercise active supervision of the offender through all three phases, ensuring accountability and appropriate graduated sanctions for non-compliance or criminal behavior.

Objective 5: Coordinate with existing state, community, and faith-based service delivery systems and local law enforcement to ensure appropriate public safety nets and critical support networks are in place.

**Goal 2. Enhance public safety.**

Objective 1: Work with local law enforcement to ensure joint communication, supervision and accountability.

Objective 2: Provide active ongoing management and supervision designed to hold the offender accountable and protect the public interest.

Objective 3: Utilize technology to ensure that the offender's location is appropriate and does not pose an undue threat to the community or the victim.

Objective 4: Exercise zero tolerance for new criminal activity.

Objective 5: Develop and implement individual reintegration plans with appropriate levels of supervision through all three phases.

**Goal 3. Redeploy and leverage existing community resources by fostering linkages and accessing currently provided services.**

Objective 1: Use federal funds only to design, build, test, and improve a system that utilizes ongoing resources so reentry programs do not depend on temporary federal funding.

Objective 2: Use federal funds only to enhance existing state or local resources and provide options not otherwise available or sufficient.

Objective 3: Increase communities' leveraging and allocation of resources to provide for the sustainability of the reentry initiative.

Objective 4: Enhance partnerships among government agencies and community and faith-based organizations.

Objective 5: Enhance the availability and quality of reentry services.

**Goal 4. Assist the offender to avoid crime, engage in prosocial community activities, and meet family responsibilities, within a restorative justice climate.**

Objective 1: Promote productive engagement between the offender, victims, and community organizations.

Objective 2: Provide for and expect the offender to be a contributing productive citizen.

Objective 3: Increase involvement between members of offenders support networks and returning offenders.

**Goal 5. Ensure program sustainability.**

Objective 1: Ensure current community and government resources are utilized and will remain accessible once federal funds are unavailable.

Objective 2: Ensure that broad government and community support exists and that these relationships are enhanced and built.

Objective 3: Ensure that this initiative is viewed as integral to community and public safety.

**Step Three: Target Population**

The target population for the Reentry Initiative will be:

- the younger adult offender age 18 to 35
- serious and violent offender who is considered to be a high risk for recidivism

- returning to designated areas within the City of Omaha within the zip codes areas comprising 68104, 68110, and 68111
- has a tentative release date equal to or less than 3 years

The target population These offenders have the following common characteristics:

- Approximately 85% have substance abuse treatment needs
- 70% were not employed at the time of their imprisonment
- A significant number of individuals have a diagnosable, serious, and persistent mental illness
- Approximately 65% of these individuals have not completed a high school education
- Almost 80% possess no marketable job skill
- 62% tested positive for drugs (excluding alcohol) at the time of their arrest
- 40 percent of the offenders entering Nebraska's prisons from metropolitan Omaha come from an area in north Omaha comprising three zip codes

These offenders face multiple challenges to reentering the Omaha community upon release from prison. Barriers to successful reintegration include obtaining and retaining long-term employment; maintaining stable residences; successfully addressing substance abuse services and mental health needs; achieving educational success; and maintaining family and community support relationships.

Participation in Nebraska's Reentry Program is voluntary. Returning offenders will initially be placed at the Omaha Correctional Center for specific reentry programming. Then the offender will be placed at the Department's Community Corrections Center – Omaha under either work detail, work release, or educational release status. Success at each reintegration step will be assessed prior to the offender moving to the next step. The Department in coordination

with Nebraska’s Board of Parole will move and monitor each designated reentry offender through a deliberate reintegration process that insures and rewards offender compliance and accountability. All offenders must work with the Department of Correctional Services, the Parole Board, and state and local authorities. Participants will be closely monitored through all phases by a combination of state and local authorities and community service providers and faith-based groups.

**Step Four: Plan to Select High-Risk Offenders**

For the purposes of this application, the following is a list of offenses considered to be ‘violent’ as generally defined by the Nebraska Board of Parole:

1 <sup>st</sup> Degree Murder	Stalking	Child Abuse
2 <sup>nd</sup> Degree Murder	2 <sup>nd</sup> Degree Sexual Assault	Vulnerable Adult Abuse
Manslaughter	Sexual Assault of a Child	Assault of Officer using Motor Vehicle
1 <sup>st</sup> Degree Sexual Assault	False Imprisonment – 1 <sup>st</sup> Degree	Assault of Police Officer or DCS Employee – 1 <sup>st</sup> Degree
1 <sup>st</sup> Degree Assault	False Imprisonment – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Degree	Assault of Police Officer or DCS Employee – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Degree
Robbery	Arson – 1 <sup>st</sup> Degree	Assault of Police Officer or DCS Employee – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Degree
Motor Vehicle Homicide	Arson – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Degree	Assault by a Confined Person
Shoot with Intent to Kill	Arson – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Degree	Use of Explosives to Kill or Injure
2 <sup>nd</sup> Degree Assault	Incest	

Using the list of offense types to delineate a list of offenders with a tentative release date of equal to or less than three years, the Department was able to identify a current total of 160 offenders, ages 18 to 35 who were committed from the Omaha metropolitan area. The breakdown of these offenders by most serious offense can be seen in Table 9.

<b>OFFENSE</b>	<b>NUMBER</b>	<b>PERCENTAGE</b>
Homicide	20	12.5
Assault	59	36.9
Restraint	3	1.9
Robbery	61	38.0
Other	14	8.8

A total of 38 (23.8%) of the offenders have been in prison previously. Sixty-four percent (103) of the offenders are from a minority. Black Americans account for 51.9 percent (83). The vast majority is between the ages of 22 and 34 (75%). Eighty percent are single. Sixteen percent are currently in maximum custody, with another 39 percent in medium custody. Only 21 individuals (13.1%) are currently on either community work detail or community work/educational release. Currently 38.5% of all inmates coming through Nebraska’s prisons are paroled. It is expected that less than 27 percent of these identified serious and violent offenders would normally get paroled.

The Department of Correctional Services in cooperation with the Nebraska Board of Parole will design, implement and validate a full diagnostic, risk assessment instrument. Offenders who volunteer for the Reentry Program and meet preliminary criteria will be assessed using the instrument. It is anticipated that 60-90 offenders, ages 18 to 35 from the designated area in North Omaha will participate in the Serious and Violent Offender Reentry Program.

## **Step Five: Organizational Capacity and Key Decision Makers**

Nebraska Department of Correctional Services has a clear understanding of those factors that are highly correlated with offender recidivism. Addressing offender transition issues including employment, substance abuse remissions, inadequate family support/structure and unresolved emotional/mental difficulties represent some of the vital issues related to our selected high-risk offender population. To this end, DCS has led collaborative community wide efforts relating to a number of areas. In work force development, Nebraska DCS in partnership with the Nebraska Investment Finance Authority has cooperated to utilize minimum custody inmate workers at the Nebraska State Penitentiary to build homes for low-income families. Additionally, Nebraska is working with a private cooperation entitled the Workman Fund to develop a privately operated industrial work park employing inmates at minimum wage near Omaha, Nebraska. In education, Nebraska DCS has partnered with Southeast Community College and Metropolitan Technical Community College to implement educational release programming for eligible offenders. Additionally, we have partnered with Northeast Community College out of Norfolk, Nebraska for membership and oversight in promoting correctional objectives on the municipal, county, and state levels through the Executive Committee of the Nebraska Correctional Association. In the areas of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Treatment, Nebraska DCS has served on a gubernatorial task force studying the delivery of treatment services to Nebraska citizens. A division within Nebraska DCS, Parole Administration, works regularly with low-income housing providers in the Omaha metro area to establish residential placement for offenders in the development of acceptable parole plans.

Nebraska DCS has gained valuable experiencing in leveraging state and local resources through our Office of Community Justice (OCJ). OCJ worked primarily with front-end service

providers in developing alternatives to incarceration. Grant seed money was distributed in the areas of treatment, prevention and restorative justice for a number of counties, throughout the State, particularly in rural Nebraska. Past ability and willingness to participate in cooperative and comprehensive evaluation has been demonstrated in our partnerships with the University of Nebraska-Kearney. The Criminal Justice department for UN-K evaluated The Nursery Program at our women's facility, the Nebraska Correctional Center for Women in 1997. UN-K is also currently in the process of evaluating our Agency's Work Ethic Camp near McCook, Nebraska. Finally, we anticipate utilizing the University of Nebraska-Omaha for the facilitation, coordination and evaluation of this project. The Colleges of Criminal Justice along with Social Services and Urban Planning for the University of Nebraska system are housed in Omaha.

Identify Key Decision Makers:

An organizational structure of decision-makers that will be headed up by a Steering Committee comprised of the following:

- ❑ Harold W. Clarke, Director for the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services
- ❑ Ken Vampola, Chair for the Nebraska Board of Parole
- ❑ Ron Ross, Director for State of Nebraska Health and Human Services System  
(Oversees delivery of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Treatment)
- ❑ Allen Curtis, Head of Nebraska's Crime Commission
- ❑ Linda Krutz, Chief of Community Corrections Council – LB 46
- ❑ Fernando "Butch" Lecuona, Commissioner for the State Department of Labor
- ❑ Colonel Tom Nesbitt, Superintendent, Nebraska State Patrol
- ❑ Dr. Linda Burkle, Head of Social Services and Prison Ministry; Nebraska Division

- Deb Minardi, Chief Probation Officer, Douglas County “Omaha” Nebraska

Partnership with these state level decision makers will be formalized through signed memorandums of agreement. The State level Steering Committee will provide oversight and coordination for a second level of county and municipal service providers. These will include:

- Mike Fahey, Mayor, Omaha, Nebraska
- Gary Randall, Presiding Judge, Douglas County Nebraska
- Robert Houston, Acting Director, Douglas County Department of Corrections.
- Alan Pepsin, Interim Chief, Omaha Police Department
- Tim Dunning, Sheriff, Douglas County Nebraska
- Adi Pour, Ph.D., Administrator, Douglas County Department of Health
- Dr. Reneskow, Chief Operating Officer, Region VI, Douglas County Mental Health, Substance Abuse and Addiction Services
- B.J. Reed, Dean, University of Nebraska at Omaha, College of Public Affairs and Community Service

Community based organizations will be utilized throughout the Re-entry process. A family or faith based participant will be included in transition teams that meet with inmate soon after they are identified at the facilities for participation. The involvement of these transition teams will be planned throughout the inmate's incarceration continuing into community re-integration. Organizations currently provide services and outreach in Omaha, near the North side includes:

- Jim Jones, Director of OASIS, Victim Education & Restorative Justice; This agency trains offenders regarding victim issues and facilitates victim/ex-offender dialogue.

- Carol Terrell, Director, Omaha Center for Faith Based and Community Initiatives; an organization that also assist, as a referral source for transitioning offenders by primarily utilizing community faith-based organizations.
- LaRon Henderson, Director, Nebraska Fatherhood Initiative; This organization focuses on “parenting from prison” training for both incarcerated and transitioning offenders.
- Roxanne Webb, Health & Human Services, Office of Family Health; Has been involved with Nebraska DCS in maintenance of an access to visitation grant to educate and train inmates in parenting perspectives and for enhanced visitation. This grant has been secured and renewed for 2004, and will be made a component of our Re-entry intuitive.

**Step Six: Program Design for Phase 1, Phase 2, and Phase 3**

**Phase One - Protect and Prepare: Institutionally Based Programs**

The Department will contract with an outside provider to select or develop a risk assessment instrument to assist in identifying high-risk offenders at admission. For those already incarcerated at the beginning of this grant project, the risk instrument will be administered at least one year prior to and on their parole eligibility date. This same instrument will be used at regular intervals to re-assess the program participant's risk level throughout his period of incarceration in secure institutions, while housed in community centers, and during parole.

A Personalized Reentry Program Plan (PREPP) will be formulated for each offender at the time of admission to the Department. For those already incarcerated at the beginning of this grant project, the PREPP will be implemented at least one year prior to their parole eligibility date. It will be reviewed at regular intervals and adjusted as necessary until the offender is

discharged from supervision. It will address the offender's needs as well as provide for the safety of the community. The PREPP will be a team effort involving the offender, case manager, law enforcement, the Parole Board (the reentry authority), parole officer, treatment providers, community service providers, family and/or community members along with a representative from victim advocacy groups. The composition of the team will be dynamic in nature in that members of the team will change as the offender progresses through the program. Team members from the community will be added at least one year prior to parole.

Offenders with tentative release dates equal to or less than 5 years will be considered for the program. This time frame provides for sufficient structure and accounts for realistic failure, program setback, and relapses.

The reentry program is targeted for the Omaha area; subsequently incarcerated offenders in the program will be housed at the Omaha Correctional Center (OCC). This will allow easier networking with individuals, groups and programs in the targeted area. Offenders' families and friends residing in the community will be available for support and participation in the reentry plan. OCC has a community involvement committee and a good rapport with city government. The District Parole Office is located in Omaha has established good working relationships with local law enforcement and community service providers. DCS has an excellent working relationship with the educational provider (Metropolitan Community College) and the University of Nebraska at Omaha. This relationship with the community can be enhanced by Adult Parole Administration establishing a community involvement committee in Omaha or by partnering with OCC and CCC-O in their community involvement committees.

The offenders in the reentry program will be housed together in the same living area. This will provide for more efficient use of programs and space. Mental health services, substance abuse treatment, and educational opportunities are available at OCC.

### **Phase Two - Control and Restore: Community Based Transition Programs**

The community reentry authority will be the Nebraska Board of Parole, which has statutory authority to release offenders on parole into the community, impose sanctions and conditions of parole, and revoke parole subsequently removing individuals from the community and returning them to prison. The Department is charged with custody level approvals and program assessment decisions. The Department will keep the Board informed of the offender's progress in the reentry program and the offender's compliance with the PREPP. The Department will include any Board recommended programming and security measures in the PREPP.

The role of the reentry team during phase two will be to provide input and services to high-risk offenders in an effort to diminish violent behavior and to assist the offender in adjusting to a law abiding, non-violent lifestyle in the community. At this time the offender will be introduced to the availability of the services he needs in the community, and the reentry team will ensure those services are reserved to enable uninterrupted programming upon parole. Correctional treatment staff and community treatment staff will partnership to develop a treatment plan continuum specific to serious high-risk offenders from admission through positive reintegration back into the community. Coordination with existing community and faith-based service delivery systems will ensure a seamless transition. Approximately one year prior to a high-risk offender's possible parole, the reentry team will begin exploring community treatment and programming options and will partner with community service providers to build a community program for program participants. The objective will be to create a transition plan

with continuous care, treatment, and programming of the same type and equal or better quality in the community without interruption from incarceration to the community.

Areas that will impact the probability of an offender's successful reintegration into the community, and reduce risk of recidivism, include but are not limited to: family and/or friends, support groups, housing, employment, education, mental health services, substance abuse treatment, and medical concerns.

The reentry team will assist to re-establish family and community ties by working with community services providers to reunite family and to establish the offender in social organizations. This could include faith-based activities, hobby clubs, social services groups, volunteer organizations, and community support groups. If housing is required because family can not/will not accept offender into their home, the local housing authority will be contacted to assist in finding a residence prior to release.

The team will explore vocational job training opportunities available to the offender where applicable, and work to enroll the offender to enhance employability. Opportunities to learn job skills for unskilled high-risk offenders will begin while incarcerated through placement in prison jobs. Upon release to a community correctional center, employment will be sought that matches the offender's skills and provides on-the-job training for new hires. Each offender will complete a pre-release program including courses in interviewing and resume writing. Staff will assist offenders in finding job leads, completing applications, and escorting them to job interviews.

Substance abuse programming and mental health treatment begun in the institution will be transitioned to the community. The reentry team will work with cooperating community service providers while the offender is still incarcerated to ensure the offender maintains a

continuum of treatment and programming in the community. Support groups are an important component to staying clean and sober and the team will work to establish high-risk offenders in them. The reentry team will evaluate the offender's academic needs and address any deficits through educational programming available in the community.

An equally important role of the team will be to develop the offender's supervision program. Approximately one year prior to the possible release of a high-risk offender, the supervising parole officer will begin working with the reentry team. The parole officer will familiarize the team with supervision methods to be applied with the offender to maintain public safety and confidence. This may include electronic monitoring, home/curfew checks by a team of parole officers and law enforcement officers, more frequent collateral contacts with program staff and family, and drug testing. Association with known felons and criminal threat group members will not be tolerated.

### **Phase Three - Responsibility and Productivity: Community-Based Long-Term Support**

The PREPP will consist of those community programs that have longevity and can provide an offenders needs after release from parole. The offender will be directed to employment providing wages and benefits meeting his long-term needs. Extended, continuous support from the community will be established early in the program through family and friends, support groups, social organizations, and faith based groups, to provide time to strengthen, and subsequently replace formal supervision.

### **Step Seven: Delivery System for Each Phase**

Progressive programming and supervision that is established in the institution will follow the inmate during his involvement with the reentry initiative. This will be accomplished by the reentry team working in partnership with both the institution service providers and the

community service providers to establish programs in the community that complement those in the institution, providing a smooth transition.

### **Organization of the Transition Team**

The transition team will be comprised of, but not limited to, treatment providers, corrections staff, law enforcement, employment trainers, and mentors. It will include individuals and agencies favorable to the reentry initiative. Family members if possible will also be on the team to encourage the offender and to provide support along with stakeholder perspective. The transition team will assist in the development, monitoring and enforcement of the reentry plan.

Present case management is provided in the institutions through the Unit Management System and in the community through the Parole Administration. This organizational structure would remain the same for the reentry program. The reentry program will dedicate staff at the OCC to provide specialized programming to offenders in the program. An additional parole officer and a case manager will be needed to provide specific supervision of this group in the community.

The DCS Staff Training Academy will assist in the development of training programs for the reentry project. All stakeholders both within and outside the Department will be provided training.

Offenders will be included in the development of their PREPP, and whenever possible, given a range of choices. Members of the offender's support system will also be included in development of the PREPP.

The Department will contract with an outside provider to select or develop an instrument to monitor an offender's community risk. Educational, vocational, mental health, and substance abuse treatment needs will be determined and monitored throughout incarceration and parole.

Transition team management will begin when the offender's reentry plan is developed and will continue until the offender leaves the program.

### **System of Assessing Risk and Needs of Offenders**

A risk assessment instrument will be utilized to help determine an offender's likelihood of recidivism, level of risk to the community, and to identify appropriate level of community surveillance and support needed/required. Offenders with the highest risk scores will receive the most attention in the form of programming, surveillance and caseworker/parole officer contact. Programming needs will be determined at initial classification and reviewed throughout incarceration and parole with adjustments to the plan being made as necessary.

### **System for Offender Re-entry Plans**

All programs necessary for the high-risk offender's reentry should be made a requirement of his PREPP. If offenders fail to cooperate with the program, they may be excluded. Incentive will be provided by the Parole Board to encourage inmates to cooperate by allowing them the opportunity to parole earlier than those who do not cooperate with the reentry initiative. Subsequent to paroling an offender, the Board can add special conditions to the high-risk offender's parole agreement necessary to ensure proper programming.

### **Housing**

DCS will partner with the Omaha Housing Authority to help high-risk offenders obtain housing if they must live on their own. For some of the offenders, paroling first to a transition living house or a halfway house is an appropriate first step. There are a number of transitional halfway living houses that are currently cooperating with DCS.

### **Employment Related Services**

If the offender has not received training in interviewing, completing a resume, and employment applications, this will be a first step upon paroling. The reentry team will partner with a local community college where students may assist offenders with this task. Other partners for this task will be community service providers and social service agencies. Preferred employers who are willing to employ offenders will be recruited and encouraged to join the reentry team.

### **Substance Abuse Services & Mental Health Care**

**Within the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services, Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services are working cooperatively toward coordination of services. Thus, the two sections have been combined.**

**Currently there is a gap in the re-entry services provided to serious and violent offenders who are released from prison, yet have significant mental health and/or substance abuse treatment needs. Inmates who are either paroled or discharged typically do not coordinate and make the connections between the health services provided by the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services and the available health services in the community. As a result, these former inmates have a significantly higher tendency to reoffend in the community and return to prison.**

**The addition of two social worker positions would dramatically improve the connections made by those serious and violent offenders upon their release from physical custody and provide a seamless approach to treatment services. As a result, added case coordination activities between NDCS and community-based providers will enhance the continuity of appropriate treatment and thus a lower re-offense rate for criminal activity as well as alcohol or other drug use.**

**Utilizing the additional staffing, offenders will be assisted in meeting with their community-based providers for pre-scheduled appointments after release from prison.**

**Two Social Workers would:**

- provide Case Management, tracking, and reporting of clients (SA/MH case management) and support joint case management/care services such Intensive Supervision that includes SA/MH functions;**
- coordinate appropriate community-based mental health and substance abuse treatment services for the targeted population based on the clinical recommendations of DCS Mental Health and/or Substance Abuse Treatment personnel;**
- provide on-going reinforcement on Cognitive skills development, anger management, and the control of aggression and violence;**
- access Supportive social services to include family counseling and job placement services for those offenders with SA/MH disorders;**
- coordinate access to services for families and children;**
- coordinate access to services for victims of physical and/or sexual abuse;**
- assist in arranging transportation assistance for transport to/from SA/MH and/or case management services.**

**With the advent of LB 46 and the creation of the Community Corrections Council, it is anticipated that Nebraska, as a state, will be involved in the creation of additional community-based resources for offenders. The processes involved in connecting offenders with appropriate mental health and substance abuse service will enhance the implementation of LB 46.**

## **System of Offender Reentry Plans**

Reentry plans will begin at the time of commitment and continue throughout incarceration, parole, and release into the community. For those already incarcerated at the beginning of this grant project, offenders admitted to the reentry program must have a minimum of one year to release. An individualized PREPP will be developed for each participating offender with the cooperation of members of the reentry team, consisting of the case manager, institutional service providers, community service providers, and the parole officer.

The PREPP will address all core areas including family, parenting and other documented life maintenance issues. Many of these issues will be identified by the risk and needs assessments. An update relevant to the offender's social history may need to be conducted to provide all the necessary current information.

To provide the fullest perspective on recidivism and as an added measure for public safety, the offender's risk of recidivism will be assessed jointly by the transition team and the offender, along with information gained from the risk and needs assessment. Reassessment of recidivism will be conducted at regular intervals to monitor the offender's adjustment.

After release to the community, the transition team will regularly update the reentry plan. The offender's risk and needs will be reassessed and the plan adjusted as necessary.

Offenders will be actively involved and share accountability for their success along with the team. They will be held accountable for their success or the lack thereof. They will be included in program planning and provided an opportunity for input. Offenders will be confronted when they fail to participate in the planning stages.

The plan will remain in effect for as long as the offender participates in the program. If the offender is terminated from the program, the re-entry plan for that offender will cease. If the

offender is considered at another time for the reentry, new assessments will be conducted and a new PREPP will be created. Available reentry plan elements include the following:

- ❑ Substance abuse treatment - both residential and non-residential;
- ❑ Mental health - both residential and non-residential, specific programming when available;
- ❑ Education - ABE/GED, post-secondary, vocational;
- ❑ Employment - will be required to establish a good work ethic and to become self- supporting;
- ❑ Restitution - when so ordered, offenders will be held accountable for the damage they have done to victims and the community by paying restitution; and
- ❑ Housing - with family, transitional living, or live on their own.

### **Continuum of Supervision**

Supervision will be a coordinated effort among institutional staff, parole administration, and community agencies.

### **Surveillance**

Surveillance will be provided by institutional staff while offenders are incarcerated and by parole officers and law enforcement enlisted in the partnership in the community.

### **Monitoring**

Monitoring will be provided by institutional staff while offenders are incarcerated and by electronic monitoring along with field and collateral contacts conducted by the parole officer in the community.

### **Sanctions**

Institutional staff will follow rules 5 and 6 for any rule violated while in the institution and report any lack of progress or cooperation to the Parole Board. The Parole Board will decide

accordingly whether or not to parole the offender. Parole Administration and the Parole Board will apply sanctions applicable to breaches of the Parole agreement by parolees on the program.

### **Incentives**

The Parole Board can parole high-risk offenders as soon as they successfully complete institutional programming on or after their parole eligibility date. The program participant will receive more individualized attention. Good time can be restored for past misconduct in greater amounts than one month at a time.

### **Continuity of Services**

Through use of the PREPP, developed and monitored by a reentry team consisting of service providers within the Department and from the community, a seamless transition coordinated by the case manager will be provided the offender.

### **Restitution and Community Service**

Community corrections center staff and the Parole Administration will monitor restitution and community service.

### **Educational Services**

The Steering Committee will partner with a local community college to coordinate educational services.

### **Substance Abuse Services**

The Steering Committee will partner with community substance abuse providers.

### **Housing**

The Steering Committee will partner with Omaha Housing Authority.

### **Job Training and Placement Services**

The Steering Committee will partner with local community college and job training programs/organizations.

### **Mental Health**

The Steering Committee will partner with community mental health service providers.

### **Medical**

The Steering Committee will partner with Douglas County Health Department and related health care providers.

### **Other appropriate services and resources**

Partnerships with other resources will be developed as necessary to meet the individual and unique needs of each offender.

### **Terms and Conditions**

The reentry authority is the Nebraska Board of Parole. Institutional case managers will monitor offenders' progress while incarcerated and provide progress reports to the Board. The Board will hold regular reviews with the offender at which time his progress will be reviewed and the PREPP adjusted if needed. Parole Administration will monitor offenders' progress on parole and advise the Board. The offender will appear before the Board as necessary for adjustments in the plan and/or removal from the program.

### **Step Eight: Project Management**

#### **Management Resources and Communications Systems**

The Director of the Department of Correctional Services has given his endorsement for development of a reentry program for high risk offenders. The Assistant Director for Programs and Community Service will provide oversight for the overall reentry program. Under their

leadership will be the Project Manager and Project Coordinator. They will drive the reentry program from admission to the prison system to discharge from community supervision. The University of Nebraska will assist in identifying and coordinating the transition team with existing correctional programs and community resources.

Communication structure already in place includes regular staff meetings with the Director and the Assistant Directors for Institutions, Administrative Services, Programs and Community Services and the Medical Director. There are regular staff meetings with the Assistant Director of Programs and Community Services and his staff that include the Superintendent of the Community Correctional Center – Omaha, the Project Manager and the Adult Parole Administrator. There are regular staff meetings with the Assistant Director for Institutions and the Warden of the Omaha Correctional Center. Each of the individuals mentioned above hold regular meetings with the staff in their chain of command to ensure that all staff who will play a part in the reentry program are provided two way communication regarding the program.

Meetings with the Transition Team and Parole Board will be held on a regular and as needed basis to steer the reentry initiative for the offender through the process.

### **Staff Resources**

The Department will commit adequate staff to accomplish Phase I objectives. The Department is not currently under a hiring freeze and actively fills vacant positions. The University of Nebraska at Omaha College of Public Affairs and Community Service will assist in data tracking and program monitoring.

The Nebraska Department of Correctional Services will pull together its leadership team to develop the structure and procedures for the reentry program. The individuals that make up

this team and their subordinate supervisors will provide the necessary management of the reentry program. Case management staff at the Omaha Correctional Center, the Community Corrections Center-Omaha, and the Omaha District Parole Office will provide the necessary case management for program participants.

### **Management Plan**

The management team within the Department of Correctional Services will conduct information meetings with internal staff essential to the reentry plan to inform them of the purpose, design, and goals of the reentry program. Each component (case management, mental health, substance abuse program, education programming, etc.) within the Department will be involved in the planning and implementation process. Cooperation among these members will ensure a smooth transition for program participants. Eventually these meetings will include various components of the community such as parole officers and community service providers.

### **Integrated Transition Management Information System**

The Department of Correctional Services has a correctional database that can be queried to identify offenders for participation in the Reentry Program. This database can be expanded with specially designed sub-databases to accommodate data collection and tracking for the Reentry Program. The Department has a full-time database programmer on staff who can further develop any sub-databases needed for this project. After the initial plan is developed and information is identified, the University of Nebraska at Omaha College of Public Affairs and Social Services will develop methods of capturing the information and the sub-database will be developed. A method of sharing information between the transition teams will be developed, possible with the creation of a shared information management service or web site.

Personalized Plans (institutional plans) services received, tracking information, sanctions and incentives used, and progression through the plan can all be designed into the DCS database and tracked once we have finalized the details.

### **III. Narrative Attachments**

Attachment A - Resource List

Attachment B - Cross-system Protocols

Attachment C - Memorandum of Agreements

Attachment D – Budget Narrative

## Attachment A – Resource List

### **Steering Committee:**

- **Harold W. Clarke, Director, Nebraska Department of Correctional Services**  
P.O. Box 94661  
Lincoln, NE 68509-4661  
(402) 479-5710
  
- **Ken Vampola, Chair, Nebraska Board of Parole**  
P.O. Box 94754  
Lincoln, NE 68509-4754  
(402) 471-2156
  
- **Ron Ross, Director, Nebraska Health and Human Services System**  
(Oversees delivery of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Treatment)  
P.O. Box 95044  
Lincoln, NE 68509-5044  
(402) 471-9106
  
- **Allen Curtis, Executive Director, Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice**  
P.O. Box 94946  
Lincoln, NE 68509-4946  
(402) 471-2194

- **Linda Krutz, Chief of Community Corrections Council**  
P.O. Box 94946  
Lincoln, NE 68509-4946  
(402) 471-2194
- **Fernando “Butch” Lecuona III, Commissioner, Nebraska Department of Labor**  
P.O. Box 94600  
Lincoln, NE 68509-4600  
(402) 471-3405
- **Colonel Tom Nesbitt, Superintendent, Nebraska State Patrol**  
P.O. Box 94907  
Lincoln, NE 68509-4907  
(402) 479-4931
- **Dr. Linda Burkle, Head of Social Services & Prison Ministry, Nebraska Division**  
Salvation Army  
3612 Cuming  
Omaha, NE 68131  
(402) 898-5900
- **Deb Minardi, Chief Probation Officer, Douglas County (Omaha) Nebraska**  
1701 Farnam, Room 164  
Omaha, NE 68183  
(402) 444-7166

**County and Municipal Service Providers:**

The State level Steering Committee will provide oversight and coordination for a second level of county and municipal service providers. These will include:

□ **Mike Fahey, Mayor, Omaha, Nebraska**

Omaha-Douglas Civic Center

1819 Farnam Street

Omaha, NE 68183

(402) 444-5000

□ **Gary Randall, Presiding Judge, Douglas County Nebraska**

Hall of Justice

1701 Farnam

Omaha, NE 68183

(402) 444-7012

□ **Robert Houston, Acting Director, Douglas County Department of Corrections**

710 South 17<sup>th</sup> Street

Omaha, NE 68102

(402) 444-7400

□ **Alan Pepsin, Interim Chief, Omaha Police Department**

505 South 15<sup>th</sup> Street

Omaha, NE 68102

(402) 444-5600

□ **Tim Dunning, Sheriff, Douglas County Nebraska**

3601 North 156<sup>th</sup> Street

Omaha, NE 68116

(402) 444-6627

□ **Adi Pour, Ph.D., Administrator, Douglas County Department of Health**

Omaha-Douglas Civic Center

1819 Farnam

Omaha, NE 68183

(402) 444-7476

□ **Dr. Reneskow, Chief Operating Officer, Region VI, Douglas County Mental Health, Substance Abuse and Addiction Services**

1313 Farnam-on-the-Mall, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

Omaha, NE 68102-1870

(402) 595-2850

□ **B.J. Reed, Dean, University of Nebraska at Omaha, College of Public Affairs and Community Service**

6001 Dodge Street

Omaha, NE 68182

(402) 554-2276

**Community based organizations:**

Community based organizations will be utilized throughout the Re-entry process. A family or faith based participant will be included in transition teams that meet with inmate soon after they are identified at the facilities for participation. The involvement of these transition teams will be

planned throughout the inmate's incarceration continuing into community re-integration. Organizations currently provide services and outreach in Omaha, near the North side includes:

□ **Jim Jones, Director of OASIS, Victim Education & Restorative Justice**

This agency trains offenders regarding victim issues and facilitates victim/ex-offender dialogue.

OASIS Inc.

P.O. Box 30856

Lincoln, NE 68503

(402) 429-1050

□ **Carol Terrell, Director, Omaha Center for Faith Based and Community Initiatives**

This organization is a referral source for transitioning offenders primarily by utilizing community faith-based organizations.

3223 North 45<sup>th</sup> Street

Omaha, NE 68104

(402) 457-7825

□ **LaRon Henderson, Director, Nebraska Fatherhood Initiative**

This organization focuses on “parenting from prison” training for both incarcerated and transitioning offenders.

Annex II

115 South 49<sup>th</sup> Avenue

Omaha, NE 68132

(402) 561-7588

□ **Roxanne Webb, Health & Human Services, Office of Family Health**

Ms. Webb has been involved with Nebraska DCS in maintenance of an access of visitation grant to educate and train inmates in parenting perspectives and for enhanced visitation. This grant has been secured and renewed for 2004, and will be made a component of our Re-entry initiative.

P.O. Box 95044

Lincoln, NE 68509-5044

(402) 479-5508

## **Attachment B – Cross-system Protocols**

We envision an organizational structure of decision makers that will be headed up by a Steering Committee comprised of the agency heads of the State Departments of Correctional Services, Health and Human Services System, Labor, State Patrol, Board of Parole, and Crime Commission, in addition to the Chief Probation Officer of Douglas County and the head of the Salvation Army Social Services and Prison Ministry. Partnership with these state level decision-makers will be formalized through signed memorandums of agreement.

The State level Steering Committee will provide oversight and coordination for a second level of county and municipal service providers, including the Mayor of Omaha, the Presiding Judge of Douglas County, the Director of Douglas County Department of Corrections, the Chief of the Omaha Police Department, the Sheriff of Douglas County, the Administrator of Douglas County Department of Health, the Chief Operating Officer of Region VI Douglas County Mental Health Substance Abuse and Addiction Services, and the Dean of the University of Nebraska at Omaha, College of Public Administration and Community Service.

Community based organizations will be utilized throughout the Re-entry process. A family or faith based participant will be included in transition teams that meet with inmate soon after they are identified at the facilities for participation. The involvement of these transition teams will be planned throughout the inmate's incarceration continuing into community re-integration. Organizations currently provide services and outreach in Omaha, near the North side include OASIS, an agency that trains offenders regarding victim issues and facilitates victim/ex-offender dialogue; Omaha Center for Faith Based and Community Initiatives, an organization that also assists as a referral source for transitioning offenders by primarily utilizing community faith-based organizations; the Nebraska Fatherhood Initiative, which focuses on

“parenting from prison” training for both incarcerated and transitioning offenders; and Office of Family Health within the Department of Health and Human Services, which has been involved with Nebraska DCS in maintenance of an access to visitation grant to educate and train inmates in parenting perspectives and for enhanced visitation.

**Attachment C – Memorandum of Agreements**

**Memorandum of Agreements**

**To be submitted via fax**

**by August 15, 2003.**

## **Attachment D – Budget Narrative**

The total budgeted amount of **\$2,070,000** will provide for the following:

### **A - PERSONNEL**

#### **Program Support Services – \$71,175**

Temporary support services for project coordination will be needed. These costs may be used for temporary personnel services or personal computers within the Steering Committee agencies. (DCS, HHSS, Labor, Parole, State Patrol, Crime Commission, Probation)

### **B. FRINGE BENEFITS**

### **C. TRAVEL**

#### **Travel/Training - \$3,825**

The approximate cost associated for the travel of three individuals to attend one training conference that will be provided by the federal partners of this initiative.

### **D. EQUIPMENT**

#### **Development of the infrastructure of the Information System for the Classification System - \$600,000**

As referenced, the Department has no information management systems in place that meets the information needs for this project. This deficit includes the information system needs surrounding the classification system. The Department will put out for bid a request for services for this need. Equipment purchases (computers, hardware, etc) may need to be purchased in order to implement an automated classification system. Once the classification tools are developed, specific information system and equipment needs will be identified.

### **Development of infrastructure to share offender information between agencies - \$100,000**

The participating agencies will need to develop a shared information system, whether web-based or connected to the State's information management system. Cross-system information sharing is critical to the success of the program.

### **Development of the infrastructure to track restitution charges - \$100,000**

The Department does have a mainframe system in place where offender data is maintained. However, one of the deficits of this system includes the inability to track restitution charges. This detail of tracking is necessary for the project. Offender accountability is critical to the success of the program.

### **Local Law Enforcement - \$125,000**

Funding has been identified to facilitate local law enforcement participation in the initiative. The courts, jails, and police in the Omaha community will be able to access these funds to provide additional support in their organizations to address the workload of the high-risk offenders. Electronic monitoring equipment and additional supervision may be needed at the community level.

### **E. SUPPLIES**

### **F. CONSTRUCTION**

### **G. CONSULTANTS/CONTRACTS**

### **Program Development, Coordination & Evaluation – \$524,376**

The Department will enter into a partnership with the College of Public Affairs and Community Services at the University of Nebraska - Omaha. As this is a new initiative for the State of Nebraska, the partnership will assist in assuring the proper foundation is developed between the many community stakeholders. Working closely with the University, the Steering Committee

will strive to create lasting relationships from which the reentry program will be able to sustain itself into the future.

**Classification Study - \$300,000**

The Department's classification system has not been validated nor significantly revised in over twenty years. The Department will contract with technical assistance providers who will provide the expertise in developing a risk assessment instrument, along with a validated external classification instrument. This will enable the Department and the Parole Board a reliable method of selecting high-risk offenders for the program.

**H. OTHER**

**Substance Abuse and Mental Health - \$70,000**

**See Program Narrative (Attachment 1 of the 2003 Reentry Application)**

**See Budget Summary Sheet, Appendix B (Attachment 2 of the 2003 Reentry Application)**

**I. INDIRECT COSTS**

**Program Development, Coordination & Evaluation – \$175,624**

Estimated indirect costs associated with a contract for services from the University of Nebraska – Omaha.