

# Washington Statewide Reentry Council

## Program overview

The Statewide Reentry Council was formed in 2016 through ([43.380 RCW](#)) to advocate for Washington state laws, investments, and attitudes that improve reentry outcomes, increase public safety and build systems that are more humane and restorative.

We disrupt the cycle of mass incarceration by transforming systems so that each individual is treated equitably and with dignity. The council is guided by Gov. Inslee's [Executive Order 24-03: Building Safe and Strong Communities Through Successful Reentry](#).

## Program need

The Governor signed Substitute Senate Bill 5139 into law on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025. The bill expands the membership of the Statewide Reentry Council from 15 to 22 members, incorporating a broader range of perspectives, including additional state agencies, survivors, and people who are currently incarcerated. This expansion aims to enhance the council's ability to develop more effective and inclusive reentry policies by ensuring that diverse voices inform decision-making processes.

### **The following positions on the Reentry Council are open for recruitment:**

- The juvenile rehabilitation administration
- A statewide or local organization representing businesses and employers
- Faith-based organizations or communities
- At least one person with experience reentering the community after incarceration
- Health Care Authority
- Employment Security Department
- Department of Social and Health Services/Behavioral Health Administration
- Two persons who are either a survivor or victim of a crime, one of whom does not identify as female and one who does not identify as male.

## Council Commitment

Council meetings are held six times annually, on the second Thursday of every other month. Members are expected to attend each meeting either in person or remotely via Zoom to ensure consistent engagement and informed decision-making.

In addition to participating in Council meetings, members also serve on internal subcommittees that focus on key areas such as Reentry 2030, Legislation, and Implementation and Evaluation. Each Council member is expected to participate in at least one subcommittee, with some members contributing to multiple subcommittees based on their availability and areas of expertise.

Between Council and subcommittee meetings, additional communication among members takes place periodically via email. While we recognize that Council members have demanding roles within their respective agencies and organizations, active and consistent participation remains essential to advancing the mission and impact of the Reentry Council.

## Roles and Responsibilities

- **Engage Actively** - Attend and participate in bimonthly Council meetings, subcommittees, and relevant events.
- **Advise and Inform** - Provide feedback, and recommendations to guide statewide reentry policy and practice.
- **Support Reentry 2030** - Contribute to the Reentry 2030 initiative by aligning agency or organizational goals with shared statewide priorities.
- **Foster Collaboration** - Serve as a bridge between systems and communities, sharing information and promoting collective solutions to reentry challenges.
- **Uphold Equity** - Promote racial equity and trauma-informed approaches in all aspects of reentry planning, policy, and practice.
- **Contribute to Reporting** - Provide updates on reentry work within your organization or agency for Council reports and strategic tracking efforts.

## Time Commitment

- Attendance at bi-monthly Council meetings, in-person or virtual (6 times per year).
- Participation in subcommittees or workgroups as needed.
- Actively participate in email correspondence with fellow Council members to maintain momentum between meetings.
- **Estimated commitment:** 3-5 hours per month, depending on engagement level.

## How to Apply

[Submit an online application here](#)

Please also submit a letter of interest/bio to the Reentry Council's Membership Subcommittee @ [Janel.McFeat@commerce.wa.gov](mailto:Janel.McFeat@commerce.wa.gov) outlining your reasons for wanting to join the Reentry Council and how your background and experience would contribute to advancing its mission.