



Executive Summary

Community Success Initiative (CSI) was founded as a non-profit corporation in May 2004 with a vision to create communities where people discover their potential, set worthy goals for their lives, and take action in a positive way, with an emphasis on men and women who are transitioning from prison and jail, or who otherwise find themselves entangled in the criminal justice system.

CSI feels that if people in reentry become stable, the ripple effect on creating viable communities is immeasurable. While it costs roughly \$28,000 to incarcerate a person in prison per year, it takes roughly \$8,000 - \$10,000 to provide counseling, work readiness training, and can include short-term skills training to develop or improve an employable, marketable skill. Included in the higher end of this figure is also the basic legal assistance sometimes needed to get driver licenses reinstated, a necessity for both the job search and eventual employment. Community Success Initiative's prevailing focus includes: (1) Helping formerly incarcerated persons get back on their feet (2) Reducing crime in the community (3) Assisting with rebuilding families.

In its 18th year of service, CSI has demonstrated the capacity to work with constituents pre-release and post-incarceration and people who are more broadly impacted by the criminal justice system, without having been incarcerated, as well as the family of the aforementioned. CSI works mainly in three areas: (1) providing access and linking constituents to direct services i.e. education, medical attention, housing, and employment, (2) teaching advocacy and providing technical assistance to help stakeholders create reentry initiatives within communities across the state, (3) bringing attention to the challenges of reentry to the legislative community. CSI started this work with its signature resource roundtables; bringing together people who were justice-involved with community organizations, correction staff, elected officials, service agencies as well as the family members of incarcerated people. Seven years ago, the reentry conversation was just beginning in North Carolina and people who were directly affected had very limited options for assistance. CSI subsequently received funding from local government and private foundations and leveraged these funds to develop and facilitate reentry-specific work readiness classes, while developing a cadre of facilitators and mentors among those in reentry. To date, CSI has impacted the lives of over 4,000 people in reentry. CSI continuously refines the collaborative efforts of a diverse range of stakeholders from the directly affected to

policy and law makers in the state. The executive director of Community Success Initiative, Dennis Gaddy, currently serves as Criminal Justice Chair for the NC NAACP and is one of the founding members of the Second Chance Alliance, a statewide coalition of stakeholders who inform the state legislative body of issues and challenges affecting the 1.6 million people impacted by the criminal justice system in North Carolina

CSI addresses the economic development focus area as they work with low wealth individuals and families, rebuilding their lives through reentry. Whether a person has served time in prison or jail, or has a criminal conviction without having served, the barriers to stability are real and daunting. The process through which clients participate is not a quick fix, but a way to develop long term goals of sustainability. We work with people in reentry to identify the root cause of the criminal history and develop plans to move beyond criminality. The comprehensive intake reviews the social, mental, financial and educational status of participants and through our leveraged partnerships get them the assistance needed. This assistance can be counseling, substance abuse, individual or family therapy, housing search assistance and critical to reducing recidivism, short term skills training and/or reentry customized work readiness training. Studies have shown that if a person can get a job within the first year of prison release they are three times less likely to commit a new crime. After working for a period of three years, the likelihood that they will commit a crime is equal to someone who has never committed one. In addition, the child of an incarcerated parent is three times as likely to become incarcerated themselves. Stable families make stable neighborhoods. Stable neighborhoods create vibrant, healthy and safe communities. CSI helps to provide a pathway to this stability. See details of our work at www.communitysuccess.org , or feel free to contact Dennis W. Gaddy, Executive Director at 919-614-2369, dgaddy1@communitysuccess.org.