
Alameda County Reentry Housing Plan Support Request

AB109 Fiscal & Procurement Committee & CAB

Just Cities & the AC Reentry Housing
Collaborative (All of Us or None, APSC, BOSS,
CURYJ)

11.1.22

AC Reentry Housing Plan Builds on the Ron Dellums & Simbarashe Sherry Fair Chance Housing Laws in Oakland & Berkeley

- Led by formerly incarcerated people and their family members
- Centered the lived experiences of those most impacted + public policy research & data
- Partnership w/ government leaders
- Policy terms considered actual implementation
- Engaged landlords and housing providers

Pictured on right - Campaign Director: John Jones III; Policy & Outreach Leaders: Ms. Anita Wills, Taqwaa Bonner, Succatti Shaw, Ms. Sherry, Katie Dixon.; Policy Director: Margaretta Lin; Public Speaking/Narrative Support: Megan Abell



Reentry Housing Core Partners



The need for renewed investment in reentry housing

31,795 adults

under parole, probation, & court supervision in Alameda County in 2019, including 8,969 people in adult probation¹

73%

of residents in Oakland's **homeless encampments** have a criminal record²

<1% of County funded affordable rental units

built between 2016-2021 with Alameda County Measure A1 funding was dedicated to reentry housing³

Racial disparities in the justice and housing systems

are interconnected. Black residents make up 10% of Alameda County's population, but represent 48% of people on probation⁴ and 43% of the homeless population⁵.

Re-entry Housing Planning process for Alameda County funded by State Health Equity Division (Sept 2021 to Dec 2022)

Advancing Alameda County Strategic Goals on Re-entry Housing:

- **AC Adult Reentry Strategic Plan 2019:** 13 housing strategies including create Housing Committee; develop/expand & coordinate system of direct access from incarceration to housing.
- **AC Probation Strategic Plan 2023 Goal 2C:** Ensure Clients are afforded the opportunity for safe & sustainable housing.
- **AC Home Together Plan 2026:** Includes focus on connecting justice involved people with appropriate treatment & facilities and access to short-term housing, permanent housing.

California Health Equity Division Competitive COVID Health Equity Grant

- Just Cities & AC Reentry Housing Collaborative received 1 of 19 competitive grants statewide.
- State grant funds ending December 2022.
- Requesting Alameda County funding support to 1) finalize, adopt, and implement the plan; and 2) operate leadership development program.

Charge & Scope of the Alameda County Reentry Housing Plan (CCP Housing Subcommittee)

Develop a comprehensive, countywide Reentry Housing Plan that:

1. **Reduces barriers** to stable, affordable, and dignified housing experienced by formerly incarcerated residents
2. **Provides a policy roadmap** for Alameda County, including policy recommendations, funding sources, and next steps for implementation
3. **Incorporates the feedback** of reentry organizations and federal, state, county, and city governmental agencies that support reentry housing.
4. **Centers and develops the leadership of formerly incarcerated residents** and their family members throughout the process.

Reentry Housing Plan – Principles & Approach

Transformative justice

The reentry housing planning process centers the leadership of impacted people in planning & policy design. Formerly incarcerated residents and their families are involved in all phases of the reentry housing planning process, in particular identifying the reentry housing needs and potential policy solutions.

Collaborative planning

The policy design process requires the buy-in and participation of a broad group of reentry, housing, and behavioral health stakeholders. The process includes regular meetings with: reentry justice organizations, city and county agencies and staff, service providers, and community groups.

Racial equity

Mass incarceration and the homelessness crisis disproportionately impact communities of color. The reentry housing plan seeks to address the roots of racial displacement in Alameda County in order to close the structural gaps underpinning disparate health and housing outcomes for communities of color.

Milestone

Reentry Housing Needs Assessment (Fall 2021-Summer 2022)

Resource Landscape (Spring 2022 - Fall 2022)

Draft Reentry Housing Plan (Fall 2022)

Feedback Loop & Implementation Resources (Winter -Spring 2023)

Adoption & Implementation of Adopted Plan (Summer 2023 - Summer 2025)

Main Components

- Housing challenges of formerly incarcerated residents & their families
- Policy suggestions that might address needs

- Existing programs & policies that reentry housing plan can build on
- Resource & funding needs & opportunities
- Research & data support

- Specific policy recommendations
- Implementation considerations & challenges
- Resource & funding allocation
- Community feedback

- Stakeholder feedback to integrate into plan
- Identify lead agency for each policy
- Political champions from Federal/State/County/Cities

- Community education, engagement, and empowerment
- Training and Support to systems impacted leaders
- Coordination on policy details and practical challenges

Stakeholders

Formerly Incarcerated residents & families (Policy & Outreach Leaders, Community Scholars, Reentry justice organizations)

County & City Agencies (CCP Housing Subcommittee, Reentry housing collaborative & working groups)

Community Groups (Service providers, property owners, community groups)

County, Cities, State, Federal (Dept staff, elected officials)

Summary of Policy Design & Community Engagement Process

- **Multiple focus groups & interviews** with formerly incarcerated residents, including youth, to understand reentry housing needs and vision for policy solutions.
- **Monthly meetings with Community Scholars & Policy Outreach Leaders** to integrate leadership and experience of systems-impacted residents
- **20+ meetings with re-entry groups and county and city agencies**, including:
 - Monthly meetings with reentry housing core partners
 - Quarterly meetings with CCP Housing Subcommittee
 - 1:1 meetings with service providers and public agencies, including:
 - Alameda County Probation Department
 - Alameda County Housing & Community Development
 - Alameda County Office of Homeless Care & Coordination
 - Alameda County Health & Public Health
 - Cities of Oakland & Berkeley Housing Departments
 - State Health Equity Division
- **Policy research & analysis** of reentry policies, funding, and services in Alameda County

Centering Formerly Incarcerated People and Family Members: Reentry Housing Barriers and Policy Focus Areas Priorities

1. Pre and Post Release Services

Lack of reentry plan and insufficient (or inaccessible) pre- and post- release services and resources make it difficult for people to secure stable housing upon release.

1. Transitional Housing

Current transitional housing options can be triggering, overly-restrictive, and breed mistrust in reentry services.

1. Affordable Housing

Alameda County housing costs are too high, and subsidized, affordable housing units (if any are available) are largely inaccessible to formerly incarcerated people.

1. Health & Housing

People with mental health and substance abuse challenges face additional barriers to securing safe and stable housing, but have limited access to services and supportive housing.

5. Youth Reentry

Youth have limited agency in their housing decisions and release conditions. Foster youth and former foster youth also face distinct challenges upon reentry.

5. Fair Chance Housing

Housing discrimination on the basis of criminal history compounds with other housing market challenges (i.e. credit, employment, and rental history), and further disadvantages people from securing stable housing.

5. Additional Policy Areas

- Employment challenges impact people's financial security and ability to access safe and secure housing.
- People, in particular women and those with children face distinct housing challenges for themselves and their families
- People have different definitions of adequate housing, and policies do not consider people's agency to choose the housing situation that makes most sense for them.



Summary of Main Reentry Housing Policy Strategies

1. NEW PUBLIC/PRIVATE FUNDING FOR RE-ENTRY HOUSING

City and County NOFAs and RFPs for affordable housing development should **prioritize formerly incarcerated residents**. Mobilize State & private financing for re-entry housing.

2. MORE FLEXIBLE FUNDING FOR TRANSFORMATIVE RE-ENTRY SERVICES

To ensure more people transitioning off probation and parole receive critical reentry services and **secure permanent housing**.

3. INCREASE QUALITY TRANSITIONAL HOUSING AND REGULATE QUALITY STANDARDS

Expand **transitional housing options provided by CBO** and nonprofit partners. Regulate transitional housing operators and ensure dignified housing that leads to permanent housing.

4. REMOVE HOUSING DISCRIMINATION AGAINST FORMERLY INCARCERATED PEOPLE

Technical assistance for County staff, Supervisors, and reentry/housing justice organizations on how to design a countywide **Fair Chance Housing policy** for residents in unincorporated areas and county-funded housing, that removes discriminatory barriers to rental housing and prohibit housing providers from using criminal background checks in rental advertising, applications, and decisions.



Just Cities has been co-chairing the CCP Housing Subcommittee meetings & process since April 2022

What have we accomplished?

- **Buy-in for planning vision** from AC Probation, HCD, Health, Public Health, Supervisor Offices; Cities of Oakland & Berkeley; State Health Equity & Elected Reps.
- Received **feedback on policy priorities** identified by re-entry justice leaders from re-entry service providers & County staff, including identifying opportunities and challenges for specific policy goals.
- Operated a **Policy & Outreach Leaders** and **Community Scholars** program (formerly incarcerated residents and family members) to inform Plan.
- Identified sources of **key data** and conducted **policy analysis** to evidence need for programs and policies.
- Identified **potential new private financing** for re-entry housing projects.

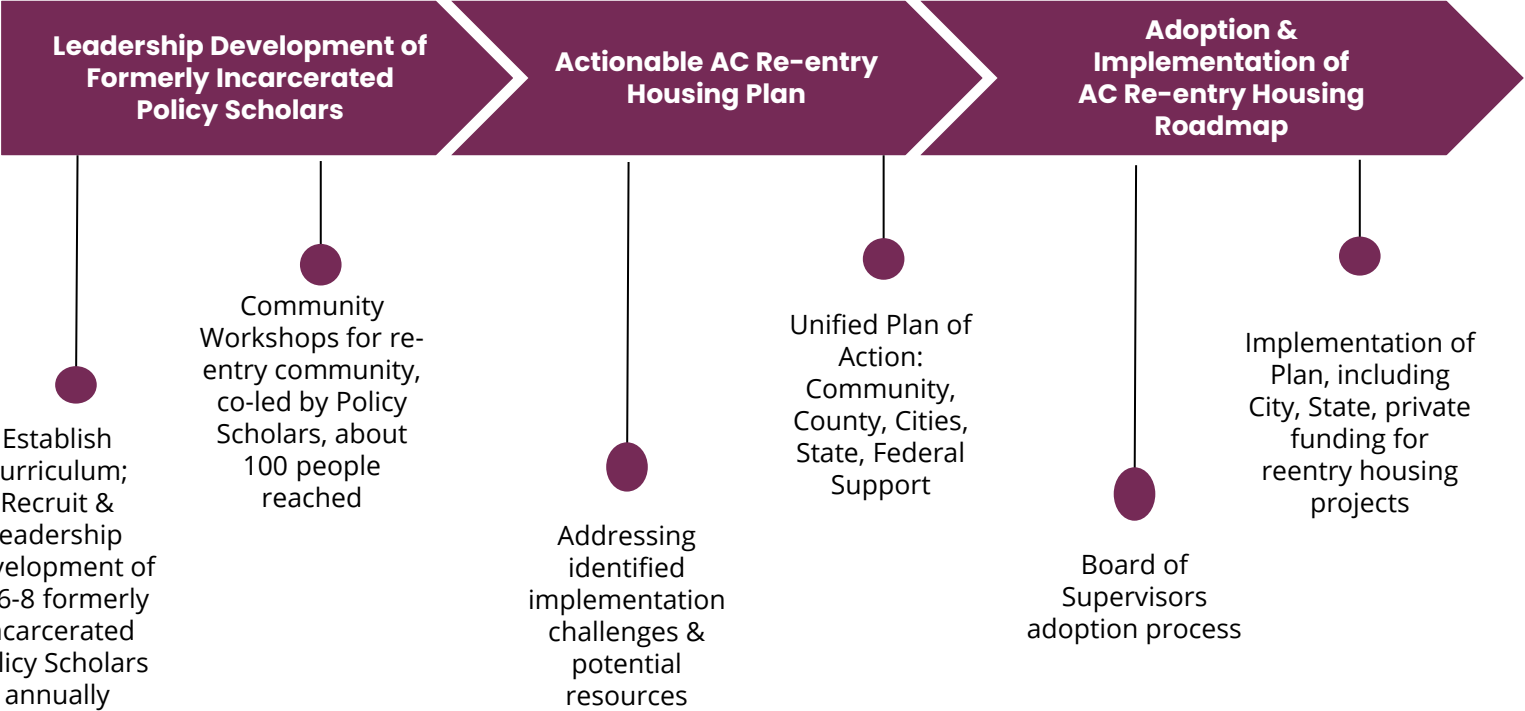
ALAMEDA COUNTY COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS PARTNERSHIP HOUSING SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING

June 23, 2022, 2:00 PM – 3:00 pm

AGENDA

1. Welcome / Introduction
2. Re-Entry Housing Plan Project - Brief Overview
3. Discussion of Pre/Post Release Services
4. Discussion of Halfway Homes/Transitional Housing
5. Conclusion and Q&A for Just Cities
5. Next meeting – September, 2022 (TBD Exact Date)
6. Adjournment

Request to Alameda County would fund these deliverables in two years:



Funding Request to Alameda County

Alameda County Contribution Request:
\$400,000 over 2 years.

Private Funding Contribution: \$133,900 over
2 years

Examples of Just Cities Track Record

Transformative Community-Based Policy & Plan
Development:

- **COVID Reentry Rapid Housing Fund** designed with reentry justice organizations; secured \$800,000 from City of Oakland.
- **Fair Chance Housing** laws & outreach in Oakland, Berkeley, Richmond with formerly incarcerated residents and reentry justice organizations; secured \$500,000 from AC, Cities Oakland & Berkeley, private foundations to reach over 10,000 residents.
- **Housing Oakland's Unhoused Plan** with unhoused residents and organizations; secured \$10 million from State & City of Oakland for homeless prevention and immediate dignified housing.
- **AC Anti-displacement Strategies** with faith, housing, government leaders; secured over \$75 million from AC, Cities Oakland & Berkeley, new public financing to fund new strategies.