

WHAT MAKES PNO'S REENTRY PROGRAM MODEL UNIQUE

PNO was originally designed in late 2015 as a reentry program that would minimize the risk that federal inmates unprepared for release from prison would fail and thereby discredit President Obama's and the United States Sentencing Commissions efforts to reduce long prison sentences. PNO was formerly launched in April 2016. It is succeeding in its mission.

The heart of PNO's work is its team of Reentry Consultants who help each incarcerated person reintegrate with family, friends and community. Reentry Consultants connect people who are leaving prisons that are located hundreds or thousands of miles from the location in which they expect to live with resources which can meet their needs and maximize their assets. PNO's services bridge gaps in communication and reentry planning that have been documented in the federal system.

What makes PNO's program model unique?

1. **Advance preparation:** Whenever possible, PNO assigns Reentry Consultants to work with individuals at least six months before they expect to leave the federal prison system for the Bureau of Prison's (BOP's) Halfway Houses. Reentry Consultants use the time to build confidence, trust and to obtain information from the individual and, when available, the individual's family or support network.
2. **Individualized approach:** PNO Reentry Consultants assess each individual client's situation, experience, abilities, accomplishments, hopes and fears. While many reentry programs try to build a comprehensive "reentry plan" for the person who will be released, PNO has learned that for many individuals one or two issues dominate their concerns. PNO Reentry Consultants pay heed to those concerns and address them one step at a time.
3. **Consistent presence during transition:** PNO Reentry Consultants counsel and advise their clients as they move from prison incarceration across many miles to a federal Halfway House, to Probation supervision and finally to home confinement. The Reentry Consultant offers a steady presence as each individual confronts challenges at each stage of the way.
4. **Shared experience:** The majority of PNO's Reentry Consultants have been incarcerated, some for many years, have successfully transitioned back to freedom and have reflected deeply on their experience. They have immediate credibility and develop remarkable rapport with their clients. They are insightful and empathetic, yet demand that their clients stand up and do the most that is possible for them to do for themselves. Other PNO Reentry Consultants are social workers with experience with justice-involved clients and access to resources. Consultants sometimes work in teams to bring dual skill-sets to their reentry planning.
5. **Putting recidivism in perspective:** All reentry programs strive to reduce recidivism. PNO's approach is to concentrate on helping each client navigate around obstacles, build confidence, take on responsibility, solve problems one at a time as they come up, to learn to manage the transactions that occur in a complicated society. PNO approach is to look to success for each client. PNO does not expect its clients to become recidivism or crime statistics.

