

**State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor
Executive Order 2011-03**

WHEREAS, Over 2,000 inmates are released from the South Dakota prison system annually;

WHEREAS, Most inmates being released have individual needs that must be addressed in the community upon their release, and if these needs are not met, the inmate is at greater risk for committing new crimes and returning to prison.

WHEREAS, The needs of inmates being released from prison cross state and local agency boundaries and include substance abuse, medical and mental health issues, education, employment, and housing.

WHEREAS, There exists a need for increased and improved collaboration among state and local agencies that receive resources from the federal government to improve access to mainstream resources critical to individuals being released from prison and their families to maximize the opportunities for success and reduce recidivism.

IT IS, THEREFORE, BY EXECUTIVE ORDER, Directed that the Governor's Reentry Council (Council) be established and authorized to function in compliance with the following sections of the order:

General Provisions

Section 1. The Council shall consist of the following individuals or their designees:

- a) Governor;
- b) Secretary of the Department of Corrections;
- c) Secretary of the Department of Education;
- d) Secretary of the Department of Labor and Regulation;
- e) Secretary of the Department of Health;
- f) Secretary of the Department of Human Services;
- g) Secretary of the Department of the Military;
- h) Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs;
- i) Secretary of the Department of Social Services;
- j) Secretary of the Department of Tribal Relations;
- k) Executive Director of the South Dakota Housing Development Authority;
- l) Heads of such other state departments or agencies the governor may designate; and
- m) Representatives from local government entities, organizations, or associations as the governor may designate.

Section 2. The Governor shall appoint a chair from among the Council members.

Section 3. The Council shall have the following duties:

- a) Coordinate state policy and working relationships among state and local agencies to identify and define issues affecting inmates being released from prison in South Dakota;
- b) Determine comprehensive and effective collaborative strategies and best practices to prevent recidivism;

- c) Examine ways to pool resources and funding streams to promote lower recidivism rates for returning offenders;
- d) Minimize the harmful effects of offenders' time in prison or jail on families and communities of offenders by collecting data and best practices in offender reentry from stakeholder agencies and organizations;
- e) Recommend changes necessary to alleviate or prevent recidivism, to include making recommendations to the appropriate state agencies and organizations regarding effective distribution of resources and access to available services and programs;
- f) Disseminate information and educate the public about factors contributing to recidivism and appropriate responses;
- g) Solicit input from the Native American Tribes, local units of government, law enforcement, victims groups, advocacy groups, service providers, faith-based organizations, and offenders and their families regarding policy and program development to identify and define issues faced by offenders upon release and to determine comprehensive and effective collaborative strategies and best practices for remediation and prevention of recidivism in South Dakota.

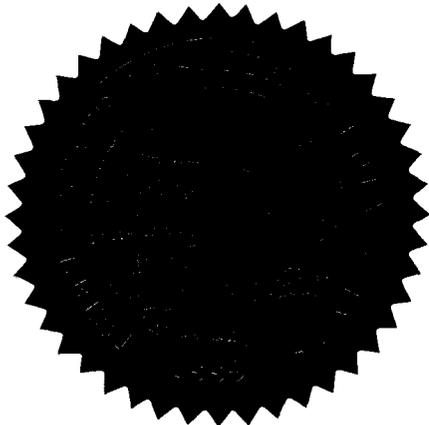
Section 4. Staff of the participating state departments will provide assistance to the Council with the Department of Corrections providing coordination and principal staff support.

Section 5. The Council shall report annually to the governor on progress in identifying and addressing issues faced by offenders upon release, progress made in addressing the recidivism rate of offenders, and recommendations for executive and legislative action.

Section 6. The Council is entitled to the full cooperation of all state departments and agencies. In this regard, state departments and agencies shall furnish information and any additional assistance as may be necessary and available to further the purposes of this Executive Order.

Section 7. Statistics compiled by the Department of Corrections indicate approximately 44 percent of the inmates released from South Dakota's prison system return to prison during the 3-year period following their release. It is in the best interests of all South Dakotans that this Council actively collaborates to reduce this rate of recidivism.

Dated in Pierre, South Dakota, this 26th day of January, 2011.





Dennis Daugaard, Governor of South Dakota

Attest:



Jason M. Gant, Secretary of State