Formerly Incarcerated Survivors: COVID-19 Listening Sessions

Resources

The past few weeks have brought significant and unprecedented changes to our lives and work. While everyone is impacted by the COVID-19 public health crisis, the impact is far greater on people from underserved communities, including people who have been incarcerated. Prior to COVID-19, formerly incarcerated people were already underserved by victim services despite experiencing higher rates of victimization. They also have access to fewer resources, which compounds the new challenges created by COVID-19.

To ensure that formerly incarcerated people are centered in COVID-19 response efforts, we sought to better understand the impact this health crisis is having on these survivors’ needs and to better resource the crime victim services field to respond to their needs. Through two listening sessions with advocates, service providers, and directly-impacted people working at the
intersection of victimization and incarceration, participants shared some of the specific challenges faced by this community as well as existing resources. This document is a compilation of the resources shared by these participants.

Reentry and COVID-19

- Reentry Planning for COVID-19 Releases webinar by the American Bar Association
- COVID-19 and Jail Releases webinar by the Vera Institute of Justice
- COVID-19 and Prisons: Centering Human Dignity Across Decarceration, Reentry, and Operations webinar by MILPA and the Vera Institute of Justice
- Justice-related resource list compiled by the Council of State Governments Justice Center

Supporting Currently Incarcerated Survivors During COVID-19

- We Are Still Here: Supporting Incarcerated Survivors During COVID-19 webinar by Just Detention International

Guidance for Delivering Victim Services Remotely During COVID-19

- Digital Services Toolkit by the National Network to End Domestic Violence