



MAYOR'S OFFICE ON RETURNING CITIZEN AFFAIRS FY2020 ANNUAL REPORT

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MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



In the District of Columbia, every resident regardless of background, race, religion or identity deserves a “fair shot” to create a life that will make them and their families proud. This opportunity includes our returning citizen population and their families. My administration continues to create opportunities for returning citizen in housing, education and vocational training, small business development and funding, transportation stipends, and workforce development and more. Every District of Columbia resident shares in building our city into a place where we want to live and love to call home. One way I wanted to ensure our incarcerated residents remain a part of our community is by restoring their right to voting. What better way to ensure that they continue to be a part of the fabric of Washington, DC and making sure they are engaged in their civic duties, exercise their voices, and to help us to continue build a stronger and safer DC that includes the hopes and dreams for us of all. Remember, we are Washingtonians and are all in this together!

Sincerely,

MURIEL BOWSER

Mayor, District of Columbia

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



The Mayor's Office on Returning Citizens Affairs' (MORCA) mission is to advise Mayor Muriel Bowser on legislative barriers for returning citizens, advocate on their behalf and to connect them to essential services that aids them in their successful transition in the community. For every returning citizen, it is a difficult process to re-enter the community after being released from incarceration. The process requires many adjustments from subsistence needs to society's acceptance. This year, the Covid-19 pandemic added a layer to the challenges faced by the returning citizen and MORCA. Despite the challenges, in FY20, MORCA served over 1,500 returning citizens. Due to the dedication and commitment of MORCA's staff, intergovernmental agencies and community partners, returning citizens were able to receive case management assessments that enable them to secure mental health services, vital records, employment, housing, care packages, voter registration and assisting with making sure incarcerated DC residents exercise their right to vote for the first time through voter registration in federal and private prison. Despite a complex year, it was one that has been full of commitment, responsibility and a determination to improve the lives of all DC Returning Citizens.

Sincerely,

LAMONT CAREY

Director, Mayor's Office On Returning Citizen Affairs

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Data suggests that individuals who remain connected to their communities while incarcerated are less likely to return to prison. In the District of Columbia, over 2,000 District residents return annually from incarceration. The Mayor's Office on Returning Citizen Affairs (MORCA) provides referral services such as career development, job placement, and social services to support District residents who are recently released from incarceration.

In FY-20 MORCA case management program continued connecting formerly incarcerated residents to services and resources, such as employment, employment training, health services and vital records services. Working towards fulfilling the mission of eliminating barriers to successful reentry, MORCA implemented and expanded several programs, The Returning Citizens Paralegal Pilot program, Travel Subsidy Smart Trip program, Pathways to Work Driver License Initiative, ID and Vital Records Voucher Initiative, and the CDL Program Certification Program. In efforts of minimizing the stressors that are compounded due to incarceration, MORCA expanded outreach to the Federal Bureau of Prisons (FBOP) and local halfway house facilities to connect with DC residents within six months to a one year of their release date and expanded the monthly family reunification trips to include three additional FBOP facilities. Lastly in efforts to reach and engaged more constituents,



MORCA increased its community engagement presence through participation in community events, resource fairs, presentations and digital engagement platforms.



ACCOMPLISHMENTS

MORCA RESPONSE TO COVID-19

During the COVID-19 virtual telework posture MORCA has conducted **539 INDIVIDUALIZED** assessment plans, connected returning citizens to food, clothing resources, virtual training programs, virtual educational programs, housing opportunities and employment opportunities.

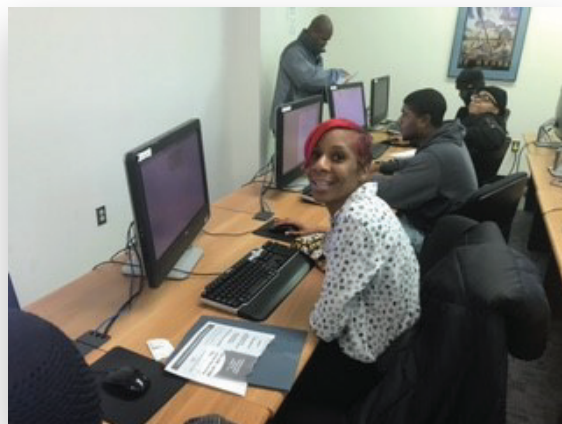
MORCA collaborated with the local Faith Community and Community Based Organizations to provide "Welcome Home" care packages that included essential hygiene and clothing items to assist with alleviating the hardships that many returning citizens have experience upon release during the COVID-19 pandemic.

CASE MANAGEMENT

The Reentry Case Management team conducts need assessments, provide referrals, offer guidance with short-term goal planning, and connect returning citizens with support services. In FY 20 Reentry case managers connected returning citizens to services and resources, such as employment, employment training, health services and vital records services. In FY -20 MORCA Case Managers completed **1,570 ASSESSMENTS**. MORCA Case Managers connected **1,194 CONSTITUENTS** to essential services provided by Intergovernmental agencies and Community Based Organizations.

PATHWAYS TO WORK DRIVER LICENSE INITIATIVE:

The Pathways to Work Driver's License Initiative eliminates barriers to employment. This program was made possible with the partnership between the Central Collection Unit (CCU) and the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). In FY20, MORCA was able to aid **312 CONSTITUENTS** through this initiative.



HOUSING REFERRALS:

Returning Citizens have identified housing as one of the barriers as major factors to successful reentry. In FY-20 through coordination and collaboration with the DC Housing Authority and Non-Profit housing providers, MORCA connected **112 CONSTITUENTS** to Housing Resources here in the District of Columbia. By connecting returning citizens to these essential services this has assisted constituents with removing major barriers to success and working towards reducing the recidivism rate.

BEHAVIORAL/ MENTAL HEALTH REFERRALS

In FY-20 Through coordination and collaboration MORCA connected **68 CONSTITUENTS** to Behavioral/Mental Health resources. Connection to these essential services afforded constituents the opportunity of addressing the trauma often experience due to incarceration.



EMPLOYMENT AND JOB READINESS:

In FY 20 MORCA continued to advocate for sustainable employment opportunities for returning citizens here in the District of Columbia. Through this advocacy and coordination MORCA connected **450 CONSTITUENTS** to Employment and Job Readiness resources.

MORCA was able to establish relationships with **42 EMPLOYERS** within the following industries here in the DC Region. These relationships have allowed MORCA to connect constituents to employment opportunities within these industries:

Customer Service

Hospitality

Landscaping

Retail

Security

Construction

Administrative

Food Service

Drivers

Warehouse

Sanitation

EDUCATIONAL AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING:

In efforts to assist returning citizens with preparing for quality employment opportunities, MORCA connected **827 RETURNING CITIZENS** to educational and vocational training services. Areas of trainings comprised of industries such as solar installation, electrical, information technology, construction, culinary industry, HVAC and CDL Class B Training Program.



OUTREACH EVENTS:

In FY 20 MORCA participation in **36 OUTREACH** events allowed MORCA to engaged with 1,399 returning citizens through various community outreach events, Federal Bureau of Prisons, Department of Corrections and community informational sessions. These events allowed MORCA to share information on programs and essential services that assist returning citizens with life stabilizing services. In efforts to reduce recidivism and strengthen the service delivery for returning citizens. MORCA collaborated with **43 COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS**. These collaborations have allowed Returning Citizens to benefit from the services and programs offered by the various organizations and to engaged and connect returning citizens to dual program.



FBOP OUTREACH:

MORCA hosted several Reentry Resource Fairs at the following Federal Bureau of Prisons Facilities, FCI Fort Dix FCI, Schuylkill, and Petersburg FCI. These resource fairs allowed MORCA along with other government and community base partners to engaged with one hundred seventy-three DC residents that are within six months to one year of their release date. MORCA had to cancel all remaining trips due to the COVID-19 pandemic.





MORCA

MAYOR'S OFFICE ON RETURNING CITIZEN AFFAIRS

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