

# Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE September 12, 2014

TO Housing Committee Members: Carolyn R. Davis, Chair, Scott Griggs, Vice-Chair, Monica Alonzo, Rick Callahan, Dwaine Caraway, and Philip Kingston

SUBJECT DOORS – Unlocking DOORS To Reduce Recidivism

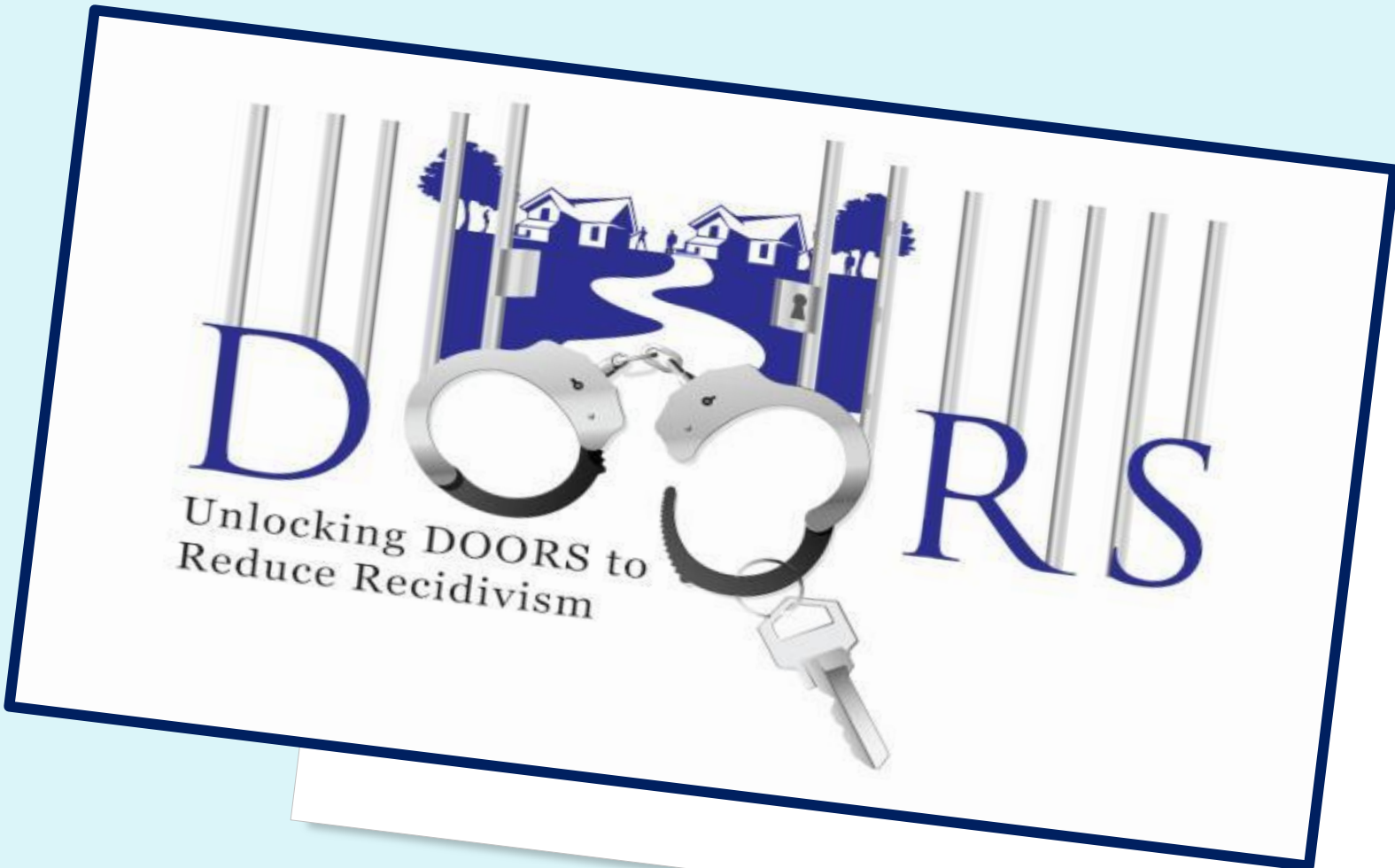
On Monday September 15, 2014, you will be briefed on DOORS – Unlocking DOORS To Reduce Recidivism. A copy of the briefing is attached.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Theresa O'Donnell".

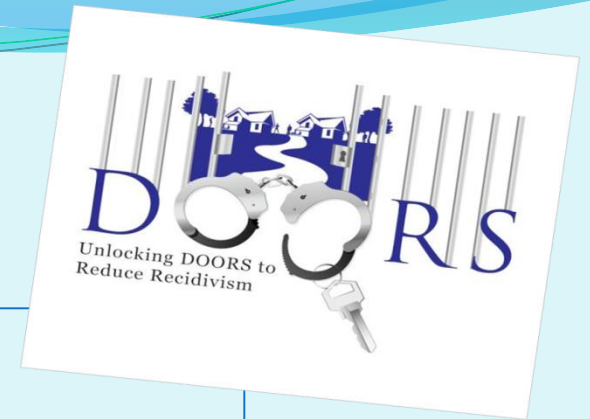
Theresa O'Donnell  
Interim Assistant City Manager

c: The Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
A. C. Gonzalez, City Manager  
Rosa A. Rios, City Secretary  
Warren M.S. Ernst, City Attorney  
Craig Kinton, City Auditor  
Daniel F. Solis, Administrative Judge  
Ryan S. Evans, First Assistant City Manager  
Mark McDaniel, Assistant City Manager  
Forest E. Turner, Assistant City Manager  
Jill A. Jordan, P.E., Assistant City Manager  
Joey Zapata, Assistant City Manager  
Charles M. Cato, Interim Assistant City Manager  
Jeanne Chipperfield, Chief Financial Officer  
Sana Syed, Public Information Officer  
Bernadette Mitchell, Housing/Community Services, Interim Director  
Elsa Cantu, Assistant to the City Manager – Mayor and Council



**BRIEFING TO THE  
HOUSING COMMITTEE  
SEPTEMBER 15, 2014**



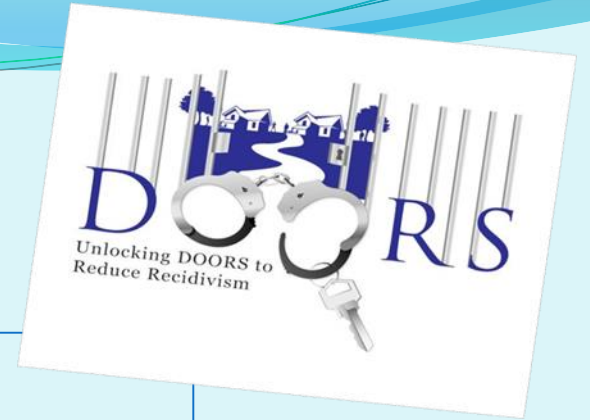


- **WHAT IS DOORS?**

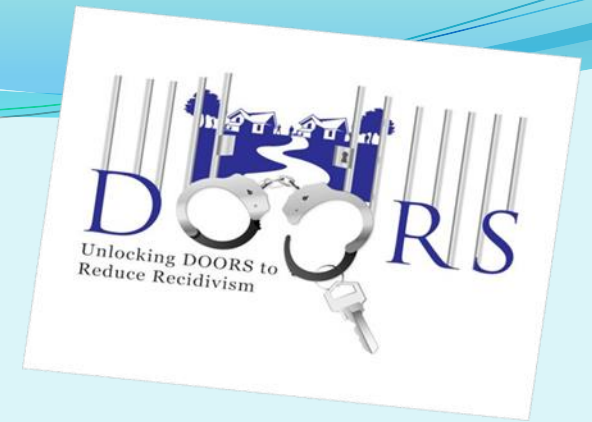
- **A 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization formed in 2010**
- **DOORS is a comprehensive clearinghouse of all reentry resources, services, programs, organizations, information and efforts. Through this comprehensive network, DOORS is able to do the following to make our communities safer, build stronger families and assure that our tax base is not compromised:**
  - **Serve as a Reentry Advocate for Formerly Incarcerated Persons (FIPS), those under correctional supervision (parole and probation) and their families by connecting them to the appropriate services and resources needed to strongly diminish their chances of recidivating (reoffending)**
  - **Serve as a Reentry Educator and Trainer for families, service providers and the community by providing certified trainings, workshops, symposiums and the like to better educate, train and inform them how to work with the formerly incarcerated and those under correctional supervision to assure they do not recidivate (reoffend)**



- **HOW DOES DOORS WORK?**
  - **Joe Smith, a FIP, comes to DOORS via three means:**
    - Self-referral
    - Community referral – through an organization, a court, a prison or jail system
    - Grant – part of a selected group through a grant award
  - Joe pays DOORS a \$5.00 intake fee and a background check is done on Joe
  - Joe is given a thorough needs assessment by a DOORS Case Manager via four (4) assessment tools:
    - Level of Service/Case Management Inventory (LS/CMI)
    - Behavior and Experiences Inventory (BEI)
    - Benefits Calculator
    - Career Key



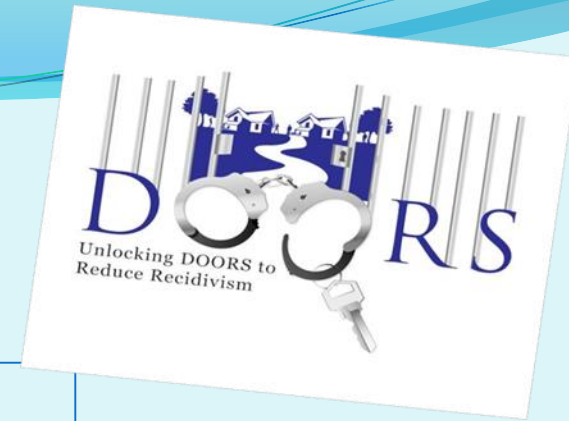
- **Joe is given a targeted custom-made plan of action based on his needs assessment**
- **Needs that may be included in Joe's targeted custom-made plan are: substance abuse treatment; health care, including mental health and dental; transportation needs; housing; legal issues; food and clothing; employment and job readiness; and the like (there are so many more that could be included based on Joe's needs assessment inventory)**



**DOORS then sends Joe to the appropriate service providers and resources in the community with which DOORS has partnered which match up with Joe's needs via his targeted custom-made plan**

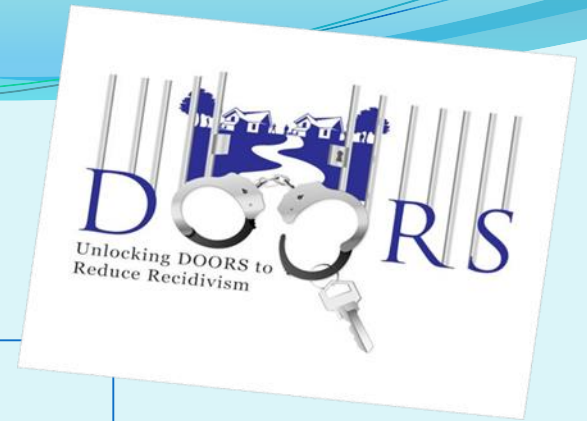
**A DOORS Case Manager tracks and monitors Joe's progress in working through his targeted custom-made plan for up to four (4) years so as to assure that Joe makes it through his plan of action and succeeds**





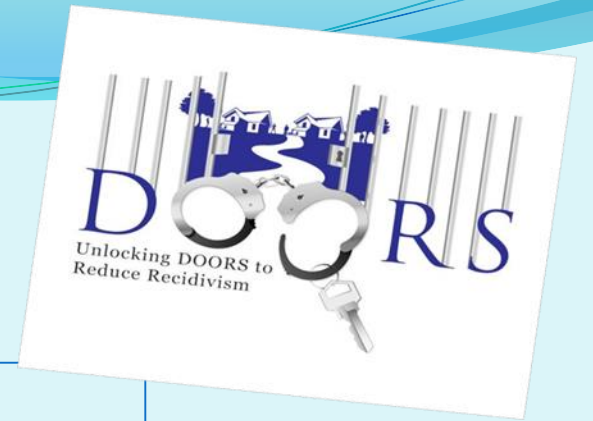
- **If Joe falls short of meeting his goals, DOORS is there to help him get back up, stay accountable and move forward; all the time, indicating to Joe that HE is the one that has to make it work**





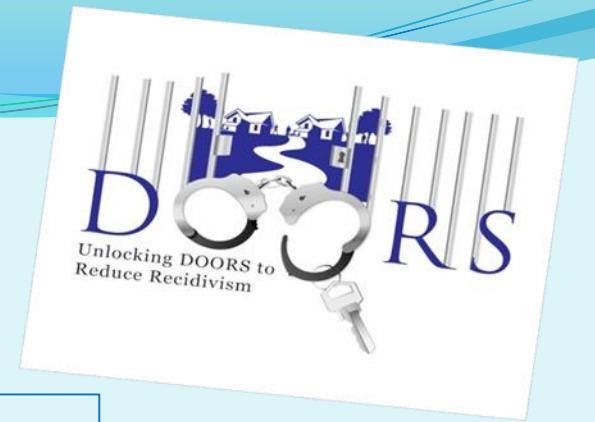
- **DOORS is about giving a “hand up” NOT a “hand out”**
  - **The offender is held accountable every step of the way**
  - **If he or she cannot show the commitment needed to succeed, they are asked to move on; always keeping the door open to them returning should they feel they can be committed to the plan at that point in time**
  - **DOORS is about helping those that are committed to moving forward with their lives**





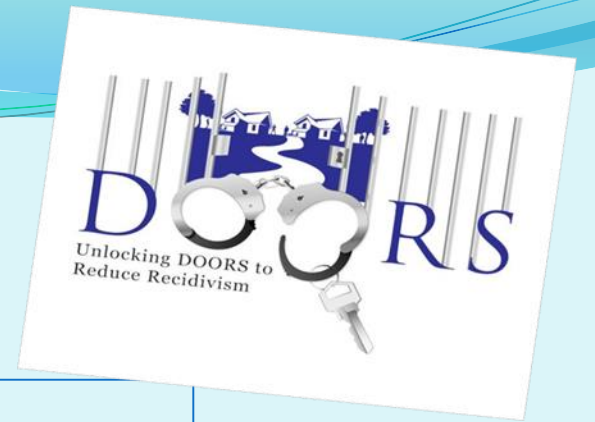
- But the needs of the formerly incarcerated and those on correctional supervision are...





- as vast and diverse as the variety of doors there are to walk through....





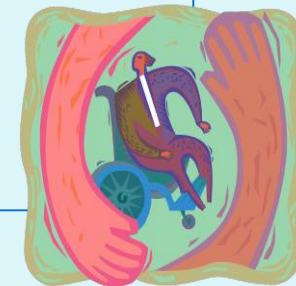
- Therefore, the **KEY** to permanently unlocking the doors for the formerly incarcerated and those on correctional supervision is properly matching them with the services and needs that can truly meet their needs and help them succeed

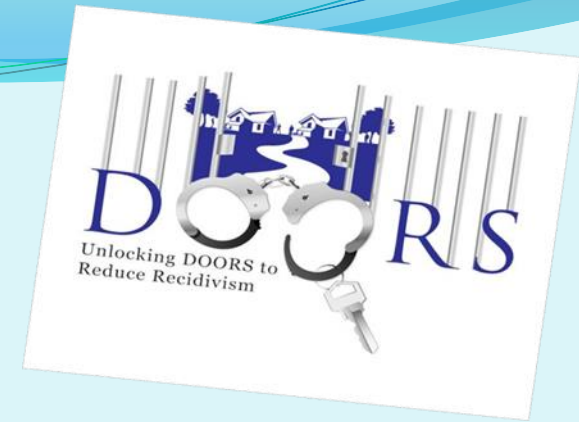




• These needs include, but are not limited to:

- HOUSING
- EMPLOYMENT
- Street Ready documents – driver’s license, birth certificate, identification card, SSN cards, etc.
- Employment
- Transportation
- Food
- Clothing
- Health care, including mental health and dental
- Legal aid – issues include child support, immigration, records expungement, outstanding fines, etc.
- Education – ESL, cognitive, GED, vocational skills
- Childcare





## DOORS PARTNERS AS OF SEPT 1, 2014

**4C Reentry Court – Dallas County, Texas (Hon. Bobby Francis)**

**ABC Behavioral Health, LLC**

**AIDS Services of Dallas**

**AMACHI Texas**

**ATLAS Court Felony Mental Health Court (Achieving True Liberty and Success) – Dallas County, Texas (Hon. Teresa Hawthorne)**

**Attitudes and Attire**

**Big Brothers Big Sisters Lone Star**

**City of Dallas Office of Housing and Community Services**

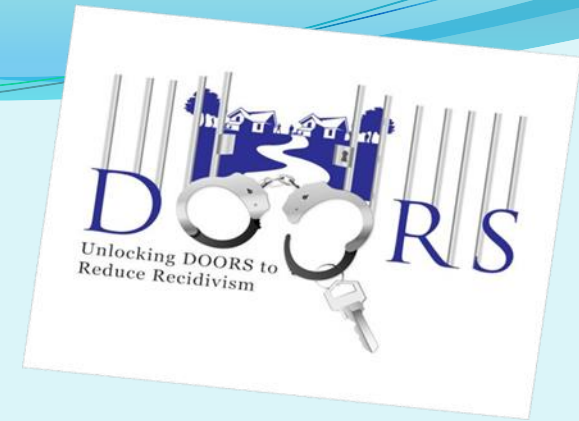
**Clean Connections Transitional House**

**Community Partners of Dallas**

**Community Staffing Services**

**Cornerstone Assistance Network (Tarrant County)**

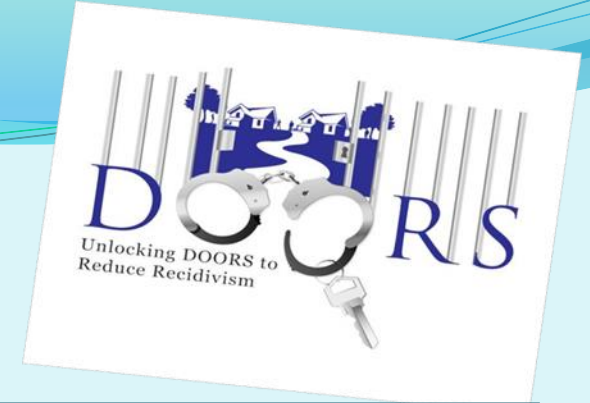
**Cornerstone Baptist Church**



# DOORS PARTNERS

**Dallas County Community Supervision & Corrections Department (CSCD)**  
**Dallas County Criminal Justice Board (CJAB)**  
**Dallas County Jail Diversion**  
**Dallas Leadership Foundation**  
**Dallas Social Venture Partners (DSVP)**  
**Exodus Ministries**  
**Family & Leadership Empowerment Network (FLEN)**  
**The Family Place**  
**Financial Education Network (FEN)**  
**Harmony Community Development Corporation**  
**H.I.S. BridgeBuilders**  
**Legacy Counseling**  
**Metrocare Services, Inc. (MHMR)**  
**Misdemeanor Mental Health Court – Dallas County (Honorable Kristin Wade)**

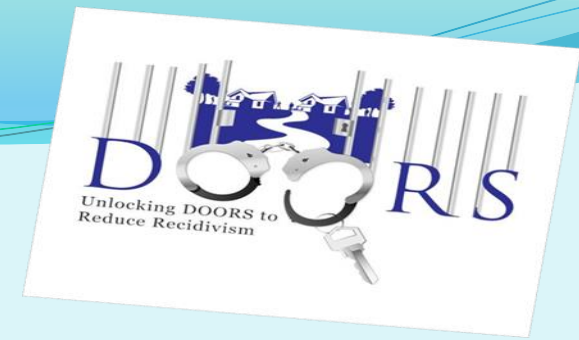
# DOORS PARTNERS



- Mesquite Social Services
- National Alliance on Mental Illness – Dallas (NAMI)
- New Friends New Life
- One Man’s Treasure
- Parkland Health and Hospital System
- Patriot PAWS Service Dogs
- Prison Entrepreneurship Program (PEP)
- Prison Fellowship Ministries
- RAFT Recovery, Inc.
- Road to Recovery
- Safer Dallas Better Dallas, Inc. (SDBD)
- Soul’s Harbor
- STAC Court (Successful Treatment of Addiction through Collaboration) – Dallas County (Honorable Lela Mays)
- STAR Court (Strengthening, Transition and Recovery) – Dallas County (Honorable Lena Levario)
- The Stewpot
- Texas Citizens United for Rehabilitation of Errants (TX-CURE)
- Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS)

- Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) –
  - TDCJ GO KIDS
  - TDCJ Parole Division
  - TDCJ Reentry and Integration Division
- Texas HOPE Literacy, Inc.
- Texas Inmate Families Association (TIFA)
- Texas Offenders Reentry Initiative (T.O.R.I.) – MEDC/The Potter’s House, Inc.
- University of North Texas System/UNT Dallas College of Law
- Urban League of Greater Dallas
- Volunteers of America Texas/Resolana
- The Way Back House/Intercomm
- Windham School District (WSD-TDCJ)
- Zan Holmes Community Outreach Center

# TO DATE, DOORS HAS RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING GRANT AWARDS:



## • GOVERNMENT GRANTS:

- Texas Governor's Criminal Justice Division (CJD) Reentry Grant via TDCJ for creation of the first-ever statewide pre-release reentry program with TDCJ; currently in renewal stage
- U.S. Department of Justice Grant via the City of Dallas
- U.S. Department of Justice Second Chance Grant via the City of Dallas to create and host the first-ever Dallas Reentry Symposium - was held February 25, 2013
- U.S. Department of Justice Grant via Volunteers of America Texas/Resolana (gearing up to begin)

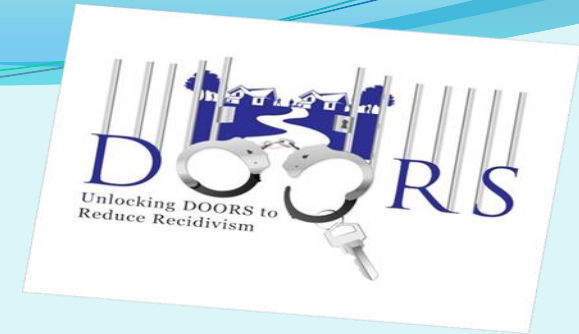


## • FOUNDATION GRANTS:

- The Dallas Foundation
- The Dallas Association of Young Lawyers Foundation
- The Dallas Bar Foundation
- The Harold Simmons Foundation
- The Meadows Foundation
- The Roy & Christine Sturgis Charitable & Educational Trust
- The Texas Bar Foundation
- The Westcott Foundation

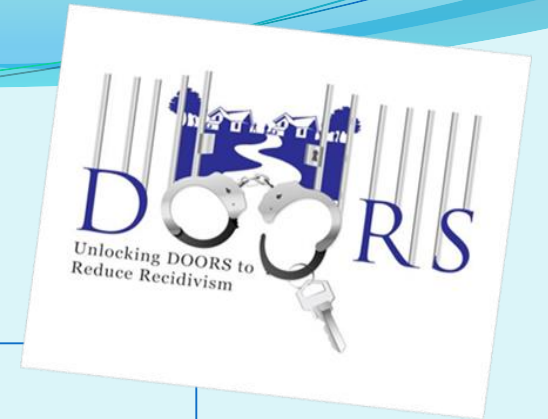


# DOORS IS “AT THE TABLE” IN THE COMMUNITY



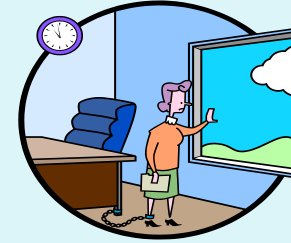
- **Chairs the Dallas County Criminal Justice Advisory Board (CJAB) Reentry Subcommittee**
- **Represented on the Dallas County Behavioral Health Leadership Team**
  - **Represented on the Housing Workgroup Chaired by Dallas County Commissioner Theresa Daniel**
- **Represented on the Safer Dallas Better Dallas Executive Board of Directors**
- **Involved in the Senate District 23 Workforce Development Advisory Committee initiated by Texas State Senator Royce West**

# DOORS WORKING WITHIN THE COURT AND COMMUNITY SUPERVISION SYSTEMS



- **DOORS works with clients from the following courts and correctional supervision systems to assure that they are connected to the appropriate services:**
  - **U.S. Federal District Courts/U.S. Probation Department;**
  - **Dallas County Criminal District and County Courts;**
  - **Dallas County Specialty/Diversion Courts;**
  - **TDCJ Parole Division – Dallas Regional Office;**
  - **Dallas County Community Supervision and Corrections Dept. (Probation)**



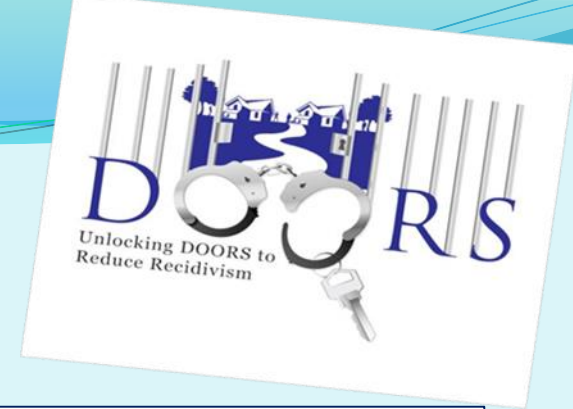


## TDCJ PRE-RELEASE PROGRAM (STATEWIDE)

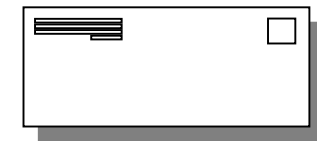
- \* The TDCJ Pre-release Program, in its pilot stage, comprises the female units located in Gatesville and Marlin: Crain, Hilltop, Hobby, Mountain View, Murray, and Woodman.
- \* Starting with female offenders so that we can maximize the impact due to many of these offenders having children in the free world.
- \* Rolled out in October 2014 working with the TDCJ Reentry Offices, Windham School District and the Unit Wardens
- \* A DOORS Case Manager located in the Gatesville area manages the assessments and case plans for the offenders. Assessments/Case plans are sent to DOORS' Dallas office for processing – linking the client's needs with the partners, organizations, etc. that the offender's specific case plan calls for; everything will be in place once the offender is released from TDCJ and arrives in Dallas. An appointment with a DOORS case manager in Dallas is scheduled by the DOORS Gatesville case manager prior to the offender's release so that they know where and when they are to report to begin their DOORS case management.
- \* We are in the stages of renewing this grant to expand to Huntsville to begin serving male units pre-release.



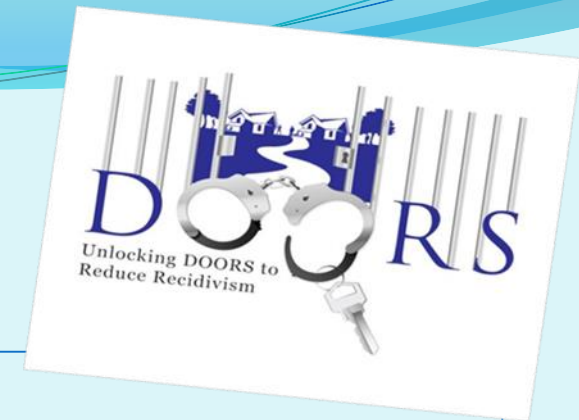
# DOORS/TDCJ LETTER INITIATIVE



- DOORS placed an ad in *The ECHO* several months back.
- To date, DOORS has received over **3,000** letters from TDCJ offenders, as well as those incarcerated in Federal, county and transitional facilities, wishing to find out more about DOORS and how we can help them succeed once they are released.
- DOORS has responded to every letter with information as to where they can reach us once released.
- DOORS has created a database indicating every offender who has written us, with their pertinent information
- Once an offender comes to DOORS upon release, we document whether they heard about us through *The ECHO*
- DOORS has already received a number of clients from this initiative



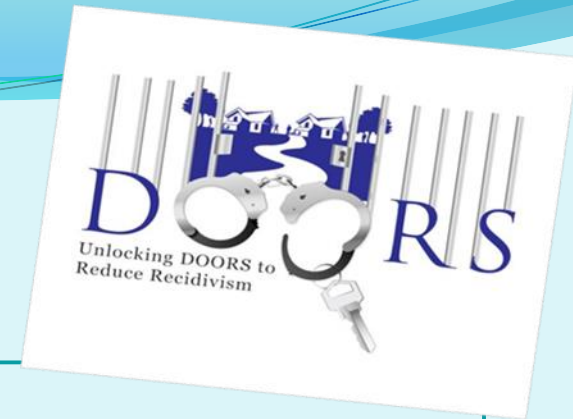
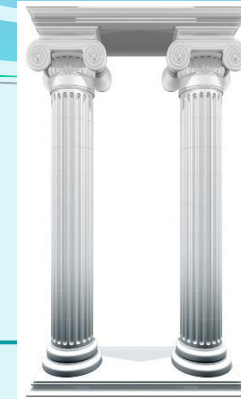
# DALLAS REENTRY SYMPOSIUM



- **FIRST EVER SYMPOSIUM IN DALLAS**
- 300 attendees from all areas of the criminal justice arena
- DOORS received funding from the City of Dallas to coordinate and host this symposium
- Date: Monday, February 25, 2013
- Location: The Sheraton Downtown
- Attendee fee: \$45; \$55 at the door
- Full day agenda of workshops, high profile speakers, a book signing and a FIPS panel all centered around reentry
- **DOORS will be hosting its second symposium in February 2015**

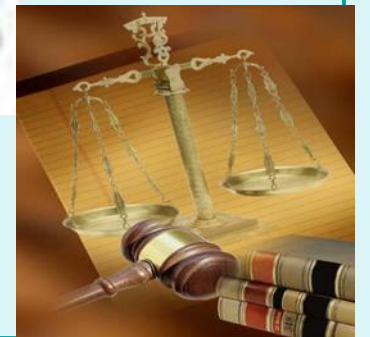


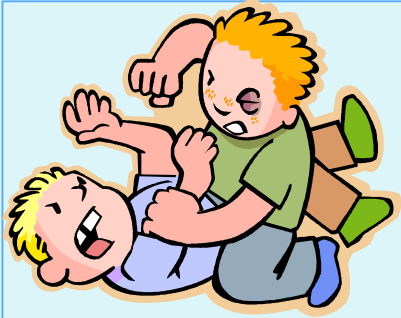
# DOORS COLLABORATION WITH NEW UNT DALLAS COLLEGE OF LAW



## DOORS has collaborated with the newly formed UNT Dallas College of Law as community partner

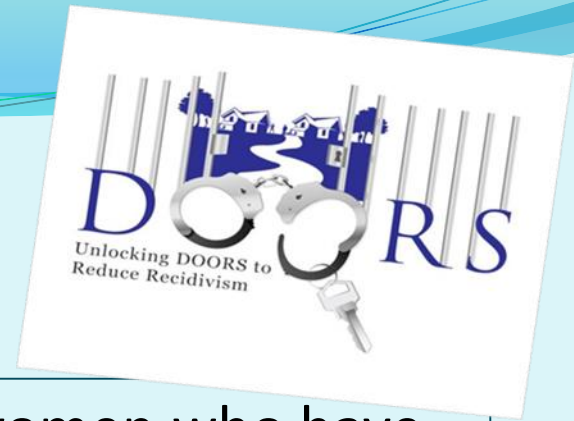
- DOORS has received six (6) interns from the 1L Class to assist with the following:
  - Client intake
  - Client scheduling
  - Client folder assembly and processing
  - DOORS Partner needs





# DOORS JUVENILE PROGRAM

- DOORS plans to begin a juvenile program within the next year
- The Program will pilot with juveniles who:
  - Were tried as an adult
  - Are aging out of the juvenile system



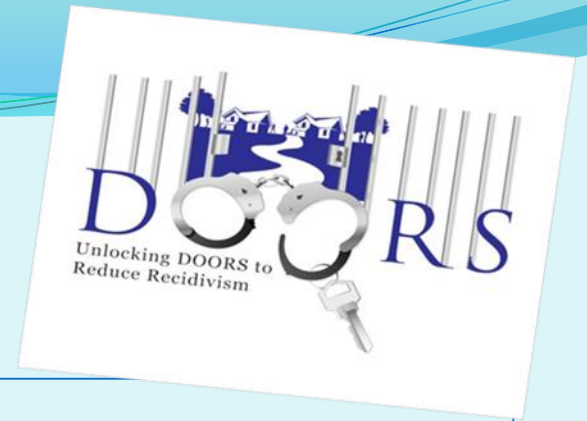
## DOORS WIN (WOMEN IN NEED) SUPPORT GROUP

- DOORS is in the process of creating an ongoing support group for women who have been formerly incarcerated or are under some form of correctional supervision (parole and probation)
- Funding has been requested from the Dallas Women's Foundation to establish this support group
- The focus will be helping these women, many of whom are single parents, establish their roots more firmly by participating in twice a month classes and sessions which will include everything from childcare, housing, transportation, family support, benefits, and employment



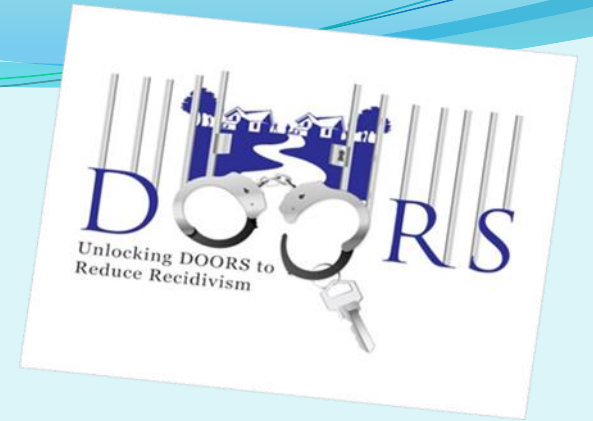


# BOTTOM LINE -

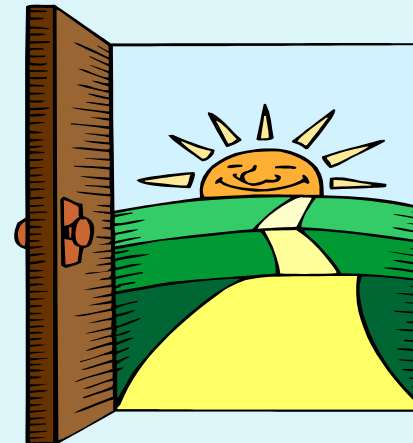


- **With more than 70,000 plus FIPS returning from prisons, and state and county jails to our Texas communities annually, it is vital that we provide the assistance to help make their reentry into the free world and their future one that is clear from further involvement with the law**
- **DOJ findings showing that children of FIPS are 70% more likely of becoming involved in the criminal justice system**
- **Assuring that the parents of these children get a fresh start and do not reoffend, we in turn give these children the chance for a brighter future, creating healthier families**
- **Therefore, by helping one person, we help families and generations to come!!!!!!!**

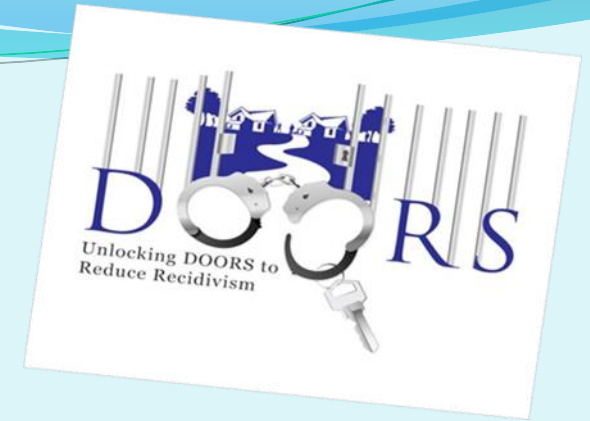
# OUR MOTTO



- **WHEN DOORS OPEN, LIVES CHANGE**



# CONTACT US:



Christina Melton Crain  
President and CEO

DOORS

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