

BOOST TOGETHER FOR CHILDREN

GOAL

To work in collaboration with citizens to improve the lives of children and families in Boone and Story Counties.

PRIORITIES

- Providing, enhancing or expanding affordable, quality, accessible childcare
- Preschool Services
 - Home visitation
 - Parent support services
 - Crisis childcare
 - Infant Care

MISSION

The mission of the Boost Together for Children Board is to help individuals and their communities to improve the well-being of children, ages birth to 5, and their families.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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CHILDREN IN BOONE AND STORY COUNTIES

- **6,500** NUMBER OF CHILDREN 0-5 IN BOONE AND STORY COUNTIES
- **40%** THE PERCENT OF CHILDREN ELIGIBLE FOR FREE AND REDUCED LUNCH
- **357** THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN WHO WERE ABUSED OR NEGLECTED IN 2011 IN BOONE AND STORY COUNTIES
- **2000** (THE NUMBER OF DAYS FROM BIRTH TO ENTERING KINDERGARTEN)

BOOST TOGETHER FOR CHILDREN



A preschooler shares a learning activity with her sister at a family day held by her class. Boost Together for Children funding helps to support preschool programs throughout Boone and Story Counties.

“Community Planning for Children and Families”

PURPOSE

Early childhood is a time of rapid growth and development. It is important to give children safe and stimulating environments to help them achieve all they are capable of. The purpose of Boost Together for Children is to help families of children birth to age 5 find affordable, high quality care and education services.

It is expected that helping young children get off to a good start will benefit the family and society as a whole. Quality childcare environments are best achieved when individuals and their communities, governments, and private agencies work collaboratively within communities.

We believe that individuals in local communities working together will identify and implement the best means for attaining this goal. The role of the Early Childhood Iowa Board, state agencies, and the local Boost Together for Children Board is to help communities create safe and supportive settings to raise our children.

For more information, visit the Boost Together for Children Web Site
www.boostforchildren.org.

For more information about Early Childhood Iowa, visit
www.state.ia.us/earlychildhood/

FUNDED SERVICES

- Home visiting programs, such as Parents as Teachers and Healthy Futures
- Preschool Scholarships for eligible families
- Training for childcare providers
- Quality

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- **ELM STREET PRESCHOOL**
- **AMES COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**
- **IOWA STATE LAB SCHOOL**
- **LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES**
- **MCCALLSBURG PRESCHOOL**
- **MID IOWA COMMUNITY ACTION**
- **ORCHARD PLACE**
- **PARENTING WAY**
- **ST PAUL LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL**
- **SMALL MIRACLES PRESCHOOL**
- **TIGER TOTS PRESCHOOL**
- **TRINITY LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL**
- **UNIVERSITY CHILDCARE**
- **UNITED SCHOOL DISTRICT**
- **YOUTH AND SHELTER SERVICES**

BOOST TOGETHER FOR

CHILDREN

VISION STATEMENT

Boost Together for Children envisions communities that have the capacity and commitment that leads to:

- *Healthy Children*
- *Children Ready to Succeed in School*
- *Secure and Nurturing Child Care Environments*
- *Secure and Nurturing Families, and*
- *A Safe and Supportive Community*

Area Served

&

History of Development

What is known today as Early Childhood Iowa began in 1998 as Iowa Community Empowerment. Its goal was to work directly with local communities to build on what they were already doing to provide quality child care services. On July 1, 2012 the Boone and Story County Empowerment Boards combined to form Boost Together for Children. The combined board serves all of Boone and Story Counties. It includes the following school districts: Ames, Boone, Collins-Maxwell, Colo-Nesco, Ballard-Huxley, Roland-Story, Gilbert, Madrid, Ogden, Nevada and United.

Why Do We Need a TJC Approach?

Focusing on reentry from jail presents an opportunity to have a significant impact: there are 13 million releases from jail each year.

The jail population has numerous challenges:

- 68% have a substance abuse problem
- 60% did not graduate high school
- 30% were unemployed at arrest
- 16% suffer from mental illness
- 14% were homeless in previous year

Treatment/service capacity in jails is limited.

Reentry planning is complex:

- The jail population is highly diverse, housing pre-trial and sentenced probation and parole violators, and local, state and federal inmates
- Length of stay is short: 80% stay less than one month

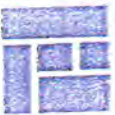
No single designated organization or individual is responsible for facilitating transition and managing risks after release.

With 3,365 jails in the United States, policy reform is challenging.

Transition from Jail to Community is an initiative of:



National Institute of Corrections



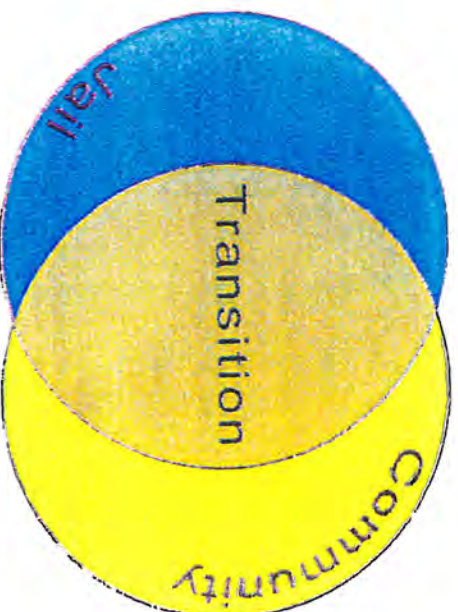
URBAN INSTITUTE
Justice Policy Center

For more information:
www.jailtransition.com

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www.nicic.org/JailTransition

The Transition from Jail to Community Initiative



... to improve public safety and reintegration outcomes

TJC Overview

The *Transition from Jail to Community* (TJC) initiative was launched in 2007 by the National Institute of Corrections (NIC). NIC and the Urban Institute developed a transition model to address how local reentry collaboratives can implement effective transition strategies.

Six learning sites were selected to implement the model: Davidson County, TN; Denver County, CO; Douglas County, KS; Kent County, MI; and Orange County, CA. Technical assistance tools will be developed for jurisdictions across the country.

TJC Goals

The TJC initiative team will work with six jurisdictions to improve public safety and enhance reintegration. Target outcomes include:

- reduced reoffending
- reduced substance abuse
- reduced homelessness
- improved health
- increased employment
- increased family connectedness
- increased systems collaboration

The Transition from Jail to Community Initiative



TJC is about Systems Change

Leadership, vision, and organizational culture to set expectations and empower stakeholders and staff.

Collaborative structure and joint ownership by both jail and community stakeholders to develop and share responsibility for joint outcomes of interest.

Data-driven understanding of the local issue, including characteristics of the returning population and local barriers and assets.

Targeted intervention strategies to assess individuals, plan for release, and provide services and training in jail and in the community.

Self-evaluation and sustainability to guide and improve the effort.

TJC Targeted Interventions

Screening and assessment to quickly determine an inmate's risks and needs and guide transition planning and service provision.

Transition case plan development to prepare individuals for release and reintegration.

Tailored transition interventions that begin in jail and continue after release.

Interventions will:

- enlist multiple service sectors;
- involve community "in reach" to build relationships before release;
- utilize low-cost interventions such as reentry resource guides;
- involve informal support networks; and
- enhance the role that supervision can play, when applicable.

Targeted Intervention Strategies:

1. Apply screening instruments to all jail entrants.
2. Apply risk/needs assessment instrument(s) to selected jail entrants.
3. Produce transition case plans for selected jail entrants.
4. Provide resource packets to all jail inmates upon release.
5. Deliver in-jail interventions to selected inmates.
6. Deliver community interventions to selected released inmates.
7. Provide case management to selected jail entrants.
8. Provide mentors to selected individuals.

Figure 1: Targeted Intervention Filter

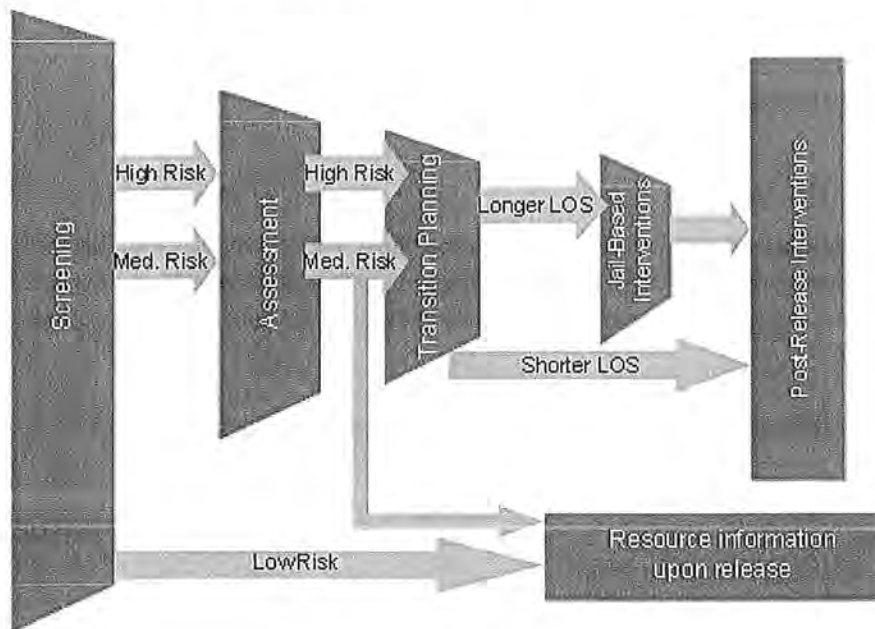


Figure 1 summarizes the relationships among screening, assessment, transition planning, and jail and community interventions and their usual ordering in time. Note that individuals identified as high and medium risk during screening are tracked to assessment, unlike those screened as low risk. Whether interventions will begin in the jail or in the community will depend on length of stay (LOS).

Four main benefits of implementing the TJC model:

Benefit 1: Long-Term Public Safety

Communities become unsafe when those discharged from jail with high risk and need are not identified and prepared properly for release, supervised, or supported in the community.

Public safety TJC strategies include

- Implement transition planning during incarceration to facilitate successful transition to the community when the person is released.
- Provide law enforcement with information on which releases from the county's correctional facility (jail) are on probation, subject to curfews, or have other conditions for which police officers can hold them accountable.
- Transition substance abusers directly to outpatient or residential substance abuse facilities. Every day addicts are sober is a day they will not resort to illegal activities to support their habits and a day they will manage their thoughts and actions to stay out of trouble.
- Provide regular forums to discuss needs of inmates transitioning from jails to communities.

Benefit 2: Cost Effectiveness

The TJC model allows you to use your dollars and your resources in a more cost-effective way by identifying partners for collaboration. Sharing resources can save time and resources—particularly important in times of budgetary constraints. In the long term, collaborative partnerships that reduce recidivism and public health problems add up to substantial savings.

There are many examples of how the TJC model's focus on collaboration can reduce unnecessary costs:

- Partners can conduct joint training and purchase shared resources.
- Partners can coordinate service provision to target interventions for the most appropriate offenders, address service gaps, and avoid service redundancies.
- Community options can be used to intervene with low-risk, high-need people, rather than incarcerating them.
- Efforts for low-risk, low-need individuals can focus on enhancing pro-social engagement within jobs, communities, and relationships, rather than on incarcerating people.
- Lower recidivism rates can reduce the need for costly jail beds.

Benefit 3: Improved Individual Outcomes

Most individuals in jails have co-occurring needs, so the TJC model is designed to put an infrastructure in place to help motivated individuals effectively address their risk and needs. Such an infrastructure at the agency level benefits recently released individuals who want to take ownership of their transition and recovery plans.

Benefit 4: Resource Expansion

"The whole is greater than the sum of the parts" describes the synergy that can occur when agencies adopt the TJC model. Agencies that operate in "silos" that don't interact with outside partners agencies can't compete with agency collaboration that pools knowledge and resources from across agencies and organizations. Jails can play a key role in this relationship, offering a framework that reinforces, regularizes, and rationalizes the notion of working together for the good of society.