



The College and Community Fellowship
JustLeadershipUSA
The Center for Community Alternatives

EIO Coalition Fact Sheet

The **Education from the Inside Out Coalition (EIO)**, led by the College and Community Fellowship, JustLeadershipUSA and the Center for Community Alternatives, is committed to the removal of barriers to higher education facing individuals with criminal justice involvement, including currently and formerly incarcerated individuals.

Why Higher Education Matters

Providing incarcerated persons with access to higher education reduces recidivism and the related costs of crime and imprisonment, and increases opportunities for employment after release. Education transforms lives, reduces poverty, and strengthens communities. While nationwide 43.3% of formerly incarcerated individuals are likely to return to prison within three years of release, the likelihood drops to 5.6% for Bachelor's degree recipients and less than 1% for Master's degree recipients. When formerly incarcerated persons gain employment, they are far less likely to rely on public assistance. Governments, in turn, can divert funds that would have been used to build and maintain correctional facilities to other areas, such as public education or social services.

EIO Coalition Campaigns

Ban the Box in Higher Education: EIO supports efforts to end the use of criminal history screenings of applicants during the admission process at colleges and universities. Over the past decade, colleges and universities across the United States, including the State University of New York (SUNY), have increasingly included criminal history screenings in their admissions processes. These policies are being implemented despite the fact that there is virtually no evidence to suggest that past criminal histories of students are relevant risk factors that affect the rate of crime on campuses. At best, these screenings serve no legitimate purpose and at their worst, threaten to roll back the gains of *Brown vs. Board of Education* and violate the spirit of educational opportunity for all.

Restore Federal Pell Grant and NY State TAP Grant Eligibility: EIO opposes federal and state bans on need-based financial aid for postsecondary correctional education, including the 1994 federal ban on Pell Grant eligibility for incarcerated students, along with the 1995 New York State ban on Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) grant eligibility. Eliminating these funds decimated in-prison education in federal and state correctional institutions across the United States, to the detriment of students with criminal justice involvement, and despite the effectiveness of these programs on reducing recidivism. Nationally, postsecondary correctional education programs fell from 350 to eight, and in New York State from 70 to four.

To learn more about the **Education from the Inside Out Coalition**, or to become a member of the Coalition, please visit us at www.eiocoalition.org and click "Contact Us."

The Education from the Inside Out Coalition is a nonpartisan collaborative of criminal justice and education advocates, led by the College and Community Fellowship, JustLeadershipUSA, and the Center for Community Alternatives. Our mission is to remove barriers to higher education funding facing students in prisons, both in New York State and nationwide.



THE COLLEGE & COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP

College and Community Fellowship (CCF) is unique among organizations aimed at helping people reclaim their lives after criminal conviction. Many programs try to address the basic needs of people returning to the community after conviction and prison, but only CCF guides them through the stages of higher education while promoting their leadership, self-advocacy, artistic expression, civic participation and long-term economic security. We see beyond reentry. We see limitless possibilities for our participants, their families and their communities.

Visit www.collegeandcommunity.org to learn more.



THE CENTER FOR COMMUNITY ALTERNATIVES

The Center for Community Alternatives (CCA) is a leader in the field of community-based alternatives to incarceration and reentry. CCA's mission is to promote reintegrative justice and a reduced reliance on incarceration through advocacy, services and public policy development in pursuit of civil and human rights.

CCA's work takes it into the neglected places of America – its ghettos and prisons – the places that many prefer to keep secret. CCA is committed to its responsibility to speak out, not only for progressive alternatives to the criminal justice system but also against those policies and practices that create barriers for people with criminal history records to personal development, transformation, and reintegration back into the community in a healthy, productive and fulfilling way.

Visit www.communityalternatives.org to learn more.



JUSTLEADERSHIPUSA

JustLeadershipUSA (JLUSA) is dedicated to cutting the US prison population in half by the year 2030 while reducing crime. JLUSA empowers people most affected by incarceration to drive policy reform.

Visit www.justleadershipusa.org to learn more.