



About EIO Coalition: The Education from the Inside Out Coalition (EIO) is a nonpartisan collaborative of advocates whose mission is to remove barriers to higher education facing individuals with criminal justice involvement, including current and formerly incarcerated individuals. We seek to educate policymakers and advocate for policy change in order to re-establish the opportunity for people to earn college degrees while in prison and after. Why? Because providing higher education to incarcerated students has been proven to reduce recidivism, strengthen underserved communities, increase employment, and reduce poverty.

EIO Member

Key Characteristics: organizations and individuals that support the goals of the EIO Coalition and its campaign strategies, and participate regularly in the coalition's activities.

Responsibilities:

Basic Requirements for Membership include:

- Sign on to EIO Coalition mission and campaigns;
- Participate in at least 2 quarterly coalition meetings per year (in person or via phone);
- Join a working group and participate in at least 6 monthly meetings per year (in person or via phone);
- Agree to be listed on EIO materials and website;
- Join mailing list and receive e-newsletters, etc.

Members are encouraged to:

- Sign on to EIO position statements, letters and endorsements on a case by case basis;
- Mobilize in some manner for EIO actions and events;
- Join and take-on leadership on campaign strategy;
- Conduct outreach to bring on new members.

Decision-making

Members shape EIO decisions through consistent input and feedback in coalition and working group meetings and correspondences that go into recommendations for approval by co-sponsors.

Benefits:

- Access and/or contribute to data and research on best practices compiled by EIO and members;
- Participate in discussions that will shape policy recommendations, campaign statements and publications;
- Increased visibility on EIO materials, including web, etc.;
- Participation in quarterly coalition meetings, monthly working group meetings, and events;
- Access to trainings and resources;
- Invitation to convenings.

EIO Supporter

Key Characteristics: organizations and individuals that support the goals of the EIO Coalition and its campaign strategies and participate in coalition activities and campaigns as their capacity allows.

Responsibilities

- Join the mailing list and receive e-newsletters, announcements, etc.;
- Participate in actions and events;
- Sign statements and letters on a case by case basis;
- Expand support base and build solidarity.

Decision Making

- Do not shape or make decisions.

Benefits:

- Access and/or contribute to data and research on best practices compiled by EIO and members;
- Participation in quarterly coalition meetings, monthly working group meetings, and events;
- Access to trainings and resources;
- Invitation to convenings.

EIO Coalition and Working Group Structure

General Coalition Meetings: EIO is committed to the removal of barriers to higher education facing individuals with criminal justice involvement, including current and formerly incarcerated individuals. The entire coalition meets quarterly to report back on working group progress, discuss overall strategy, and continue to build as a group.

EIO Coalition Working Group meet monthly to work on base building, develop strategy and implement direct action to move the campaigns forward in concrete ways.

- 1) Campaign to End Criminal History Screenings in College Admissions:** 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. **Join this working group to help build a base of support and pass legislation to remove the criminal history box from college applications.**
- 2) Campaign to 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. **Join this working group to help build a base of support and pass legislation to restore need based financial aid to incarcerated students.**

Check Calendar for the date of the next working group meeting.

*To learn more about the **Education from the Inside Out Coalition**, or to become a member or supporter of the Coalition, please visit our website at www.eiocoalition.org.*

Education from the Inside Out Coalition Co-sponsors



JustLeadershipUSA is dedicated to cutting the US prison population in half by 2030 while reducing crime. JLUSA empowers people most affected by incarceration to drive policy reform. <https://www.justleadershipusa.org/>



Founded in 2000, **College and Community Fellowship (CCF)** is dedicated to assisting women achieve college and graduate school degrees after their release from prison as a critical step in their transition to fully-contributing members of society. CCF offers academic assistance, leadership opportunities, peer and community support to women who are committed to maximizing their potential through education and who are negotiating post-prison issues of family reunification, employment, permanent housing and schooling. For more information, visit www.collegeandcommunity.org today!



Center for Community Alternatives, Inc.

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. For more information, visit CCA's website at www.communityalternatives.org today!