

We believe that continued growth of the prison population is neither sustainable nor inevitable.

In response to community concerns about the financial, social and racial impact of prison growth, the Colorado Criminal Justice Reform Coalition (CCJRC) formed in 1999 as a nonprofit advocacy, community organizing, and research organization. We work to develop criminal justice policies and grassroots campaigns that effectively promote public safety and rehabilitation without relying on further prison expansion. CCJRC also unconditionally opposes the use of for-profit prisons in Colorado because it is unethical to allow a profit motive in corrections.

We believe that continued growth of the prison population is neither sustainable nor inevitable. In fact, several states have enacted reforms that effectively reduced the prison population without increasing crime.

We also believe that we need to significantly reform drug policy in Colorado. Many individuals and families struggle with addiction, yet Colorado ranks 49th in the nation in funding for substance abuse treatment. Meanwhile, drug offenses now constitute the largest category of crime for which people are incarcerated in Colorado. Not only is our current approach ineffective, inhumane and costly, it is well documented that drug enforcement disproportionately targets poor people and people of color. CCJRC works to develop drug policies that promote recovery, prevention, human rights, and compassion.

About 95% of the people sentenced to prison will eventually be released. Under the present system, many people re-entering society face overwhelming barriers, and most will not be successful. Over 60% of people released on mandatory parole will be re-incarcerated within three years, and this high failure rate is one of the drivers of growth in the prison population. CCJRC works to remove these barriers to the greatest extent possible and advocate for a more effective parole system.



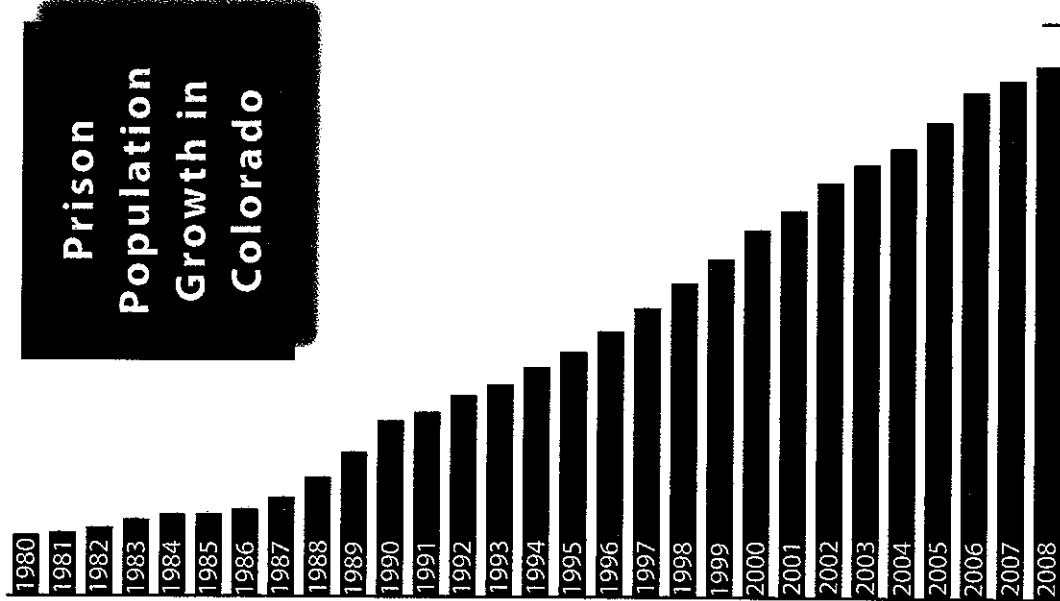
1212 Mariposa Street Suite 6 Denver, CO 80204



**working to
reverse
the trend of
mass
incarceration
in Colorado**

unprecedented growth in the prison population. In order to fund prisons, the Colorado Legislature has cut funding from human services, substance abuse treatment, and education, particularly higher education.

We believe this is a mistake and counterproductive to making communities safer.



- **Educate** the public and policymakers about the effectiveness of alternatives to incarceration
- **Reduce** the barriers to successful re-entry and advocate for a more effective parole system
- **Reform** drug sentencing laws and increase funding for substance abuse treatment
- **Build** a diverse statewide coalition
- **Monitor** and challenge specific prison expansion plans
- **End** the use of private prisons
- **Serve** as a resource for people in prison and their families
- **Educate** people with criminal records about their right to vote

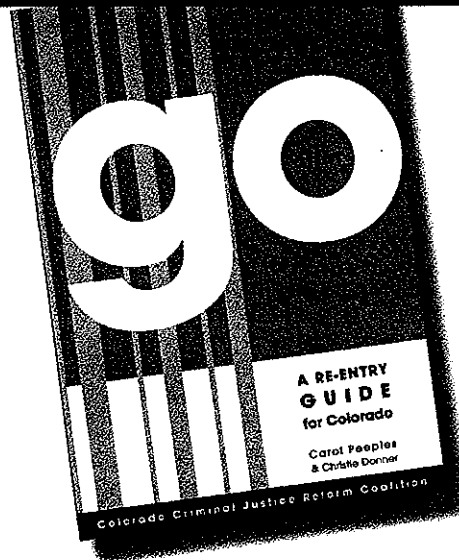
COLORADO CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM COALITION

Christie Donner
executive director

christie@ccjrc.org
303-825-0122
cell 303-956-9603
fax 303-825-0304

1212 Mariposa Street Suite 6 Denver, CO 80204 ccjrc.org





Getting On After Getting Out: A Re-entry Guide for Colorado was written to help people successfully return to society after incarceration. This 200-page book provides extensive information about preparing for release while incarcerated, as well as information necessary after release. *"[It] gave excellent advice on pretty much everything I needed to know for my release,"* writes one incarcerated user of the guide. *"Thank you for helping those incarcerated that are truly changed and just want a chance to prove themselves,"* writes another.

Getting On After Getting Out is also useful for criminal justice system professionals and community service providers. It was written by Carol Peeples, Re-entry Coordinator at CCJRC, and Christie Donner, Executive Director of CCJRC, and may be ordered online at www.ccjrc.org/reentry-guide.html or call CCJRC at 303-825-0122. The cost is \$10 plus \$2.50 shipping and handling.

Parenting from Prison: A Resource Guide for Parents Incarcerated in Colorado provides information to help parents address family issues that may arise as a result of incarceration. Written to help incarcerated parents, *Parenting from Prison* includes chapters on custody arrangements, dependency and neglect, paternity, child support, and tips on how to stay connected with children.

Additional information about *Parenting from Prison* is online at www.ccjrc.org/parenting.html, where it may be downloaded for free or ordered for \$3.

CCJRC Publications (continued)

BOOKLET

My Name is Bob is the story of a man – any man or woman – released from prison and homeless in Denver, Colorado. The story was written by Pam Clifton, Outreach Coordinator at CCJRC, and may be downloaded for free at www.ccjrc.org/publications.html. A printed version of the booklet is also available for \$1.50 from CCJRC.

NEWSLETTER

Colorado Justice Report is CCJRC's quarterly newsletter and one of the benefits of being a CCJRC member. Current and archived issues of the newsletter are available online at www.ccjrc.org/newsletters.html.

FACT SHEETS

CCJRC publishes fact sheets about criminal justice issues. **Colorado Quick Facts** offers at-a-glance facts, stats, and figures about incarceration in Colorado. For additional information, **Colorado Prison Facts** is a longer overview of Colorado's criminal justice system. Both documents may be downloaded for free from the CCJRC website at www.ccjrc.org/publications.html.

BLOG

Think Outside the Cage is a blog maintained by Pam Clifton, Outreach Coordinator at CCJRC. Pam follows numerous newspapers, criminal justice organizations, and other blogs for articles she posts to the CCJRC blog on a daily basis. You may sign up for daily emails at www.thinkoutsidethecage2.blogspot.com/.

COLORADO
CRIMINAL
JUSTICE
REFORM
COALITION

1212 Mariposa Street
Suite 6
Denver, CO 80204
303-825-0122
fax 303-825-0304
info@ccjrc.org

ccjrc.org

Recent Accomplishments

CCRJC has emerged as a vital leader in criminal justice policy reform in Colorado. CCJRC is also building the necessary grassroots political power to see our vision become reality.

Our accomplishments include:

- Published *Getting On After Getting Out: A Re-entry Guide for Colorado* and *Parenting from Prison: A Resource Guide for Parents Incarcerated in Colorado*. Both books are widely distributed for free throughout Colorado's prisons.
- Developed a credible reputation among many bipartisan legislators and conducted numerous briefings at the legislature on the need for sentencing and parole reform and the problems with private prisons.
- Passed five criminal justice reform bills at the state legislature on drug policy and parole reform.
- Conducted over 275 community presentations and presented at numerous judicial, child welfare, and drug policy conferences at the state and national level.
- Partnered with The Piton Foundation, other organizations, and academic experts to conduct an extensive research project on the needs and barriers people face while on parole.
- Partnered with allies to successfully oppose prison/jail expansions in Pueblo, Lamar, Fort Collins, and Ault.
- Launched the first voter education campaign in Colorado about the voting rights of people with a criminal conviction.
- Worked with community groups and city officials on the development of the first Community Re-entry Project in Denver to provide reintegration support to people leaving the Denver County Jail.
- Developed a training program for members on the criminal justice system, the legislative process, and public speaking.



1212 Mariposa Street
Suite 6
Denver, CO 80204
303-825-0122
fax 303-825-0304
info@ccjrc.org

ccjrc.org

Colorado Prison Quick Facts

Prison Population Growth

- Colorado has had unprecedented growth in the prison population. In 1980, there were 2,658 people in prison. By 2009, that number had ballooned to 23,152.
- The state currently has 24 state-run prisons and contracts with private, for-profit companies for 6 additional prisons.
- The increase in the prison population does not parallel the state's general population growth. In 1980, the adult incarceration rate in Colorado was 92 per 100,000 adult residents. By 2008, that number was 506 per 100,000 adult residents.

Cost of Corrections

- In 1985, the Department of Corrections (DOC) budget was \$57 million. In 2009, that amount was \$825 million, almost 9% of the state's general fund budget.
- It costs an average of \$28,759 a year to house someone in prison. The average cost of constructing a prison cell is \$83,360.
- Since 1985, the state has spent over \$700 million on prison construction. One state prison currently under construction will cost over \$100 million to build. The DOC has requested \$400 million to fund new prison construction.

Women in Prison

- The number of women in prison in Colorado has grown dramatically. Between 1993 and 2003, the women's prison population grew by 233.3%, over twice the growth rate of the men's prison population.
- 85% of the women sent to prison in 2006 were convicted of a nonviolent offense, most often a drug offense.

Impact on Children

- It is estimated that over 20,000 children in Colorado currently have a parent in prison.
- Studies show that children with a parent in prison have a much higher likelihood of being incarcerated themselves.

Racial Disparity in Prison

- Latino/as are 17% of Colorado's population but 31% of the prison population. African-Americans are 4% of the Colorado population but nearly 20% of the prison population. Caucasians are 75% of the state's population and 46% of the prison population.

Colorado Prison Quick Facts (continued)

Drug Offenses Drive Prison Growth

- Drug offenses constitute the largest category of crime for which people are incarcerated in Colorado.
- Over the past decade the number of people sent to prison for a drug offense has increased by 476%.
- Colorado is ranked 49th in the country for per capita spending on substance abuse prevention, treatment, and research.

Parole

- One of the largest drivers of growth in the prison population is the re-incarceration of people who were not successful on parole. Nearly 30% of the people admitted to prison in Colorado last year were re-incarcerated for a parole revocation.
- The most recent three-year recidivism rate for people on mandatory parole is 65%. This means that within three years of release from the DOC, two-thirds of the people on mandatory parole returned to prison. The overwhelming majority were re-incarcerated because of a technical parole violation, not for committing a new crime.

Mental Illness in Prison

- An increasing number of people in jails and prisons have a mental illness. In 2008, 21% of the people in prison in Colorado had a serious mental illness. This is more than five times the rate reported in 1991.
- The San Carlos Correctional Facility is a 250-bed prison built specifically for people with serious mental illness. It costs approximately \$62,000 a year to house someone at San Carlos. The Department of Corrections has requested funding to expand San Carlos by another 250 beds.



1212 Mariposa Street
Suite 6
Denver, CO 80204
303-825-0122
fax 303-825-0304
info@ccjrc.org

ccjrc.org

CCJRC Board and Staff

We are over 113 diverse organizations and faith communities and over 5,000 individuals from across the state. People who have been incarcerated and their families make up a significant percentage of our membership, staff, and board of directors. Our supporters also include former prosecutors, judges, prison administrators, and others who work in the criminal justice system and recognize the need for change.

Board of Directors

John Riley

Board President

Joe Mauro

Treasurer

Mardy Wilson

Secretary

Richard Jackson, Ph.D.

Catherine Guerrero

Julia Yoo, Esq.

Staff

Christie Donner

Executive Director

christie@ccjrc.org

Pamela Clifton

Outreach Coordinator

pam@ccjrc.org

Carol Peeples

Re-entry Coordinator

carol@ccjrc.org

COLORADO
**CRIMINAL
JUSTICE
REFORM**
COALITION

1212 Mariposa Street

Suite 6

Denver, CO 80204

303-825-0122

fax 303-825-0304

info@ccjrc.org

ccjrc.org

Endorsing Organizations

Alexandria Temple of Universal
Metaphysics
ACLU of Colorado
American Friends Service
Committee
Amnesty International
Arapahoe House
Bayaud Industries, Inc
Blessed Sacrament Catholic
Church
Boulder Green Alliance
Boulder Unity Church
Brother Jeff's Cultural
Center & Cafe
Carbondale Clay Center
Catholic Charities
Cell Door Magazine
Center for Justice, Peace and
Environment
CHARG Resource Center
Charity's House Ministries
Christian Men's Resource Center
Coloradans Against the Death
Penalty
Colorado Anti-Violence Program
Colorado Black Women for
Political Action
Colorado Coalition Against
Domestic Violence
Colorado Coalition for
the Homeless
Colorado Criminal Defense
Bar Association
Colorado Cuba Information
Project
Colorado CURE
Colorado New Jewish Agenda
Colorado NOW
Colorado Progressive Coalition
Colorado Vincentian Volunteers
Colorado West Regional Mental
Health
Colorado Women's Agenda
Compassionate Use Respects
Everyone
Conflict Center
The Council
Cynergetics Institute
Denver Harm Reduction Project
Denver Inner City Parish
Denver Justice & Peace
Commission
Denver Women's Commission
EAGR Project
End the Politics of Cruelty
Fatherhood Coalition of
Metro Denver
First Congregational Church, UCC
Fort Collins Mennonite Conference
Free Speech TV
Gray Panthers of Colorado
High Desert Greens
It Takes A Village
Jobs with Justice
Killmer, Lane & Newman, LLP
Law Offices of Phil Cherner
Left Hand Book Collective
Libertarian Party of Colorado
Lutheran Office of Governmental
Ministry
Mighty Muse Writing Project
Mountain Forum for Peace
NAACP Region IV Prison Project
National Alliance for the
Mentally Ill
National Lawyers Guild
Neighborhood Rites of Passage
New Foundations Nonviolence
Center
Northern Colorado CURE
Northern Colorado Social
Legislation Network
Open Door Youth Gang
Alternatives
Padres Unidos
PeaceJam Foundation
Peacemaker Institute
Pendulum Foundation
Physicians for Social Responsibility
Pikes Peak Justice & Peace
Commission
Pikes Peak Metropolitan
Community Church
Poudre Valley Greens
Prison Dharma Network
Progress Now Action
Reclaim Democracy
Rocky Mountain Mennonite
Conference
Rocky Mountain Peace &
Justice Center
Safer Choice
Saint Mary's Cathedral
Saint Thomas Aquinas Catholic
Center University Parish
San Luis Valley Christian
Community Services
San Luis Valley Welfare Advocates
School Mediation Center
Second Chance Program
Sensible Colorado
Sopris Greens
Southern Colorado CURE
Summit Greens
Under the Umbrella
Urban League of Denver
Urban League of the
Pikes Peak Region
Victim Offender Reconciliation
Program
Vincentian Center for
Spirituality & Work
Washington Park UCC
Weld County Partners
Women United for Justice
Community
Women's Empowerment Program
Women's Int'l League for
Peace & Freedom
Women's Lobby
Word is Out Women's Bookstore

I have a record. Can I vote?

CCJRC works to educate people in Colorado about the voting rights of people with a criminal conviction. Many people in Colorado believe that once you have a criminal record you can never vote.

This is not true.

Who is eligible to vote in Colorado?

- People with a criminal conviction who have served their sentence, including parole if applicable
- Pretrial detainees in jail
- People currently on probation for either a misdemeanor or felony
- People currently in jail serving a misdemeanor sentence

The following questions and answers are to help you understand how a criminal conviction may or may not affect your right to vote.

I have a criminal conviction in my past. Can I vote? In Colorado, you have the right to vote after you have served your sentence. Remember, if you were incarcerated for a felony, any period of parole is considered part of your sentence. The day you complete your sentence is the day you become eligible to register to vote.

Will I be notified when I'm eligible to vote? No. The right to vote is automatically restored, but you will not be notified.

Do I have to prove I have completed my sentence (including parole) in order to register to vote or to vote? If your name still appears on the database as an incarcerated person, the voting official may ask you for proof that you have completed your sentence, including any parole. It's a good idea to bring your sentence or parole discharge document with you when you register to vote.

What if I was convicted for a crime in another state? Election law varies from state to state, so your right to vote is determined by the state in which you live. If you are a resident of Colorado and if you have completed your sentence, including parole, you can vote.

Can I vote? (continued)

If I was convicted of a federal crime, do I have the right to vote in a federal election? It does not matter if you were convicted in a state or federal court. Once you are eligible to vote in Colorado, you are eligible to vote in both state and federal elections.

Do I have to pay off all of my restitution before I can vote? No. Payment of restitution is not a condition of voting eligibility.

Do I have the right to vote if I am currently on probation? Yes. If you are on probation for either a misdemeanor or felony you may register to vote and cast your vote in any election.

Do I have the right to vote if I am in jail? If you are serving a misdemeanor sentence in jail, you have the right to register to vote and vote in any election. The same is true if on the date of the election you are in jail as a pretrial detainee and have not yet been convicted. In order to vote, you will need to contact the clerk in the county of your legal residence and ask for a *Colorado-Combination Voter Registration and Mail-in Ballot Application*. (You can do this on your own or you may be able to get the form through jail personnel. An administrator in the jail where you are detained will also have to certify that you are eligible to vote.) If you are not registered to vote, you will need to register before the deadline.

Make sure you understand whether you are eligible to vote. It is a class five felony to register to vote or vote in an election for which you are not legally eligible.

If you think you are eligible to vote and are told you may not by an election clerk, please contact the Secretary of State's office for help. Their telephone number is (303) 894-2200. You may also contact CCJRC at (303) 825-0122 for assistance.

**COLORADO
CRIMINAL
JUSTICE
REFORM
COALITION**

1212 Mariposa Street
Suite 6
Denver, CO 80204
303-825-0122
fax 303-825-0304
info@ccjrc.org

ccjrc.org

Please join CCJRC today!

Yes I want to stop the runaway growth in the prison population!

Our supporters make CCJRC politically powerful. When you talk to elected officials they don't want to know who you are, they want to know how MANY you are. When you join, you increase our political influence. You will receive our quarterly newsletter *Colorado Justice Report*, action alerts, and announcements about community meetings and events.

Your support makes all the difference.

CCJRC is a nonprofit organization and contributions are tax-deductible.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Phone number _____

- Low Income/Senior/Student \$15
- Individual \$35 Household \$50
- Prisoner \$3 Sustainer \$100+
- Other Amount _____
- My check is enclosed (made payable to CCJRC)

Please charge my credit card:

- Once Monthly Quarterly

Credit card # _____

Expiration date _____

I want to be a CCJRC Freedom Fighter!

Please charge my credit card monthly

for \$ _____

Please return form to the address below or join online at ccjrc.org.



1212 Mariposa Street
Suite 6
Denver, CO 80204
303-825-0122
fax 303-825-0304
info@ccjrc.org

ccjrc.org