



MANHATTAN INSTITUTE FOR POLICY RESEARCH

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MANHATTAN INSTITUTE HELPS INSPIRE GOV. CHRISTIE PRISONER REENTRY INITIATIVE

New York, NY – A reform plan to reduce recidivism and increase employment among New Jersey ex-offenders, announced yesterday by Governor Chris Christie, was inspired in part by a Manhattan Institute analysis of the state’s parole and corrections system. The Institute white paper, “Prisoner Reentry Services in New Jersey: A Plan to Reduce Recidivism,” was submitted to the governor earlier this year and recommended a statewide reentry coordinator’s position, housed in the governor’s office, inter-agency cooperation to reduce recidivism, and a performance management system to track results.

“We applaud Governor Christie for his leadership on this issue that affects not only the state of New Jersey, but every state in America. At a time when there is a record number of offenders behind bars, we desperately need better ways to encourage those being released from prison to get and keep jobs and be successfully reunited with their families,” said Howard Husock, vice president for policy research at the Manhattan Institute and one of the co-authors of the white paper.

Several key aspects of the Manhattan Institute’s white paper were included in Governor Christie’s reform policy including its emphasis on tracking outcomes for ex-offenders and centralizing oversight. The report is a starting point that would focus the state as it considers new policy solutions.

The analysis builds on a pilot program—the Newark Prisoner Reentry Initiative—on which the Manhattan Institute worked with Mayor Cory Booker. Nationwide, nearly 700,000 prisoners are released annually. If historic trends hold, nearly two-thirds will be reincarcerated within three years. In an effort to stop this trend and improve the quality of life for citizens in affected communities, the Newark Prisoner Reentry Initiative became a new model for prisoner reentry policy in America.

The Manhattan Institute has long been committed to finding ways of drawing the disadvantaged into the social and economic mainstream, through the time-honored American combination of free markets and personal initiative.

“Prisoner Reentry Services in New Jersey: A Plan to Reduce Recidivism” is available at http://www.manhattan-institute.org/html/cci_moving_men_into_the_mainstream.htm

Howard Husock is vice president for policy research at the Manhattan Institute, where he is also director of its Social Entrepreneurship Initiative and a *City Journal* contributing editor. From 1987 through 2006, Husock served as director of case studies in public policy and management at Harvard University’s Kennedy School of Government, where he was also a fellow at the Hauser Center on Nonprofit Organizations. His writing has appeared in the *Wall Street Journal*, *National Affairs*, *Society* magazine, the *Chronicle of Philanthropy*, *The Public Interest*, and *Townhall.com*.

To schedule an interview with Howard Husock, please contact Kasia Zabawa at (646) 839-3342 or kzabawa@manhattan-institute.org.