



TEXAS CRIMINAL  
JUSTICE COALITION

## **A New Start: A Re-Entry Guide for Texas** *Key Information for Successful Reintegration*

To download the complete guide, please visit:

[www.criminaljusticecoalition.org/tools\\_for\\_re\\_entry/reentryguide](http://www.criminaljusticecoalition.org/tools_for_re_entry/reentryguide)

### **Re-Entry Resources for South Texas**

**THE FOLLOWING PAGES CONTAIN RESOURCES WITH CONTACT INFORMATION FOR ORGANIZATIONS THAT MAY** benefit people upon release from confinement. Each entry has the name of the organization, address, phone number, and website (if available), in addition to a brief description of the services offered by the organization. We recommend that people contact an organization before attempting to use its services to ensure that services are still available, and to ask if the organization has any eligibility requirements to use the services.

If an organization is unable to assist a person at the present time, it is acceptable to ask to be put on a waiting list. The organization may also have other resources or referrals available. It never hurts to ask.

In addition to the resources listed on the following pages, those interested can check out the following:

#### **☐ Reentry and Integration Division Hotline**

The following toll-free number has been established to assist people who are re-entering society, as well as their families and the general public who may have questions related to programs and resources: 1-877-887-6151.

#### **☐ 2-1-1**

A great place to begin looking for help is by calling 2-1-1. It provides free and confidential information and referrals to organizations that can assist people with food, housing, employment, health care, counseling, and more. People can dial 2-1-1 from any telephone and tell the operator what information they are seeking. People can also visit [www.211.org](http://www.211.org) and search for needed information.

#### **☐ Restorative Justice Community (RJC) of Texas**

RJC of Texas provides an excellent, comprehensive internet-based directory of organizations that serve people who are re-entering Texas communities after a period of incarceration. Resources span a variety of services – including housing, employment, and community assistance – and they are updated regularly. Visit RJC of Texas online at [www.rjctexas.org/Home.htm](http://www.rjctexas.org/Home.htm). Click the “Directory” link at the top of the page to begin searching for resources throughout Texas.

## Community Organizations

### ☐ **God's Friend Ministries**

Jack McClelland  
3727 North 16th Street, Suite 287  
Orange, TX 77632  
Phone: (409) 283-5977

God's Friend Ministries provides Bible study courses and referrals to community-based resources for individuals re-entering the community from TDCJ.

### ☐ **International Institute of Faith Based Counseling**

P.O. Box 20723  
Beaumont, TX 77720  
Phone: (409) 832-9060  
Web: [www.hisclinic.org](http://www.hisclinic.org)

International Institute of Faith Based Counseling provides drug and alcohol addiction services, life skills training, parental classes, healthy nutrition assessments, and mental health resources free of charge.

### ☐ **Laredo Regional Food Bank**

2802 Anna Avenue  
Laredo, TX 78040  
Phone: (956) 723-3725  
Web: [www.laredoregionalfoodbank.org](http://www.laredoregionalfoodbank.org)

Laredo Regional Food Bank provides information on the local charities it supplies. Interested individuals should call for a list of food pantries and other assistance available in the area.

### ☐ **Prayer-Life Seminars, Inc.**

630 Meadowbrook Drive  
Corpus Christi, TX 78412  
Phone: (361) 960-7651  
Web: [www.prayerlifeseminars.org](http://www.prayerlifeseminars.org)

Prayer-Life Seminars holds seminars for individuals looking to find comfort and restoration through Christ. Weekend seminars last two days, and four-day retreats are also provided. Services are free of charge.

### ☐ **Midland Southeast Texas Food Bank, Inc.**

3845 Martin Luther King Road  
Beaumont, TX 77713  
Phone: (409) 839-8777  
Web: [www.setxfoodbank.org](http://www.setxfoodbank.org)

Southeast Texas Food Bank provides a volunteer program for individuals recently released from the Larry Gist State Jail; specifically, it offers the opportunity to volunteer at the food bank. Individuals will work in a low-stress environment and learn valuable vocational skills.

## Housing

### ❑ The Housing Assistance Program (THAP)

H.B. 3226 (effective 2009) creates a housing assistance program available to certain people who are awaiting release from TDCJ. The program applies only to those who have been approved for parole or mandatory supervision but who are waiting for a halfway house placement. The program does not apply to people who are released under a “serve-all” sentence or who have housing provided by their family or friends.

Essentially, the bill allows TDCJ to provide payment vouchers for temporary housing in a community-based housing facility in the county of the person’s release (rather than requiring people to wait for a TDCJ-sponsored halfway house to become available. The amount of payment issued through the housing voucher may not exceed the cost that TDCJ would pay to incarcerate a person for the same period of time that the voucher is issued for. Housing providers must have a plan to offer food, clothing, and hygiene products to residents.

No application process is necessary to be considered for the program. Individuals will be identified for potential placement in THAP if they are eligible for release on or after January 1, 2010, and if they remain incarcerated pending a housing placement plan. Additionally, in regards to those released on or after this date who are placed at a residential re-entry center, they will be notified of THAP availability by their supervising officer.

**Please note:** The program cannot be used to reimburse family members or friends who allow re-entering individuals to live with them.

### ❑ A Note About Public Housing

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) provides federal funding to local Housing Authorities that provide “quality affordable homes for all” throughout the United States.<sup>1</sup> While policies will vary from county to county, most HUD-funded housing requires a local housing authority to deny assistance in some cases. Specifically, assistance may be denied if **any** member of the household is using illegal drugs or has been evicted from federally funded housing during the previous three years for drug use. Likewise, applicants for housing can be denied if they have engaged in any violent criminal act, committed robbery, or are required to register for life under a state sex offender registration program.<sup>2</sup>

Neither an arrest nor conviction for the above-mentioned crimes is necessary to deny an applicant. That means re-entering individuals must be careful if they plan to stay with family members who currently reside in federally funded housing. If a re-entering individual was involved in a criminal act up to 10 years before moving in or within 10 years of being released from incarceration (whichever is more restrictive), those family members could be evicted.

<sup>1</sup> U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, “Mission,” <http://portal.hud.gov/portal/page/portal/HUD/about/mission>, accessed June 17, 2010.

<sup>2</sup> Title 24--Housing and Urban Development, 982.553 24 CFR Ch. IX (2000): [www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/waisidx\\_00/24cfr982\\_00.html](http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/waisidx_00/24cfr982_00.html), accessed June 15, 2010.

❑ **Freedom House Discipleship**

James Butts  
3542 Mercury Avenue  
Odessa, TX 79764  
Phone: (432) 381-5453

Freedom House Discipleship provides a one-year, faith-based discipleship program for men. The program also offers employment placement, transportation assistance, and parole fee assistance. The first six months are free of charge; once residents are gainfully employed, they must pay 15% of their wages toward room and board. Assistance is provided in establishing a checking account and acquiring birth certificates and state ID cards.

❑ **Mission Messiah – A New Creation**

1213 West 2<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Odessa, TX 79763  
Phone: (432) 580-5222  
Web: [www.missionmessiah.org](http://www.missionmessiah.org)

Mission Messiah – A New Creation provides a one-year, faith-based program for women and their children free of charge. Women must have a strong desire to change.

❑ **New Direction Ministry**

509 North Loraine Street  
Midland, TX 79702  
Phone: (432) 686-9140  
Web: [www.newdirectionministry.org](http://www.newdirectionministry.org)

New Direction Ministry provides transitional housing for men. Individuals with sex offenses, violent offenses, and electronic monitors are accepted. The first three months of the program are free of charge; once residents are gainfully employed, they must pay a percentage of their wages toward room and board. There is a six-month minimum stay and a one-year maximum stay.

❑ **Sara's House**

401 West Twohig Avenue  
San Angelo, TX 76903  
Phone: (325) 655-7777

Sara's House is a residential substance abuse treatment facility for women. Pregnant/postpartum women and women with children are welcome.

❑ **Stepping Stone Ministry**

2400 North Elkins Road  
Midland, TX 79705  
Phone: (432) 631-4631

Stepping Stone Ministry provides a faith-based transitional housing facility for men. Individuals with sex offenses, violent offenses, and electronic monitors are accepted. There is a minimum stay of four months and maximum stay of one year. Rent is \$600 per month (which includes all costs), and no deposit is required.

❑ **William's House**

134 West College Avenue  
San Angelo, TX 76903  
Phone: (325) 653-4210 or (325) 224-3481

William's House is an intensive residential facility that provides substance abuse treatment for men. Individuals with sex offenses and those on electronic monitors are accepted. William's House has a two-month maximum stay and offers funding assistance.

## Community Health Support

### ❑ **Big Spring State Hospital**

1901 North Highway 87  
Big Spring, TX 79721  
Phone: (432) 267-8216

Big Spring State Hospital provides inpatient and outpatient psychiatric treatment. Programs are state-funded and no one is denied because of inability to pay. Medicaid is accepted, and payments are also accepted on a sliding scale.

### ❑ **El Paso MHMR**

1600 Montana Avenue  
El Paso, TX 79902  
Crisis Phone: 1-877-562-6467  
Main Phone: (915) 887-3410  
Web: [www.epmhmr.org](http://www.epmhmr.org)

### ❑ **Homeward Bound, Inc.**

Trinity Detox and Behavioral Health Center  
8716 Independence Drive  
El Paso, TX 79907  
Phone: (915) 772-9111  
Web: [www.homewardboundinc.org](http://www.homewardboundinc.org)

Homeward Bound is a non-profit organization that provides substance abuse and mental health treatment services. It accepts private insurance but also provides funding to cover

care for individuals who do not have insurance or the ability to pay.

### ❑ **MHMR Services for the Concho Valley**

1501 West Beauregard Avenue  
San Angelo, TX 76901  
Crisis Phone: 1-800-375-8965  
Main Phone: (325) 658-7750  
Web: [www.mhmrrcv.org](http://www.mhmrrcv.org)

### ❑ **Permian Basin Community Center**

401 East Illinois, Suite 403  
Midland, TX 79701  
Phone: (432) 570-3300  
Web: [www.pbmhmr.com](http://www.pbmhmr.com)

Permian Basin Community Center provides services that address mental illness, mental retardation, and chemical dependency. Private insurance, Medicare, and Medicaid are accepted.

### ❑ **West Texas Centers for MHMR**

319 Runnels Street  
Big Spring, TX 79720  
Crisis Phone: 1-800-375-4357  
Main Phone: (432) 263-0007  
Web: [www.wtcmhmr.org](http://www.wtcmhmr.org)

## Education

### ❑ **Menard Learning Center**

P.O. Box 729  
Menard, TX 76859  
Phone: (915) 396-4322