

FY26 BUDGET HEARING

Mayor's Office of Returning Citizens



CITY OF BOSTON

Ashley Montgomery – Executive Director

The **Office of Returning Citizens (ORC)** is dedicated to supporting formerly incarcerated individuals and their families as they transition back to the Boston community.

We offer a comprehensive range of services, including:

- **Case Management**
Addressing immediate needs to facilitate reintegration.
- **Housing Support**
Assistance in securing safe, stable housing options.
- **Employment Services**
Job readiness training, career placement support, and connections to employment opportunities.
- **Workshops and Internal Programming**
Delivering skill-building workshops and in-house programs focused on personal development, life skills, and reentry preparation.

The Office of Returning Citizens

The ORC is committed to providing support, empowerment, and a clear path forward, regardless of your past. We believe returning citizens can make meaningful contributions to our community when provided with the tools to succeed. Our team is here to connect you to the supportive resources you need to live independently and flourish.

WHO WE ARE

The Mayor's Office of Returning Citizens (ORC) recognizes the distinct challenges you may encounter while transitioning back to life in Boston after incarceration. We're here to help you take that important first step. Since everyone's journey is different, the ORC is committed to offering individualized support tailored to your needs, helping you build a brighter future.

WHY WORK WITH US

Personalized Support

We understand that each individual's journey is unique. Our tailored approach ensures you receive the specific assistance you need to overcome barriers and achieve your goals.

Experienced Team

Our team is passionate about and dedicated to supporting returning citizens. With lived experience and a deep understanding of the challenges you face, we're here to guide you every step of the way.

Success Stories

We celebrate the achievements of our participants. Join a community of individuals who have successfully broken barriers and are making a positive impact in our community.

Our Services

INDIVIDUALIZED CASE MANAGEMENT

Healthcare

- MassHealth insurance registration
- Primary and mental health care referrals

Education

- GED and Adult Basic Education
- Higher education applications and admissions

Documentation

- Massachusetts Identification Card (MassID)
- Birth certificate
- Social Security card

And More...

- Emergency clothing & food assistance
- Sober living and Single Room Occupancy (SRO)

EMPLOYMENT

- Develop and perfect your resume
- Build your technical and interpersonal skills
- Connect with training opportunities
- Navigate job searches, applications, and more

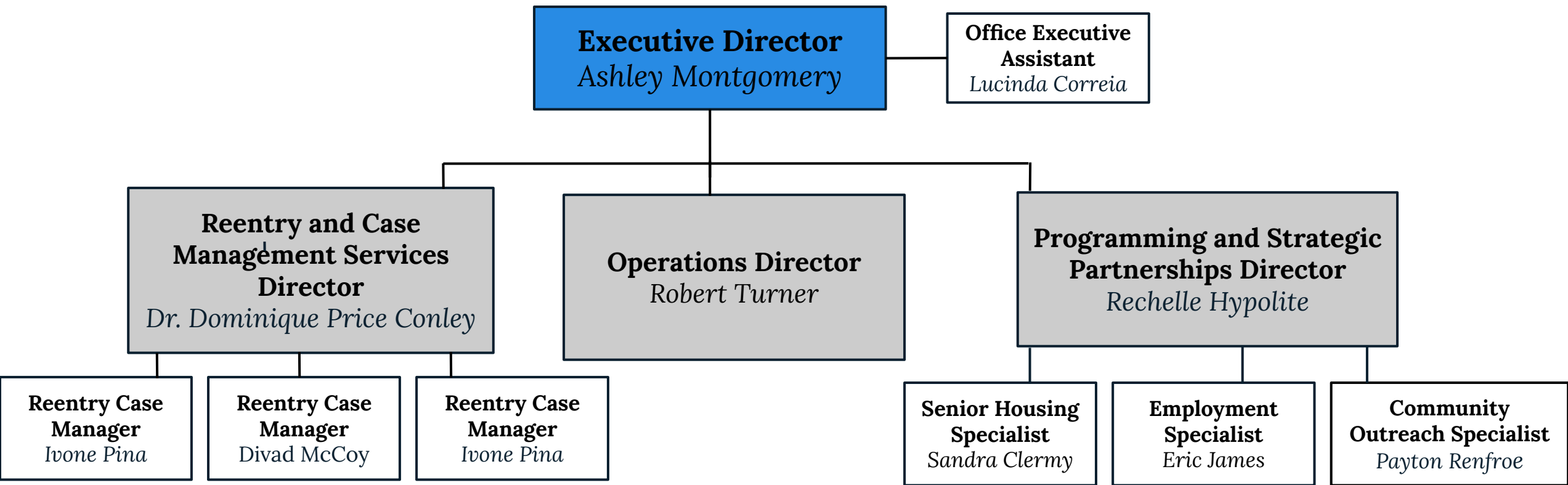
HOUSING

- Discover budgeting tips for rent and other expenses
- Receive traditional and affordable housing referrals
- Explore other permanent housing options

WORKSHOPS & RESOURCES

- Join workshops on entrepreneurship, financial literacy, credit building, and more
- Participate in CORI sealing and expungement clinics
- Dismantle "functional silos" that impede effective service delivery and restrict community access to vital resources

CITY OF BOSTON



Increased Client Service Capacity

- **Eliminating client wait times**

Our goal is to ensure immediate access to case management services, minimizing delays and improving client outcomes.

- **Extended office hours**

By expanding our availability, we increase accessibility for clients, accommodating varying schedules and supporting consistent engagement.



Our Senior Housing Specialist

- Assists with Permanent, Supportive and Non-Supportive Housing.
- Establishes partnerships with a network of property owners and management companies.
- Works directly to place clients in stable housing, offering guidance throughout the process.
- Collaborates closely with community-based organizations to provide comprehensive housing support tailored to each individual's needs.
- Partnered with Boston Housing Authority for **50** Housing Vouchers with **27** placements to date



"After serving over 30 years in prison, my transition couldn't have been made any easier without the Office of Returning Citizens," said Timothy

ORC awarded **\$300,000** in funding to **7 organizations**, each receiving up to \$50,000, to support housing stability for individuals returning from incarceration.

“The Office of Returning Citizens’ housing stabilization funding has been one of the most essential resources we’ve ever had for supporting our returning citizens”

– Lori D’Alleva

Program Director, Charlestown Adult Education,
Workforce and Reentry

“This funding will directly support our clients who are trying to rebuild their lives.”

- Iva Comey, Executive Director of Commonwealth Land Trust

ORC provided **\$607,000** in funding to **38 community-based organizations** supporting individuals returning to Boston from federal, state, and county correctional facilities.

This marks the third consecutive year of the ORC's reentry grant initiative.

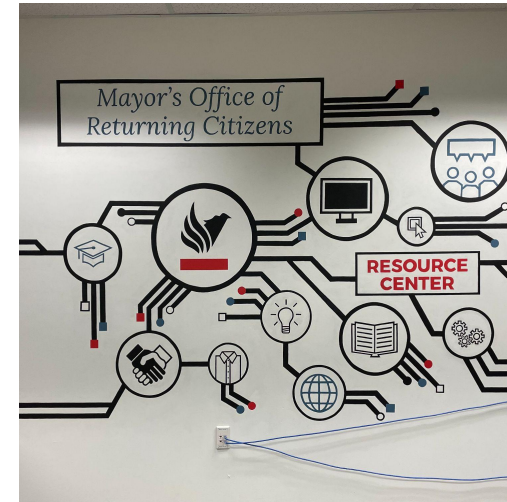
EXPANDING INTERNAL PROGRAMMING

Strengthening Support and Enhancing Services



Launched ORC Resource Center

- **Internal Workshops:** Focused on CORI sealing, entrepreneurship, credit, employment, and financial literacy, and more.
- **CORI Approved Job Board:** A platform connecting returning citizens with employment opportunities.
- **On-Site Hiring Days:** Providing direct access to employers for job placements.
- **Satellite Location with Project Smile:** Expanding access to services through a new partnership.



SUITS & SMILES!

Register now to schedule your appointment and visit the ORC Workwear Wardrobe for FREE professional clothing and essential job-readiness tools. Scan the QR code to get started!

SCAN ME
or visit
boston.gov/returning-citizens

PROJECT smile
City of Boston
Returning Citizens

617-685-8187
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30 Dimock St, 2nd Floor, Roxbury, MA 02119

BUILD YOUR TECH SKILLS

WALK-INS HELD ON THE 2ND & 4TH MONDAY OF EACH MONTH!

SCAN THE QR CODE TO LEARN MORE
or visit bit.ly/4gNeeb

Visit boston.gov/digital-equity-resources to learn more

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COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS

Collaborative Relationships to Drive Reentry Support



ORC Advisory Group

- We regularly convene community partners to foster collaboration and break down silos.
- These meetings happen quarterly, creating a consistent space for sharing ideas and aligning efforts.

Community Panels & Events

- We are actively involved in probation panels and discharge planning at the Suffolk House of Correction to ensure seamless support for individuals returning to the community.
- We frequently participate in community events to discuss reentry challenges, share the ORC's mission, and advocate for stronger support from community and institutional partners.

Site Visits

- We also conduct regular site visits with grantees to stay connected, support program implementation, and address emerging needs.

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Collaborative Relationships to Drive Reentry Support



Ongoing Career Fairs

- Regularly connecting job seekers with employers offering direct hiring opportunities.

Community Resource Fairs

- Partnering with organizations like the Office of Black Male Advancement to host events throughout the year.
- Featuring a wide range of vendors offering employment, housing, education, and reentry support.
- Providing real-time access to jobs and essential services for community members.



Comprehensive Needs Assessment

In collaboration with Justice System Partners working on a needs assessment that identifies barriers and gaps in services for individuals returning from incarceration.

- Establish focus groups and conducting one-on-one sessions to gather community and client perspectives.
- Virtual and in-person participation from ORC clients and community partners, ensuring a broad range of input.
- Collecting feedback to inform future program design and service improvements.



Enhancing Internal Programming

- Expand workshops and partnerships to offer more support.

Boosting Community Engagement

- Increase involvement through programming, panels, and site visits.

Advancing Case Management

- Enhance data tracking and streamline service delivery to maximize impact and outcomes.

Engaging 'Behind the Wall'

- Increase presence and outreach within correctional facilities to build connections and prepare individuals for reentry.

“Together, we're not just reducing recidivism, we're restoring hope and creating the opportunity for those coming home to have a life after prison.”

*- Mike Curry,
Executive Director, Life After Prison*



City of Boston
Returning Citizens

THANK YOU!

Questions?



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