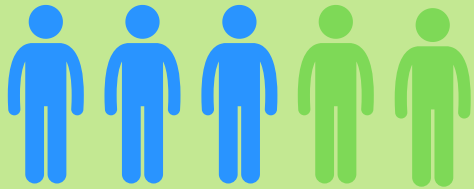


A SUCCESSFUL SECOND CHANGE



Using the District Opportunity to Purchase Act to Increase Affordable Housing for Returning Citizens



Nearly 3 out of 5 people in DC who have been incarcerated experience homelessness because returning citizens face unique barriers to housing.

THE IMPACT:

- Returning citizens are more likely to return to incarceration when they do not have access to stable housing. Providing more quality, affordable housing across DC would increase public safety by reducing crime and recidivism.
 - Research has shown that housing insecurity is associated with an increased risk of recidivism (Jacobs & Gottlieb, 2020).
 - According to the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (2022) it is important for the District to consider further expanding stable and affordable housing opportunities for returning citizens to reduce recidivism and allow for successful reintegration.

57%

Fifty-seven percent of people who are homeless in DC have been incarcerated (Coventry, 2020). The number of homeless adults, including those who are returning citizens, grew by 35 percent in DC in the last year (Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, 2022-2023).

THE SOLUTION:

- DC should use the **District Opportunity Purchase Act (DOPA)** to purchase vacant buildings and give them to community based organizations that will create **affordable, immediate, and stable housing** for returning citizens.
 - Use the building to create housing for returning citizens where the **first year is rent-free** for the residents
 - Work with clients while they are **still incarcerated** to begin the process of reentry (documentation, healthcare, bank account)
 - Provide **wrap around services** (job/life coaching, referral system, wellness)
 - Require residents to begin the process of **obtaining an income** (employment, social assistance, etc.) after 30 days of coming home

In 2024, DC Government should purchase at least 200 apartment units and sell them for \$1 to community-based organizations that agree to the criteria listed above using DOPA.

THE NATIONAL REENTRY NETWORK FOR RETURNING CITIZENS

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