

HOW DOES THE SB 618 EXPERIENCE INFORM AB 109?

SANDAG recently released the final report from a five year evaluation of the Senate Bill (SB) 618 San Diego Prisoner Reentry Program. SB 618 began six years prior to AB 109, California Public Safety Realignment, and is one example of how San Diego County has been at the forefront of implementing evidence-based practices to reduce recidivism. Given the changes to the criminal justice system brought about by AB 109, the results from this report are timely and potentially useful to policy makers and practitioners faced with new populations of ex-offenders under local supervision.

Because SB 618 was shown to reduce recidivism and was cost effective, the following lessons learned may be useful as San Diego and other California counties move forward with realignment.

To maximize outcomes for successful reentry:

- Determine needs and begin service provision related to these needs while offender is in custody (as early as possible).
- Include cognitive behavioral programs to change how offenders think about behavioral choice and introduce these programs as early as possible in the reentry process, ideally in custody before release.
- Facilitate provision of services in the community immediately upon release that build upon the foundation begun in custody.
- Employ motivational techniques and incentives for making significant progress toward goals to engage participants.
- Pay particular attention to needs for housing and employment training, as meeting these needs were shown to be associated with successful reentry.
- Utilize intermediate sanctions as alternatives for addressing offender behavior rather than relying on additional custody time.
- Ensure programs are implemented as designed to achieve maximum return on investment.

The short-term costs of providing the SB 618 program resulted in long-term savings, an estimated \$10 million for the 1,078 individuals served during the duration of the program.

For more information regarding the SB 618 evaluation and to access the full report on-line, please visit the SANDAG Web site at www.sandag.org/sb618.