

I Education Justice Project

Reentry Guide Initiative Application

The Reentry Guide Initiative is one of the fastest growing programs within EJP. With Illinois releasing a record number of people over the last two years, our guides are more important now than ever.

Apply to RGI to help connect people leaving prison with the critical resources they need.

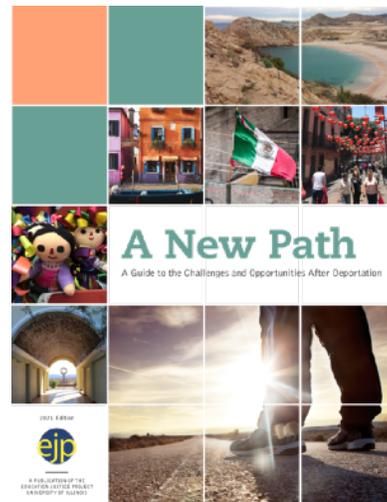
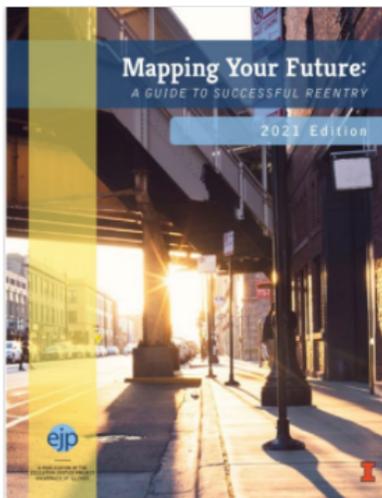
What is RGI?

The Reentry Guide Initiative connects incarcerated and formerly incarcerated people with the resources they need for a healthy transition to life after prison. We provide tools for self-empowerment, including resources related to housing, employment and education as well as connections to social justice and advocacy organizations. We recognize that incarceration causes trauma and believe that addressing that harm benefits not only the individual but the broader community as well.

The Reentry Guide Initiative was conceived by EJP alumni in 2014. Their idea was to create a free, supportive resource for people getting out of prison to bridge gaps within the reentry process not filled by existing systems. Since 2015, we have distributed tens of thousands of reentry guides to people who need them. The guides we produce provide resources, encouragement and hope to those who have been impacted by incarceration. While we do not directly offer reentry services, we engage with reentry service providers to improve our own understanding of incarceration and reentry, and to expand the reach of our guides.

We produce two reentry guides: [*Mapping Your Future: A Guide to Successful Reentry*](#), for people returning to Illinois communities following release and [*A New Path: A Guide to the Opportunities and Challenges after Deportation*](#), a guide for individuals deported to Latin America following release.

But RGI isn't just about publishing guides. We also have a reentry video series that aims to bring important information on reentry to those in prison through the institutional channels at each facility.



We also produce reentryillinois.net, a searchable website with resources for people returning home from prison.

We update our guides each year and produce Spanish translations as well. We also help reentry organizations in other states develop their own reentry guides.

What does participation look like?

Members of the Reentry Guide Initiative will apply to contribute as one of the following:

- **Advisory Committee Member:** This opportunity is for formerly incarcerated people who want to share their experiences and offer advice and guidance to our initiative. Our advisory council is currently full but there may be opportunities in the future to join.
- **Core Members:** These are members who commit to contribute three hours a week to our projects.
- **Learning Members:** These are individuals who want to learn about reentry and contribute to tasks that don't exceed an hour a week of commitment.
- **Interns:** These members apply to be interns with EJP and choose RGI work as their focus. They can still contribute to other programs within EJP. This is a set requirement of 3-5 hours a week.

What types of projects can I contribute to?

- Researching topics that we'd like to add or expand for the 2022 versions of our guides.
- Distributing our guides to libraries, community centers and non-profit organizations throughout the state.

- Evaluating the materials we produce.
- Participating in outreach. This includes collaborating with and supporting the advocacy efforts of Illinois reentry organizations, as well as working with other states to produce reentry guides.



Letters Requesting Reentry Guides

We meet with the whole group monthly to educate ourselves about reentry and to discuss our progress. We also read texts on reentry and sponsor speakers on issues such as immigration and deportation, trauma, and reentry justice.

Who can apply?

We seek members with a commitment to social justice and an interest in program building to join our team. We particularly desire applicants with interest and experience in any of the following areas: reentry, qualitative research, writing and editing, community outreach, advocacy, and evaluation.

We especially encourage applications from individuals who have experienced reentry or deportation, family and loved ones of incarcerated individuals, members of historically underrepresented groups, and folks who can listen to, engage with, and respect the lived experiences of others. Our main criteria in selecting members are a critical perspective of incarceration and reentry, flexibility, and cultural humility.

How to apply

Complete this application electronically. That will allow you to take as much space as you need in responding to each question; we very much want to learn as much as we can about you. Interviews will be held as soon as possible after the receipt of applications.

We encourage you to submit your application by March 1, 2022. Please submit your application via email to reentry@educationjustice.net.

EJP REENTRY GUIDE APPLICATION

Name:

Mailing Address:

Phone:

Email:

1. How did you hear about the Education Justice Project?

2. Why are you interested in working with EJP's Reentry Guide program?

3. Please tell us about any skills, work/volunteer experiences, or life experiences that you believe prepare you for working with us. We particularly value experiences with reentry, writing and research skills, experience with community outreach and advocacy, and the ability to engage with people with diverse backgrounds and experiences.

4. The Illinois Reentry Guide Initiative is seeking individuals with an interest in helping us to restructure and re-envision our program. What ideas, skills, and/or experience would you bring to this program-building work?

5. Please list two references (name, position, contact information, relationship to applicant)

Your Signature (electronic is fine)

Date

Submit application via email to reentry@educationjustice.net

Questions about the program or the application process?

Contact the Education Justice Project Reentry Guide Initiative

[217-300-5150](tel:217-300-5150) | reentry@educationjustice.net | www.educationjustice.net

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