



Department of Public Safety  
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Reentry

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# News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Chenise Bonilla, 561-355-2326

## Palm Beach County Celebrates Second Chance Month in April

Palm Beach County (PBC) will honor Second Chance Month with multiple events highlighting its efforts to help adults and juveniles transition from prison or jail back into the community.

According to the U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Statistics, approximately 95% of people who enter prison will eventually be released back into our communities. Second Chance Month recognizes the Second Chance Act—a law passed by Congress in 2008 and reauthorized in 2018 that supports work to improve reentry outcomes in communities across the county.

PBC is a recipient of Second Chance Act grants due to its core mission to increase public safety, reduce victimization and recidivism rates, and create an improved quality of life for our residents. The county is recognized as a national leader in reentry services for cutting our recidivism rate in half over the past several years.

The Trump Administration proclaimed April as Second Chance Month, a time for all Americans to learn about reentry efforts, reflect on the cost of incarceration to our society, promote the reduction of recidivism, and improve the lives of people returning to the community.

- The cost to taxpayers is \$18,000 per year to house one person in the Florida Department of Corrections, \$48,910 per year in the local (PBC) jail and \$81,395 per year to house a juvenile in the juvenile system.
- In 2017, a total of 43,482 persons were arrested in PBC
- Between FY2017-FY2018, approximately 1,200 people returned to PBC after a period of incarceration from the Florida Department of Corrections.

Reentry is a unit of the Palm Beach County Public Safety Department's Justice Services Division. The reentry initiative is a collaborative effort of the Palm Beach County Reentry Task Force, Gulfstream Goodwill Industries, Inc., The Lord's Place, and the Riviera Beach Reentry Center.

Throughout April, Palm Beach County, reentry partners, and advocates will participate in various planned events to promote awareness, reentry resources available in the county, and highlight the need for collaboration in the efforts of ensuring a safer community. Attached is a schedule of events for the month of April.

For more information, please contact Chenise Bonilla, Manager of Criminal Justice Programs at [cbonilla@pbcgov.org](mailto:cbonilla@pbcgov.org)