

2008/09 edition

GETTING OUT & STAYING OUT

A Guide to San Francisco Resources for People Leaving Jails and Prisons



A publication of the
Access to Resources Working Group,
a project of the
Safe Communities Reentry Council and
the San Francisco Reentry Council

OUR DEEPEST FEAR IS NOT THAT WE ARE INADEQUATE.

Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure.

It is our light, not our darkness, that most frightens us.

We ask ourselves, who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, and fabulous?

Actually, who are you not to be?

You are a child of God. Your playing small doesn't serve the world.

There's nothing enlightened about shrinking
so that other people won't feel insecure around you.

We are all meant to shine, as children do.

We are born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us.

It's not just in some of us, it's in everyone.

And as we let our own light shine,
we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same.

As we are liberated from our own fear,
our presence automatically liberates others.

--Marianne Williamson

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2nd printing

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<http://sfreentry.com>

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|--|-----------|
| First Things First | 1 |
| How to Use This Guide | 1 |
| Inventory of Services | 2 |
| Service Prioritization | 3 |
| Transition Plan..... | 4 |
| 211 Community Services | 8 |
| 311 San Francisco Services | 8 |
| 511 Transportation..... | 8 |
| Public Library | 9 |
| 2009 Calendar..... | 11 |
| List of <u>FREE</u> things to do in San Francisco..... | 12 |
| Notes | 14 |
| Probation & Parole | 15 |
| Successfully Completing Probation & Parole | 15 |
| US Federal Probation..... | 16 |
| California State Parole | 17 |
| San Francisco County Adult Probation | 18 |
| Identification & Benefits | 19 |
| Identification | 19 |
| Birth Certificate | 19 |
| California State Driver’s License, ID, and DMV Print Out | 25 |
| Social Security Card | 28 |
| Record of Arrest and Prosecution (RAP) Sheet | 34 |
| Your Right to Vote | 35 |
| Benefits..... | 36 |
| CAAP County Adult Assistance Program | 36 |
| Food Stamps | 38 |

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Social Security Administration Benefits | 39 |
| Veteran’s Benefits | 40 |
| Healthcare Coverage in San Francisco | 41 |
| Finances..... | 43 |
| Your Identity | 43 |
| Your Finances | 43 |
| Legal | 53 |
| AIDS Legal Referral Panel (ALRP) | 53 |
| Asian Law Caucus, Juvenile Justice Project | 54 |
| Bar Association of San Francisco, Volunteer Legal Services Program | 55 |
| Bay Area Legal Aid – Legal Barriers to Employment Project..... | 56 |
| Cooperative Restraining Order Clinic..... | 57 |
| Golden Gate University School of Law – Womens Employment Rights Clinic | 58 |
| Housing Rights Committee of San Francisco | 59 |
| Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights | 60 |
| National Employment Law Project (NELP)..... | 61 |
| SF Office of Citizen Complaints (OCC)..... | 62 |
| SF Office of the Public Defender – Clean Slate Program | 63 |
| SF Sheriff’s Department – Prisoner Legal Services | 64 |
| Swords to Plowshares – Legal Department | 65 |
| Notes | 66 |
| Housing | 67 |
| Permanent Housing | 67 |
| Finding Subsidized Housing..... | 67 |
| Emergency Shelter for Individuals | 70 |
| 150 Otis Street | 70 |
| Glide Walk-in center | 70 |
| Hospitality House | 70 |
| Mission Neighborhood Resource Center | 70 |

| | |
|---|----|
| Multi-Service Center (MSC) South..... | 71 |
| Tenderloin Health Resource Center | 71 |
| United Council of Human Services | 71 |
| Emergency Shelter for Families..... | 72 |
| Compass Community Services – Connecting Point | 72 |
| Hamilton Family Center – Hamilton Family Emergency Center | 73 |
| Emergency Rental Assistance for Families | 74 |
| Catholic Charities CYO – Homelessness Prevention Program | 74 |
| Transitional Housing..... | 75 |
| SF Department of Public Health and SF Sheriff’s Department – STEPS | 75 |
| Compass Community Services – Clara House | 76 |
| Cornell Companies, Inc. – Parolee Service Center & Pre-Release Center | 77 |
| Hamilton Family Center – Transitional Housing Program | 78 |
| Northern California Service League – Cameo House | 79 |
| Phatt Chance Community Services..... | 80 |
| Project F.I.N. (Families In Need) – Rose Home..... | 81 |
| SafeHouse..... | 82 |
| San Francisco Teen Challenge | 83 |
| Swords to Plowshares – Transitional Housing Program..... | 84 |
| Twelve Step Program | 85 |
| Up From Darkness | 86 |
| Victory Outreach San Francisco..... | 87 |
| Residential Treatment Facilities | 88 |
| Delancey Street Foundation..... | 88 |
| Friendship House..... | 89 |
| Good Shepherd Gracenter | 90 |
| Jelani, Inc. | 91 |
| The Metropolitan Fresh Start House, Inc. | 92 |
| The Salvation Army – Harbor Light Center and HARP Detoxification | 93 |
| The Salvation Army – Harbor House Program..... | 94 |
| Walden House, Inc..... | 95 |
| Walden House, Inc. – FOTEP (Female Offender Treatment and Employment Program) | 96 |

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Domestic Violence Shelters | 97 |
| Asian Women’s Shelter | 97 |
| La Casa de las Madres | 98 |
| Education & Employment | 99 |
| Education | 99 |
| City College of San Francisco – EOPS Second Chance Program | 99 |
| City College of San Francisco (CCSF) -- Transitional Studies | 100 |
| City College of San Francisco – Community Health Worker Certificate Program..... | 102 |
| San Francisco Public Library – Project Read | 103 |
| San Francisco Sheriff’s Department -- Five Keys Charter School | 104 |
| San Francisco State University – Project Rebound | 105 |
| Employment..... | 106 |
| Government Services..... | 106 |
| Anders & Anders, Inc. | 108 |
| Asian Neighborhood Design – Employment Training Center | 109 |
| Cement Masons Union #300 (Area #580)..... | 110 |
| Chinese for Affirmative Action (CAA)..... | 111 |
| Episcopal Community Services - CHEFS Program | 112 |
| Jewish Vocational Service – Job Search & Placement Assistance..... | 113 |
| Jewish Vocational Service – Technology Access Center | 114 |
| Northern California Service League—Multi-Service Center | 115 |
| Pacific Epilepsy Program (PEP) Jobs..... | 116 |
| Recovery Survival Network (RSN) | 117 |
| Renaissance Bayview Business Resource Center..... | 118 |
| San Francisco Conservation Corps | 119 |
| Special Services for Groups – Occupational Therapy Training Program..... | 120 |
| St. Anthony Foundation – Employment Program/Learning Center..... | 121 |
| Swords to Plowshares – Employment & Training Department | 122 |
| Western Addition Job Development Collaborative | 123 |
| Notes..... | 124 |

Information & Services 125

African American Family Healing Center 125

Arab Cultural and Community Center 126

Bay Area Women’s & Children’s Center 127

Central City Hospitality House – Tenderloin Self-Help Center 128

Court Accountable Case Management Center (CACMC) 129

Glide Foundation – Walk-in Center 130

Lavender Youth Recreation & Information Center (LYRIC) 131

Mission Neighborhood Resource Center 132

Northern California Service League—Multi-Service Center 133

Pam Hogan Productions 134

Senior Ex-Offender Program 135

SF Office of the District Attorney – Back on Track 136

SF Office of the District Attorney – Reentry Unit 137

SF Office of the Public Defender – Reentry Unit 138

SF Sheriff’s Department – No Violence Alliance (NoVA) 139

SF Sheriff’s Department – Women’s Reentry Center 140

St. Anthony Foundation – Social Work Center 141

Swords to Plowshares - Health & Social Services Unit 142

This Sacred Space 143

United Council of Human Services – Bayview Multi-Service Drop-In Center 144

VA Downtown Clinic 145

VIP (Volunteers in Parole) Mentors 146

Wellness 147

Physical Health 147

Bay Area Perinatal AIDS Center (BAPAC) 147

Community Acupuncture Project 148

Central American Resource Center (CARECEN) 149

Transitions Clinic – Southeast Health Center 150

The Wraparound Project 151

| | |
|---|------------|
| Meals & Food Pantries | 152 |
| Behavioral & Emotional Health..... | 156 |
| San Francisco Treatment Access Program (TAP) | 156 |
| Horizons Unlimited – Intensive Outpatient | 157 |
| Instituto Familiar de la Raza..... | 158 |
| Iris Center | 159 |
| Leaders in Community Alternatives, Inc. (LCA)..... | 160 |
| The Life After Exoneration Program | 161 |
| Morrisania West, Inc. | 162 |
| Positive Directions Equals Change | 163 |
| Progress Foundation | 164 |
| SAGE - Satellite Sexual Trauma Center | 165 |
| San Francisco Bay Counseling & Education | 166 |
| SF Sheriff’s Department – Community Programs | 167 |
| Youth Justice Institute..... | 168 |
| Families & Children | 169 |
| San Francisco Department of Child Support Services..... | 169 |
| Asian Perinatal Advocates..... | 170 |
| Buchanan YMCA..... | 171 |
| Comprehensive Child Crisis..... | 172 |
| Edgewood Center..... | 173 |
| Portola Family Connections | 174 |
| Potrero Family Resource Center | 175 |
| Project WHAT!—Community Works..... | 176 |

Background & Acknowledgments

In 2005, San Francisco started taking a deep look at the policies, services, and systems targeting individuals who were reentering communities following time spent in the criminal justice system. Local leaders recognized that we need to work together to better support people reentering communities from jails and prison.

The Safe Communities Reentry Council and the San Francisco Reentry Council have since been combined into a single Reentry Council of the City & County of San Francisco. It is charged with an ongoing critical examination of existing reentry systems, programs and policies. The Council focuses on finding concrete, pragmatic and cost effective answers to the layered question of “how can we create a comprehensive system of care that helps people transitioning out of prisons and jails make successful and permanent returns to their communities?”

In 2007, we created a coordinated effort called the Access to Resources Working Group. The goal of the group was to help people transitioning from the criminal justice system stabilize their lives following release by getting them efficient access to a multitude of services and resources.

The result is *GETTING OUT & STAYING OUT: A Guide to San Francisco Resources for People Leaving Jails and Prisons*. The Working Group spent several months meeting and conducting due diligence of existing resources. Service profile surveys were distributed to hundreds of organizations, and focus groups were conducted with incarcerated and previously incarcerated men and women. We tried to create a guide that includes comprehensive and accurate information; is visually attractive to look at; and which provides people with helpful guidance on how to get the services they need.

Many people contributed to the development of this Guide. Special thanks to members of the Access to Resources Working Group for developing this Guide; members of both the San Francisco and Safe Communities Reentry Councils for providing input and guidance; Sheriff Michael Hennessey, Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi; and the Offices of District Attorney Kamala D. Harris, Public Defender Jeff Adachi, Sheriff Michael Hennessey, San Francisco Office of Economic and Workforce Development, and the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation and Cornell Corrections, Inc., for providing resources to publish the editions of this Guide.

Inmates of San Quentin State Prison and participants of the Walden House Female Offender Treatment and Employment Project (FOTEP) Program on Treasure Island provided critical insight into the development of the Guide through two focus groups. Special thanks to all of the community members, interns, staff, and others who contributed their time and talents to the creation of this Guide.

Over the past year, we have incorporated past feedback into this second 2008/09 edition. In this Guide, there is a postcard that you can send in to give us your feedback on what works well, and what should be improved. We want to know what you think. Please complete the postcard, and return it to us so that we can continue to make this Guide better.

