WHAT IS EXiT?

Executives Transforming Probation and Parole (EXiT) is a group of current and former probation and parole executives who are looking to reduce the number of people under supervision, reduce revocations and returns to prison for minor misbehavior, and make community supervision fairer, more helpful, and more reintegrative.

OUR APPROACH

EXiT members will serve as a resource to the field, engaging in an array of advocacy, policy, and communications activities. In specific jurisdictions members may provide strategic advice or short-term technical assistance in order to advance reform. Ultimately, EXiT will help build widespread support for state and local reforms and develop capacity among current and future leaders to execute bold change.

WHY THIS MATTERS

Every day in the United States, 4.5 million people are under probation or parole supervision, more than twice as many people as are incarcerated. Originated as a rehabilitative front-end alternative to incarceration (probation) or back-end release valve for incarcerated individuals who were believed to be rehabilitated (parole), community supervision is now overly burdensome, punitive and a driver of mass incarceration, especially for people of color. A quarter of those entering prison in 2017 were incarcerated for technical violations like staying out past curfew or missing appointments, disrupting their lives and costing taxpayers $2.8 billion. Probation and parole have grown far too large because people are being supervised who should not be and are being kept on supervision for far too long. For those under community supervision, it is often too punitive and focused on suppression, surveillance, and control, rather than well-being and growth. Far from being an aid to community reintegration as originally designed, community supervision too often serves as a tripwire to imprisonment.

OUR CALL FOR TRANSFORMATION

As people who run or have run community supervision throughout the country and others concerned with mass supervision, we call for probation and parole to be substantially downsized, less punitive, and more hopeful, equitable, and restorative.

- Statement on the Future of Probation & Parole in the United States