

The U.S. spends billions to lock people up, but very little to help them once they're released

The US spends a significant amount of money on incarceration, but the funding for reentry programs for formerly incarcerated individuals is extremely limited. This lack of funding makes it challenging for these individuals to successfully reintegrate into society and can lead to a cycle of recidivism. Nonprofits working in reentry often struggle to secure funding, relying on inconsistent grants and competing with other organizations for limited resources.

After Arkansas Jail Inmate Starved to Death, Officials Highlight Failings

Larry Eugene Price Jr., a mentally ill inmate at Sebastian County Jail, Arkansas, died from starvation and dehydration after spending a year in solitary confinement. Despite his deteriorating condition, jail staff, including medical and mental health providers, failed to provide adequate care or transfer him to a suitable facility. This negligence led to a \$6 million settlement for Price's family, highlighting the systemic issues of overcrowding, understaffing, and lack of proper medical and mental health care in the US jail system.

Call for prison inmates to have free phone contracts to reduce suicides

The UK's Prisons and Probation Ombudsman (PPO) is advocating for inmates to have access to free phone calls to combat the increasing suicide rates in prisons. The PPO argues that enabling prisoners to connect with loved ones can provide vital support and reduce the risk of self-harm. While acknowledging the compassionate measures already in place, the PPO urges for immediate action to implement this change, emphasizing its potential to save lives and foster a more positive prison environment.

Quote

"Freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor; it must be demanded by the oppressed." – Martin Luther King Jr



Medicaid Coverage Expanded for Thousands of People in 5 States

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has approved five states—Illinois, Kentucky, Oregon, Utah, and Vermont—to offer Medicaid coverage to individuals transitioning out of incarceration. This marks a significant shift in how Medicaid has been historically available to this population, aiming to bridge the gap in coverage and provide essential health care support during their reentry into society.

Reentry coalition looking for help

The Blair County Prison Reentry Coalition is seeking assistance with grantsmanship and information technology to support its mission of helping former inmates reintegrate into society. The coalition aims to establish communication channels for inmates and gather resources to provide housing, employment, and other essential support services to reduce recidivism rates.

Our newsletter serves as a vital tool to raise awareness about the injustices within the incarceration system and to inform our audience about the ongoing efforts to create a more just and equitable system. Through this newsletter, we aim to highlight the systemic issues that lead to unfair treatment and wrongful imprisonment, share impactful stories of those affected, and provide updates on legislative and grassroots initiatives working towards reform. We hope to inspire collective action and foster a community dedicated to advocating for meaningful change.

Social media spotlight

Read the full post on Facebook
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Marcellus Williams



Over 1 million people signed his clemency petition, but his execution was still set. Do our voices matter anymore?

- Marcellus Williams was convicted in 2001 for a murder he maintained he did not commit.
- Williams spent over 17 years on death row in Missouri. His case garnered support from various advocacy groups and highlighted concerns about the reliability of forensic evidence.
- In 2017, new DNA evidence cleaned him from the crime scene, but was dismissed by the Missouri Supreme Court judge.

The victims family did not want this man to be executed and neither did millions of people. His death speaks volumes about our justice system yet the people in power will continue to let it fall on death row.