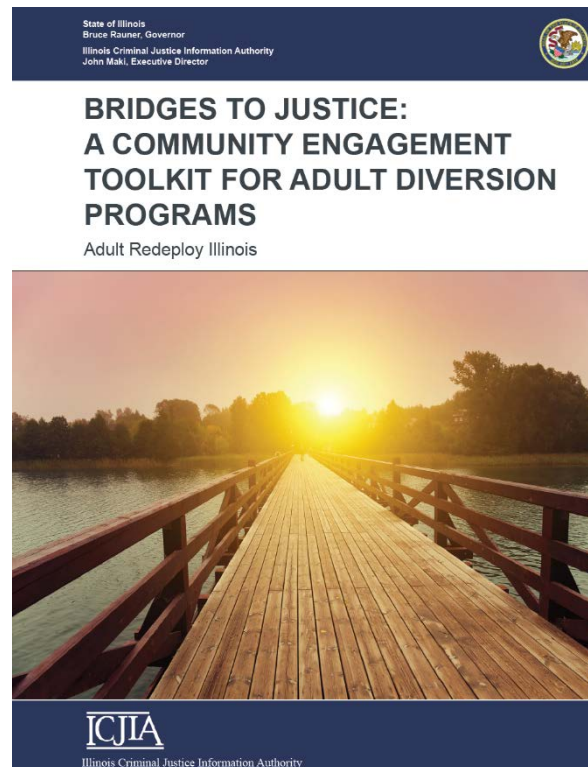




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Bridges to Justice: A Community Engagement Toolkit for Adult Diversion Programs





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The authors deeply appreciate the time, energy, and dedication of the following people that helped make this toolkit possible.

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Samantha Brown
Danica Byler
Marcia Cox
Lester Davison
Michael Davis
Steve Fabbri
Susie Galloway
Jeffrey Gee
Amy Guy
Jackie Havis-Shear
Judge Janet Holmgren
Judge Robert Hopkins
Dr. Jeremy Jewell

Macon County Community Restorative Board

Macon County Probation Department
Dr. Jeanelle Norman
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Rachel Phillips
Marla Smart
Julie McCabe-Sterr
Rudy Martin
Shara Robinson
Keyria Rodgers
Judge Mark Shaner
Amanda Sprague
Shirley Treadway
Marcia Van Natta
Katy Welter
Thomas White



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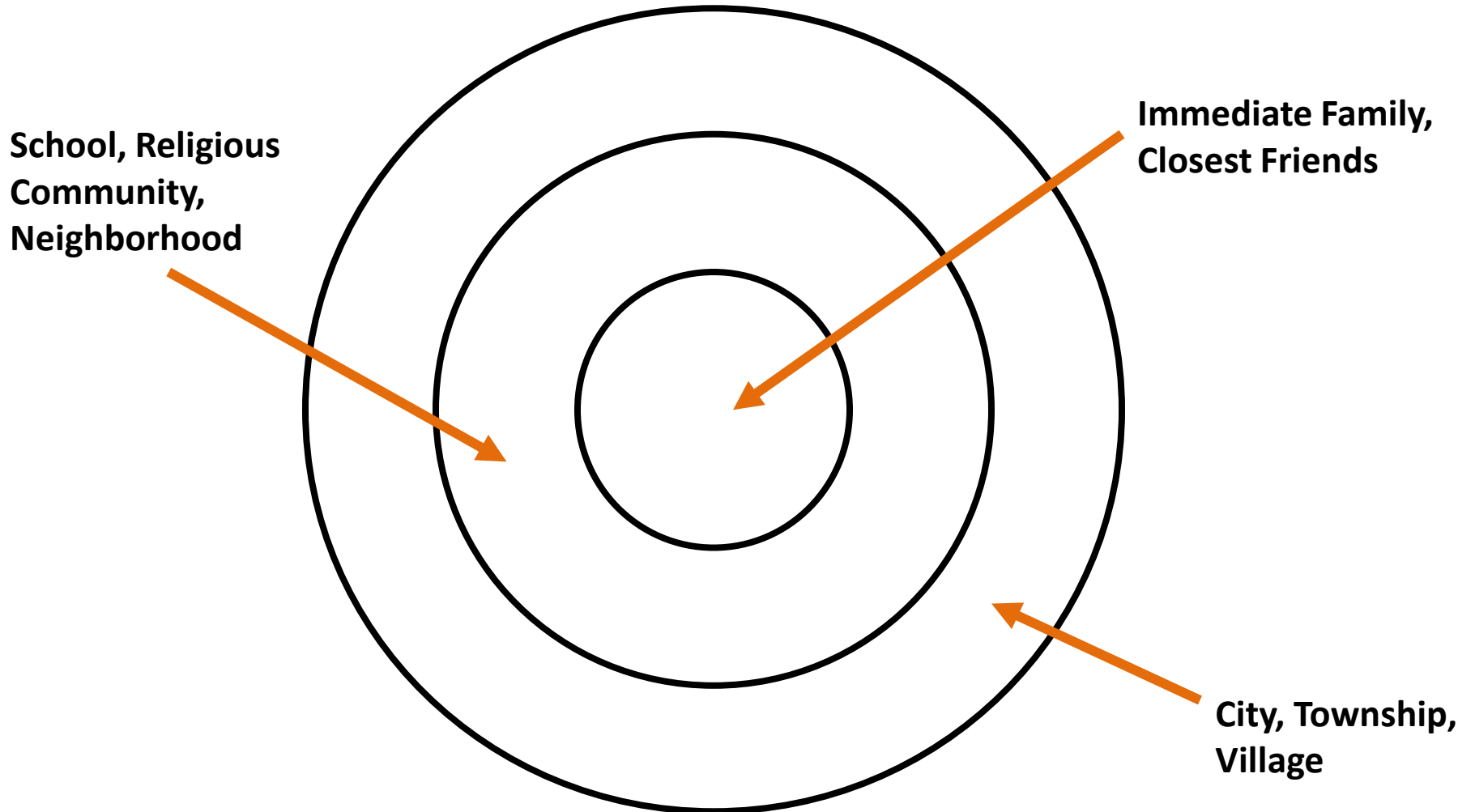
Toolkit Background and Goal

- Recognition of ARI sites that integrate effective community-oriented elements to enhance programming
- No go-to source that highlights or compiles these elements
- Goal: To create a roadmap that spotlights these innovations and provides guidance for future innovations and research within adult diversion programs and ARI



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Toolkit Methodology

- Information collected: July 2016 to October 2016
- Miles Traveled: 1418.97
- Number of Site Visits: 6
- Number of Interviews: 21
- Number of Interviewees: 43
- Total Counties Represented: 12
- Program Models Represented: 6





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Toolkit Methodology

Key Questions:

1. What are existing models for community involvement in adult diversion programs?
2. What tools are available for communities seeking to become involved with local adult diversion programs?
3. What are some challenges faced by adult diversion programs to involve the community? How were these challenges overcome?
4. What are the benefits of community involvement in adult diversion programs?



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Toolkit Sections

1. Engaging the Community
2. Integrating Restorative Justice
3. Building Resources in the Community
4. Employment Supports
5. Family Involvement
6. Peer Support
7. Community Celebrations



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“The community has to see the cost-benefit of the specialty courts— both financially and in terms of the human spirit and the community at large.”

- Julie McCabe-Sterr,
Coordinator for Will County Adult & Juvenile Drug Courts



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Integrating Restorative Justice



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**It's as important for the community to
be restored as it is for person.**

- Jackie Havis-Shear,
CRB Member and Founder



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“They’re not just checking a box and getting through it. It’s more [about] respecting their community, being part of that community again, and being respected again.”

- Danica Byler,
Madison County CRB Member and Founder



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“When I was drinking and out running around, my family and my children worried about me. That’s putting a strain on people that they didn’t ask for. It makes you feel bad when you realize all of this.

That ain’t today though. All you can do is try to make things better. Everyday I try to be a better person than what I was in days of past. I was a mess for a lot of years and I’m glad that I’m the person I have become.”

- Macon County CRB Graduate



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Building Resources in the Community



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“We wanted to make sure the community as a whole understood that we are serving a population that needs to be served. In a small community, you need support or else you aren’t going to last.”

- Judge Lance Peterson,
Grundy County TAC Presiding Judge



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“One for sure is the financial end of it. Our [also] clients need to go out to the community and be accepted. RE-NEW helps along those lines. It impacts the long term success of the clients.”

-Shirley Treadway,
RE-NEW President & Founder



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Family Involvement



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“I explain to family members that this particular group is for them. The biggest issue of all is for them to... know that they can recover too.”

- Marcia Van Natta,
Case Manager & Family Support Group Facilitator



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Employment Supports



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“When I came home from prison, I didn’t have anything and people worked with me to help me get on my feet. Seeing that the community was so willing to help me enhanced my positive attitude. It showed me that someone cares.”

- Thomas White,
Former Participant & ESS Instructor



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“We have a lot of people that they can’t go back to their old community. So you have to keep reaching out to let them know that they are welcome. This is huge thing for their recovery.”

- Amanda Sprague, LSSI Staff



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Conclusion

- The information presented in the toolkit is only a snapshot of what is occurring around the state
- For adult prison diversion programs, engaging the community is a risk that has high rewards
- We hope that this toolkit services as a resource for collaboration and innovation





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