



GOVERNOR OF IOWA Kim Reynolds

2020 VISION FOR IOWA

Changing Lives Through Second Chances

Opportunity must exist for all Iowans, including those seeking a second chance to build a positive, productive life. Reforming Iowa's criminal justice system and making sure the right opportunities are available for citizens re-entering our communities is a lasting legacy that this generation of Iowans must leave the next.

Felon Voting

Iowa is the only state in the nation where all convicted felons lose their right to vote unless they apply to the Governor for restoration. In 2019, Governor Reynolds proposed a constitutional amendment that would restore felon voting rights upon discharge after completion of their sentence.

Overwhelming support by the Iowa House last year established that broad support exists to resolve this issue. Until a solution exists, the Department of Corrections has automated the voting rights application process upon discharge. Because Iowans deserve better, the Governor again proposes:

- A constitutional amendment that would make felons eligible to register to vote after they completed their sentences as defined by the Legislature in statute.

Criminal Justice Reform

Working to achieve a less-biased, more opportunity-focused system is critically important to protecting public safety and building stronger communities. In 2019, Governor Reynolds appointed the FOCUS Committee on Criminal Justice Reform to continue to build on our progress. Based on the committee's recommendations, the Governor proposes the following:

- Expand treatment capacity in Iowa's correctional facilities and realign community-based resources to focus on treatment following re-entry.
- Streamline conviction review for occupational licensing.



We have a responsibility to put returning citizens on a path to redemption.

GOV. KIM REYNOLDS

Supporting Successful Reentry

Preparing inmates to successfully re-enter society is in the best interest of our state. Iowa's Department of Corrections takes an innovative approach to providing inmates with unique education opportunities and work-based learning experiences that prepare them for life and work after incarceration.

To continue to advance these efforts, the Governor proposes the following:

- Create a competitive grant program to support and enhance the re-entry efforts of nonprofit organizations.
- Establish the Second Chance Employer designation for businesses that hire re-entering citizens.
- Assist individuals nearing release or discharge from prison with obtaining a driver's license if eligible.
- Connect individuals not eligible for a driver's license with the Department of Transportation's Get There Your Way program, increasing awareness of alternative transportation options including public transit.
- Increase completion of the HiSET (high school equivalency test) among incarcerated individuals over the age of 21.
- Create a post-release educational pathway for re-entering individuals who want to continue pursuing post-secondary education.