

TRANSFORMATIVE IN-PRISON WORKGROUP

FEBRUARY 2020 UPDATE

TRANSFORMATIVE IN-PRISON WORKGROUP (TPW)

The TPW is statewide coalition representing 39 community-based organizations (CBOs) leading transformative and healing programs within CA prisons. We are a unified front of practitioners, formerly incarcerated individuals, and movement leaders, advocating in one voice to shift policy, practice and culture in the California Department of Corrections & Rehabilitation (CDCR) and state legislature.

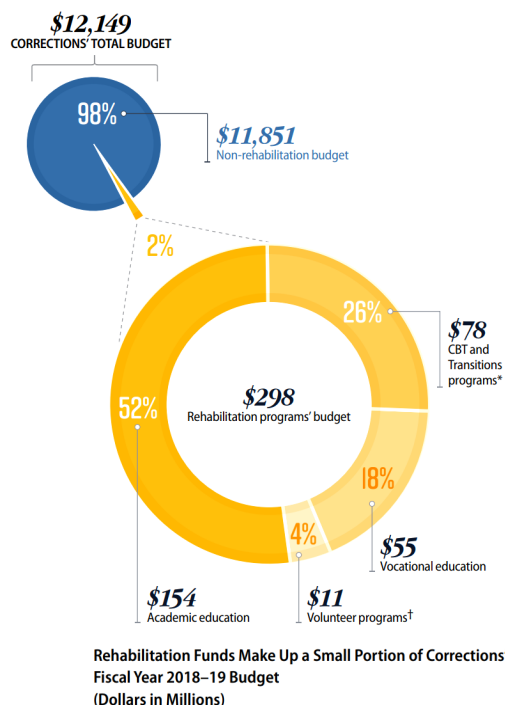
Our mission: Ensure that all people living in California prisons have access to meaningful, high quality programs, and to accelerate the impact of recent sentencing reforms towards our North Star goal of decarceration.

Reaching over **10,000** people annually, TPW members provide restorative justice, family reunification, arts, higher education, and more – building meaningful connections and lasting networks across prison walls.



THE ROLE OF CBOs IN TRANSFORMING CALIFORNIA'S SYSTEM OF MASS PUNISHMENT

CBO programs across the state are filling a huge gap in California prisons by creating restorative and healing environments. Our programs are shared spaces for people to break down racial barriers and acknowledge trauma, including the state-inflicted trauma of imprisonment.



TPW members prepare participants to advocate for themselves at the parole board, connect them to employment and support during reentry, and often hire them to lead inside programs after release. CBO programs are a key reason that people sentenced to die in prison are gaining access to opportunities for freedom and returning home to lead movements for systems transformation, healing, and liberation.

THE PROBLEM: DISINVESTMENT IN HEALING

Despite clear research that most incarcerated individuals experience trauma prior to arrest, with approximately 21% living with active PTSD symptoms, CDCR has no therapeutic interventions that address trauma.

While recent reforms represent major change, we must ensure that those currently incarcerated are not left behind. CA's "tough on crime" legacy lives on in the corrections budget, which invests *less than one tenth of one percent* (<0.09%) in CBO-run programs.

This structural disinvestment limits access to healing in CA prisons and delays individuals' releases by years, if not decades. Failure to invest public dollars in restorative, educational, and healing programs undermines efforts to decrease incarceration, reconnect families, and build safer communities. Trauma healing and transformative programming must be central to any decarceration strategy.

Don't miss our March 13th webinar! Register at: tinyurl.com/CCJFG-TPW

March 13, 2020 | 10-11:30AM | "The Transformative In-Prison Workgroup & the Fight for Healing in Prison"

THE SOLUTION: 1% CAMPAIGN

In 2020, the TPW will launch an organizing campaign to dramatically increase access to trauma-informed and transformative programming for the 126,000 individuals currently incarcerated in CA and to develop a greater culture of healing in prisons.

We will advocate for 1% of the state corrections budget to be reinvested in CBO programs. Our campaign will radically change the state's priorities to center CBOs as a pillar of health and healing in prison.

LEADERSHIP

The TPW is led by a seven-person Leadership Team of individuals who run transformative in-prison programs. The Leadership Team is comprised of a majority of formerly-incarcerated and/or system-impacted individuals and people of color.



Ayla Benjamin
Buddhist Pathways
Prison Project



Amanda Berger
Insight Garden
Program



Richard Cruz
Ahimsa Collective



Tyee Griffith
The Claremont
Colleges



Ken Hartman
The Catalyst
Foundation



Richie Reseda
Success Stories



Ella Turenne
Inside-Out Prison
Exchange Program

RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Won two state budget campaigns, securing \$9.5 million in additional funding for CBO programs.
- Secured 4 positions for formerly-incarcerated leaders on multi-stakeholder grants committee
- Grown from a nascent think tank to a 39-member coalition with political and positional power.
- Advocated for communities to inform design of upcoming state mandated CBO-run program evaluations.



- Hosted a Statewide Campaign Strategy Convening to co-design 1% Campaign.
- Provided narrative, communications, and research training for members.
- Organized to stop CDCR from using racially biased research design.
- Hold quarterly accountability meetings with CDCR Secretary Ralph Diaz and key officials

CURRENT MEMBERS

- Ahimsa Collective
- All of Us or None
- Anti-Recidivism Coalition
- Arts for Incarcerated Youth Network
- Barrios Unidos
- Buddhist Pathways
- California Coalition for Women Prisoners
- Catalyst Foundation
- Center For Council
- Choices For Freedom
- Coaching for Healing and Non-Violence
- Claremont Colleges: Criminal Justice Initiative
- Community Works West
- Defy Ventures
- Family UNITY Network
- Getting Out by Going In
- GRIP Training Institute
- IMPACT CARE Program
- Initiate Justice
- InsideOUT Writers
- Insight Garden Program
- Insight Prison Project
- Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program
- Jail Guitar Doors
- Last Mile
- Lioness Tale
- Paws for Life
- Prison Arts Project / William James Association
- Place4Grace
- Prison Education Project
- Prison Yoga Project
- Project Rebound, CSU Fresno
- Project Rebound, SFSU
- Re:store Justice
- Root and Rebound
- Safer Communities Project/BayNVC
- TheatreWorkers Project
- UnCommon Law
- Yolo Conflict Resolution Center

For more information contact TPW Coordinator Caitlin Dunklee at transformativeprisonwork@gmail.com
Check out our website for the latest news & updates: thetpw.org