



OUR WORK

Anchor of Hope International Ministries (AOH), 501 (C) (3) a nonprofit organization that includes a collective collaborative union of faith leaders interested in Criminal justice Reform consisting of notable Bishop, Pastors, Minister, faith-leaders and individuals representing over 50,000 congregates committed to making California communities safer through advocacy, policy, and successful reentry and long-term success of the formerly incarcerated and families. AOH interests are to (1) reduce recidivism; (2) improve employment attainment and retention; (3) increase and improve our collaborative partners' ability to serve justice-involved individuals by reducing the barriers to employment of ex-offenders and at-risk youth through vital pre-employment and legal resource assistance.

Our work currently affects the quality of life of a substantial number of Californians. Mass incarceration has grossly impacted South Los Angeles communities and families: people of color, the poor, people with disabilities, and people lacking formal education that negatively affects the community's economic health, wellness, and safety. For decades, thousands of prisoners have been released into our local communities with little or no reentry assistance. There are many legal employment and housing barriers that the justice involved individuals and families must overcome in order to have a successful reentry and economic self-sufficiency.

According to California Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) data, over 200,000 prisoners have been released early into local communities as a result of the California Public Safety Realignment Act (AB 109) and related state laws including Propositions 47 and 57, which reduced various felonies to misdemeanors, decreased prosecutions of parole violations, and shifted 35,000 inmates to local county jails. The overcrowding in the local jails has forced an early release of approximately 162,000 prisoners back into the community in 2013, 96,000 in 2014 after the passage of Proposition 47, and 72,000 in 2016 after the passage of Proposition 57.

Los Angeles County houses a quarter of California's jail population, male inmates are often released after serving as little as 10% of their sentences and female prisoners after 5%, and individuals arrested for parole violations are in many cases are released and never prosecuted. These efforts were projected to save California \$1.5 billion by 2015-16. However, insufficient rehabilitation, medical and mental health treatment, and reentry efforts many of the prisoners released early recommit crimes and return to prison - and the state budget, number of prisoners, and incidents of crime and homelessness continued to grow.

According to FBI and U.S. Department of Justice data, Los Angeles saw double-digit percentage

increases in violent crimes, and California's overall violent crime rate increased by 3.7%, according to a Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) report. During the realignment period, Los Angeles also saw an increase of 18,000 homeless individuals, according to Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority data. According to a comprehensive study for the county chief executive officer's homeless initiative, Los Angeles County spends close to \$1 billion a year caring for and managing its homeless population. Incarcerating an adult in California has risen to \$75,560 - and Los Angeles County spends more than \$233,000 a year incarcerating a youth, according to a county audit.

Effectiveness – Since 1998, Anchor of Hope has provided reentry services that achieve positive change and impact the lives of California formerly incarcerated and at-risk youth.

Anchor of Hope is “tough on crime and strong on rehabilitation.” Our goal is to reduce the number of innocent people who are economically and personally victimized by criminal activities. As part of reentry into society we advocate for a level of ongoing rehabilitation and supervision to monitor their transition back into society and reduce the risk of further crimes being perpetrated against others.

AOH serves the South Los Angeles justice impacted individuals who are on parole, probation or sustained a conviction within the last year or longer. AOH's objective is to take care of the whole person by making sure returning citizens seeking employment are ready to work; taken responsibility for what has happened; and are given the resources and support they need to succeed in constructing a life free of criminal activity. We collaborate with California Department of Motor Vehicle, Los Angeles County Probation, Los Angeles County Workforce Development, Volunteers of America-Compton; and Shields for Families, California Department of Rehabilitation, Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health, and Los Angeles County Department of Education refer returning citizens to Anchor of Hope REVIVE Free Legal Clinic. After intake and assessment the returning citizen are referred to a workforce collaborative partner for construction and apprenticeship training; work readiness/retention training; mentoring/life skills training; mental health counseling; tutoring/GED, housing, paid work experience sub-subsidized, On-the-Job training; and unsubsidized employment; mental health or supportive services/

In 2006, Anchor of Hope in collaboration with United Job Creation Council (UJCC) was successful in implementing its Local Hire Job Creation Initiative and lead the South Los Angeles community in a united campaign to effect new ordinances and public policies that establish employment opportunities for residents of disadvantaged neighborhoods in the City of Los Angeles, including collecting 5,000 signatures on petitions urging the City to adopt local hiring practices. The Los Angeles City Community Redevelopment Agency adopted the language from United Job Creation Council's Local Hire Initiative in February 2008, resulting in an MOU for its collaborating practitioners and service providers; and LA City Council has adopted the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) Construction Career Ladders Policy, which UJCC initiated.

Since 2009 AHO Criminal Justice Courage Campaign Pastoral Advisory Coalition has grown from adding one church as coalition partner to over 15 churches as coalition partners.

From November 2008 to March 2009, AHO provided pre-employment training, GED and literacy services to 150 adult ex-offenders. In 2009 and 2010 AOH provided services to 187 ex-offender and at-risk youths. In 2014, we began designing, and organizing the legal clinic.

Since 2014, in addition to pre-employment training, AOH has provided workforce development Proposition 47 free Legal services that reduced legal barriers to employment to over 300 formerly incarcerated individuals from two locations in South Los Angeles, and Gardena.

AOH Legal services include the legal services and document preparation for client filing in the following collateral consequences areas: Proposition 47 petitions, expungements, clearing criminal records, certificates of rehabilitation, child support and child custody, employment and gender discrimination, police excessive force. In January of 2018, AHO Legal Clinic started providing DMV/ticket clearing, and eviction notice assistance.

AOH delivers professional development opportunities to help Reentry Ministries increase their capacities through support teams offering technical assistance and connect reentry ministries to resources so they may build their reentry ministry leadership and management capacity.

Innovation

Anchor of Hope has established an innovative Criminal Justice Courage Campaign (CJCC) that is a strategic alliance of pastors and faith leaders. We represent notable bishops, ministers, and pastors as their delegated representative to speak in voice in meetings with California Legislative Caucuses to discuss strategies on improving the conditions of the men, women, and children in California prisons by influencing the Legislative Latino and Black Caucuses to establish a legislative committee to study the social, economic, health, employment and criminal impacts of the Prison Realignment Act policies and devise new public policy that will systemically, institutionally, and financially respond to the finding of the U.S. Supreme Court that will reduce recidivism instead of shifting the problem from the state to the county to the community; with the goal of influencing the Legislative select committee to form Legislative Hearing to examine the impact of the unprecedented United States Supreme Court decision that California had failed to protect its inmates from cruel and unusual punishment, including insufficient mental and medical health care; the financial and criminal justice impact of the Prison Realignment Act and related legislation and propositions; The appointment of individuals to boards and commissions, involved in decisions related to criminal justice issues, from southern California based on the number of inmates released into these communities; Legislative proposals/priorities to pay inmates a living wage with benefits enact a personal income tax exemption, while incarcerated, and increased job training and career development opportunities; The impact of imprisonment on family poverty and homelessness are given that when one of its members are imprisoned there is a loss of income and it exacerbates new expenses, such as, the cost of a lawyer, food for the imprisoned, and transportation to prison for visits.

Churches and houses of worship want to meet the basic needs of poor, disenfranchised returning citizens and families in local communities. Churches and houses of worship with reentry programs must be equipped and prepared to meet the needs of the formerly incarcerated and poor families without continually relying on temporal, restricted, scarce public agency and

community-based 2nd Chance dollars.

AOH Criminal Justice Courage Campaign educates its collaborative partnerships regarding the impact the criminal justice system has on poor families, children and basic needs.

AOH acts as a collaborative hub to coalition partners to provide training, outreach and education to churches, faith-community, business, public safety agencies, and general public and state and national leaders. They coordinate and unite efforts state-by-state and nationally to advocate on behalf of individuals, families and children impacted by the criminal justice system in need of training, education, housing, employment, holistic spiritual, mental and physical health and basic needs.

- Educational conferences, professional training, webinars, and individual consultation.
- Data and research findings on reentry ministry services and programs, poverty impact on children and families impacted by criminal justice system, basic needs, and reentry ministry program in local churches and service impact.
- Sample Reentry Ministry forms and templates; Reentry Ministry program materials, and assessment tools.

Inclusiveness – Anchor of Hope helps build bridges among people with different viewpoints or backgrounds.

AOH believes that, in-part, the solution to the victimization of the innocent is the rehabilitation of the guilty and their systemic, institutions, and societal forgiveness once they have paid their debt to society.

AOH has built strong collaborative and partnership with public safety agencies, along with California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) officials who encourages our efforts in building bridges with church and houses of worship leaders to partner with them by providing subsidized employment and work readiness training, mentoring, removing legal barriers, small support groups, family reunification, mental health and substance abuse counseling, permanent housing, vocational skills training and basic needs assessment and referrals. Local public safety officials rely on churches and houses of worship to help keep large numbers of offenders out of the revolving door between incarceration and freedom. AOH acts as a collaborative hub to our reentry ministry partners to provide training, outreach and education to churches, faith-community, public safety agencies, and general public, state and national leaders. We coordinate and unite efforts to advocate on behalf of individuals, and families impacted by the criminal justice system in need of basic needs.

AOH hosts focus groups with the “Alliance of Minister’s and Pastors Collaborative” consisting of criminal justice groups and individuals with different viewpoints and backgrounds to assist in developing a strategic plan initiative that would move forward.

To respond effectively, churches need an expansion of partnership opportunities and public investment in building capacity to provide services. It is a well-known and documented fact that the church is the key institution in the African American community; they are seen as *first responders* to any crisis. Churches have a significant role to play in the re-entry process in their

communities, since offenders and their family members often turn to them for immediate assistance and advice on accessing services.

Anchor of Hope Work is at a stage where financial support could substantially aid our expansion, inspire replication, and/or how the policy environment is conducive to progress at this time. If possible, address the methods or paths that the nominee/s has or would use to expand, replicate or advance the work. This could include:

- o Altering people's attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors.
- o Changing public policies, funding sources or levels.
- o Directly replicating a program or services in other sites or locations.
- o Recruiting and training others to deliver services or a solution.
- o Distributing the work through an existing network or system that can replicate it in many locations.
- o Changing public systems.
 - Using technology to reach a larger audience.

An increase in drastic sentencing measures has overwhelmed our prison infrastructures. California has added more than 1,000 crime laws over the last three decades, furthering mass incarceration. The timing of this award will be used to build capacity for the continued work of advocacy and building reentry organizations in local churches to assist those returning from community to successfully reentry the community, church and social environments.

AOH functions as a community and faith-based collaborative who meet regularly and in special sessions to consider the communities most pressing problems by making systemic, policy, regulatory and legislative changes, that increase access to job preparation, training, placement and retention for the formerly incarcerated and local at-risk and underserved populations. It is our goal to reach decisions through consensus with ratification by the Board of Directors to improve the social, economic and moral status of underserved communities through increase job preparation, training, placement and retention opportunities and to enhance the overall quality of life for the disadvantage.

AOH serves as a neutral administrative body responsible for building and sustaining the coalition necessary to encourage opportunities for employment and contracts. AOH facilitates the consensus of the collaborative and manages data accumulated on behalf of the members of AOH.

Once the opportunities are established, AOH provides the synergy for recruitment, training, and employment of the local residents and underserved population; evaluate the progress and success of legislation and memorandums of understanding; and build and manage the capacity to monitor and enforce all related agreements. AOH works with faith-based community-based organizations to identify and obtain the funding necessary for them to fulfill their goals and objectives as it relates to this project.

Outreach and volunteer recruitment and retention is critical for the AOH to meet the needs of the growing justice involved population in the Los Angeles area. The timing of this award would

increase the organizations ability to serve more justice involved individuals. AOH can increase by 30% the number of returning citizens directly served by one-on-one legal services and reduce by 50% the number of legal barriers to employment.

Leadership – Anchor of Hope has demonstrated an interest in sharing our model in informing public policy.

There are currently local churches and houses of worship providing “Reentry Ministry” programs and services to the formerly incarcerated and families, but there is no current data specifically identifying reentry ministries in California and particularly in Los Angeles County. AHO’s Criminal Justice Courage Campaign (CJCC) can provide the data to help broaden accessibility and enhance programming of the local church reentry ministry programs.

AOH seeks to communicate and share the CJCC model with pastors, ministers, church administrators, community-based social service providers, prison ministry and re-entry ministry volunteers, policy makers. formerly incarcerated and families by partnering with public safety, mental health, education, work source, and California Legislative Caucuses to conduct educational seminars, workshops, and conferences as a vehicle to build consensus, empowerment and advocacy among Black, Brown, Asian, and other marginalized groups to build a power-base of civic engagement; voting; and policy through consensus with one united voice for the purpose of uniting churches, organization leaders, and policy makers to establish a collective agenda by defining issues; develop mechanism to find solutions to problems; to build institutional power structures.

The 2018 AOH 4th Annual Reentry Ministry Summit “Power of Civic Engagement”: Returning Citizens Living in promise, Purpose and Possibilities. Invitations were sent inviting the California Legislative Black Caucus and the Los Angeles Mayor’s Office of Re-Entry to be a partner with Anchor of Hope in the expo. The California Senate Pro-Tem; and the California Black Caucus is conducting a workshop for the conference on appointment to boards, commissions and committees to educate the community about various appointments within the criminal justice system. The main emphasis of the conferences, expos and workshops is to have all policy makers and public officials educate the community on the process and here from the community and once that happens ask pointed questions that will offer solutions.

