Public Health Institute of Metropolitan Chicago (PHIMC) enhances the capacity of public health and healthcare systems to promote health equity and expand access to services. Through organizational development, systems transformation, fiscal management, and program implementation, PHIMC leads efforts to strengthen public health infrastructure in Illinois.

Community Reentry Project (CRP) is a multi-stakeholder project that coordinates efforts to ensure that people living with and at highest risk for HIV transition smoothly from incarceration to communities. CRP facilitates a comprehensive system of HIV prevention, care, and support services throughout Illinois.

Each year about 35,000 individuals exit the Illinois state prison system. Incarcerated individuals are disproportionately impacted by chronic and infectious illnesses with higher rates of HIV, hepatitis, tuberculosis, substance abuse, mental illness, and other medical conditions. For incarcerated individuals living with chronic health problems, the challenges of reintegrating into the community are exacerbated.

The Impact of Community Reentry Project

- Improved health outcomes for people living with and at highest risk for HIV who are re-entering Illinois communities
- Increased HIV testing in county jails throughout Illinois and the Illinois Department of Corrections system (IDOC)
- Reduced HIV transmission in Illinois communities through education, testing, and suppressed viral loads
- Reduced recidivism

The project is a unique model that has earned state and national attention for using a public health approach to reentry. The recidivism rate for participants in CRP is only 23% compared to 50% as reported by IDOC.

PHIMC serves as the convener and grants manager for CRP partner agencies, guiding strategic planning, providing fiscal management, and leading program management and monitoring. Highly trained staff at partner organizations identify and address the health, social, and criminogenic needs of clients. Partners include:

- AIDS Foundation of Chicago
  Intensive case management
  312-922-2322

- Cermak Health Services of Cook County
  Prevention education, counseling, testing, and referrals
  773-869-4935

- Christian Community Health Center – Footprints
  Prevention education, counseling, testing, and assistance in obtaining identification
  773-233-4100

- Legal Council for Health Justice
  Legal counseling and advocacy for incarcerated individuals
  312-427-8990

- Men and Women in Prison Ministries
  Distribution of discharge planning packets, family support groups, and assistance in obtaining identification
  312-328-9610

Public Health Institute of Metropolitan Chicago
Discharge planning trainings, Illinois Reentry Conferences, and statewide meetings around incarceration and public health

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