



Addressing the Housing Barrier of a Sex Offense Conviction



Carol Peeples
Founder & Executive Director
Remerg

Goals for this Presentation

Raise Awareness

A criminal record, especially for a sex offense conviction, is a huge barrier to obtaining housing.

Educate

The general public is misinformed about the actual risk posed by people with a sex offense conviction.

Share Experience

Remerg's pilot housing program HOUSE connects people who are incarcerated directly to landlords.

The Numbers

- As of October 2024, there are **19,374** people on the sex offender registry living in communities in Colorado. (*CO Bureau of Investigation, Oct 2024*)
- At least **4,390 (25.2%)** of Colorado's currently-incarcerated Department of Corrections population have an "SXO" designation. An additional 2,116 are currently on Parole supervision. (CDOC Statistical Data, 2024)
- As of September 2022, there were at least **1,097** individuals on the SO registry in Colorado experiencing homelessness, living on the street or in homeless shelters. (*CO Open Records Act Request, 2022*)



Policies and Practices Are a Huge Barrier

State guidance for landlords re: criminal records

- Colorado's HB19-1106 mandates that landlords may not consider an arrest record from any time, and may not consider any conviction that occurred more than 5 years before the date of the application EXCEPT for convictions and deferred judgments involving methamphetamine, the **requirement to register as a sex offender**, and any offense classified as homicide or stalking.



In practice, while some landlords are willing to provide housing, we also have many who won't rent, which drives people to homelessness.



Perception of Risk vs Reality of Risk



- Many misconceptions related to level of risk of persons convicted of sex offense
- Risk assessments are an objective tool
- Treatment reduces the level of risk
- Truth about recidivism
- Protective factors (stable housing)



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Remerg's HOUSE Program

Housing, Opportunity, Unity, Stability, Engagement



Bob Eisenman
HOUSE Program Manager
Remerg

- Collaboration between Colorado Department of Corrections and Colorado Department of Local Affairs Division of Housing and our nonprofit
- Funded by Olmstead Act, which provides an exception for a housing voucher for a person with a sex offense who also has a qualifying disability under the ADA

Red Rocks
Community College
Gateway Program

Ride Share
Credits through
RMEOC

Remerg Case
Management

Center for
Employment
Opportunity, Mile
High Workshop

Cooking Classes and
Other Lifeskills
Training through
MetroCaring

Denver Health
Corrections
Transitions Clinic

Remerg Peer Support



- Targets people with an indeterminate sentence who have served their sentence, completed treatment, qualify due to a disability, and are at risk of homelessness
- Provides case management and supportive services on a weekly basis
- Invests in people who otherwise haven't been invested in

Our landlords are key



Chris Meeks



Devin Bewley



Thank You!

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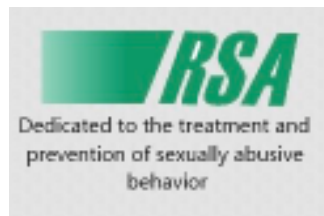
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