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# Connecticut Regional Institute for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

Assessment of Connecticut's Correction, Parole and Probation System

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*Draft - Executive  
Summary*

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Accounting | Tax | Business Consulting

The passion to unlock potential

# Executive Summary

## Observations

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- Many societal issues, outside the scope of this work, have direct impact on the prison population.
  - Employment
  - Housing
  - Mental Health
  - Education
  - Substance Abuse
  - Parenting
- Connecticut's prison growth has not been caused by growth in crime rates. Prison growth has been caused by policy choices.
- Connecticut's Criminal Justice System is complex:
  - Spans multiple state agencies and branches of government
  - There are many cause and effect relationships in the system
- Connecticut's Prison and Probation Systems are costly
- There is not one or a small group of recommendations that will have a large immediate impact on the system. There needs to be many smaller initiatives, rooted in a common strategy, that will need to be accomplished to yield benefits.

# Executive Summary

## Observations

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- Connecticut has seen a recent reduction in prison population but the cost of the Department of Correction continues to rise.
- National studies and data suggest that treatment, reentry, rehabilitation and community corrections programs are much more cost effective and appropriate compared to imprisonment.
- Connecticut has taken steps in the adoption of National Trends to improve Correction, Parole and Probation.
- Investments in this system must be measured and managed, however, immediate payback may not occur. Many of these initiatives will take several years to yield benefits. Therefore, a long-term planning horizon (6-10 years) must frame any go-forward strategy.
- The two major focuses to reduce prison population are:
  1. Diversion from entering
  2. Elimination/Reduction from re-entering

These two elements must be the focus of a comprehensive go-forward strategy.

# Executive Summary

## Recommendations

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- Formalize and adequately fund a steering mechanism across the entire criminal justice system.
- The steering mechanism needs to develop a comprehensive strategy for Connecticut's Criminal Justice System.
- Establish and monitor a measurement system across Correction, Parole and Probation.
- Develop a comprehensive information system across Correction, Parole and Probation.
- Review, analyze and standardize the risk assessment instruments that should be utilized across the Correction, Parole and Probation.
- Continue to build and enhance partnerships and collaborations with community based service providers.
- Institute the use of meritorious good-time for certain offenders.
- Renegotiate Union contracts.

# Executive Summary

## Recommendations

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- Connecticut's business community should be included in the Criminal Justice strategy and structure.
- The current Department of Correction re-entry programs both internal and community based need to be funded and sustained; however, there need to be specific measurement systems at the program level to determine cost effectiveness.
- Within the context of an overall Justice System strategy examine the racial disparity of Connecticut's prison population.
- Extend the early release furlough program for appropriate inmates.
- Consider implementing the Hawaii Opportunity Probation with Enforcement (HOPE) Probation program model which has yielded success in Hawaii.
- Establish a faith based pilot initiative within the incarcerated male population.
- Examine and address issues related to prison-based gerrymandering.