

Tips for a Successful Reentry into the Community

While each person's journey is unique, this is a list of common things to consider to make the transition from custody to community as smooth as possible.

1. Gather important documents such as a [birth certificate](#), a [social security card](#), and a California state [identification or driver's license](#).
2. Take care of your Basic Needs.
 - Find a stable source for **food**.
 - Find safe and stable **housing**.
 - Learn about **transportation** options and obtain stable transportation. Don't forget to ask your Probation Officer for assistance with bus tokens, they may be able to help.
3. Take care of your **medical needs** such as physical exams, prescription refills, dental care, vision care, and HIV/STD/Hepatitis testing and treatment.
4. Find a stable source of **income**.
5. Resolve any **legal issues** or **child support issues**.
6. **Reach out for help if you need it.** Build a positive support system of friends, family, and other helpful people. Attend community support meetings such as AA, NA, and/or faith community meetings.
7. If you are considering continuing your education, find local programs for GED completion, or apply for state and federal financial aid to attend community college for little to no cost through the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#).