* Date 01-15-2015Location Re-Entry Training Center, Reibold Building, Dayton, OH 45402
* Name Focus Group: Providers of Services to Citizens returning from Incarceration
* **Recap of session:**
* The housing subcommittee of the Montgomery County Office of Ex-offender Reentry obtains local landlords that are willing to rent to ex-felons, educates ex-felons as to their rights in housing and how to evaluated housing that they may be interested in renting. Most members do have a connection to housing in Montgomery County.

**Top 3 areas of Discrimination**

**Most Common:**

38%identified Disability as #1

38% identified Ethnicity as #2

38% identified Ethnicity as #3

* **Noteworthy stats:**
* 25% identified Race/Color and Disability as #2
* 25% Identified Disability as #3
* **I know someone who was discriminated against.**
* 1 stated yes.
* 7 stated no.
* **Disability:**

2 stated a person with disabilities resides in their home.

* **Current housing is accessible.**
* 1 stated yes.
* 7 stated no
* **Opinion/thoughts about how willing landlords will help people with disabilities.**
* Very willing – 3
* Hesitant – 4
* Unwilling – 1

Tell us about your neighborhood.   
Does it or doesn’t it have:

* + Good Schools?

No comments.

* + Groceries and shopping amenities that are plentiful and close?

3 people said this was #1.

* + Health Care – is it close or far away?

“This is near to the top of the list of things that ex-offenders need”.

* + Community Center?

No comments.

* + **Affordable** housing opportunities?

This is the number 1 reason for moving into a neighborhood by ex-offenders.

* + Easy **transportation** to everywhere in the county?

No comments.

* + Is there neighborhood **blight** or problems?

Blighted areas are problematic because they are the only places for ex-offenders to get housing and it keeps the ex-offender in proximity to on-going crime.

* + Is it accessible to **people with disabilities**

No comments.

* + What else is important?
* Inability to get utilities turned on is a large barrier to housing availability, not necessarily a
* barrier to housing choice or availability except in the sense that there are few places that
* include utilities nowadays.
* Back Child support, Prior evictions, overdue and unpaid phone, gas, electric and water, low
* or no income, all contribute to lack of access to housing – most ex-offenders have unpaid
* balances when they get out of prison or jail. Even programs like PIP can be problematic
* because of the lack of income to ever do a Catch up.

“No Job results in no house” and vice versa: “no house results in no job” the two are

inextricably linked.

* Majority of this group felt jobs is the major barrier to housing for ex-offenders.