



Reentry through Integrated Opportunities (RIO)

District of New Mexico

United States District Court

September 9, 2026



Why RIO?

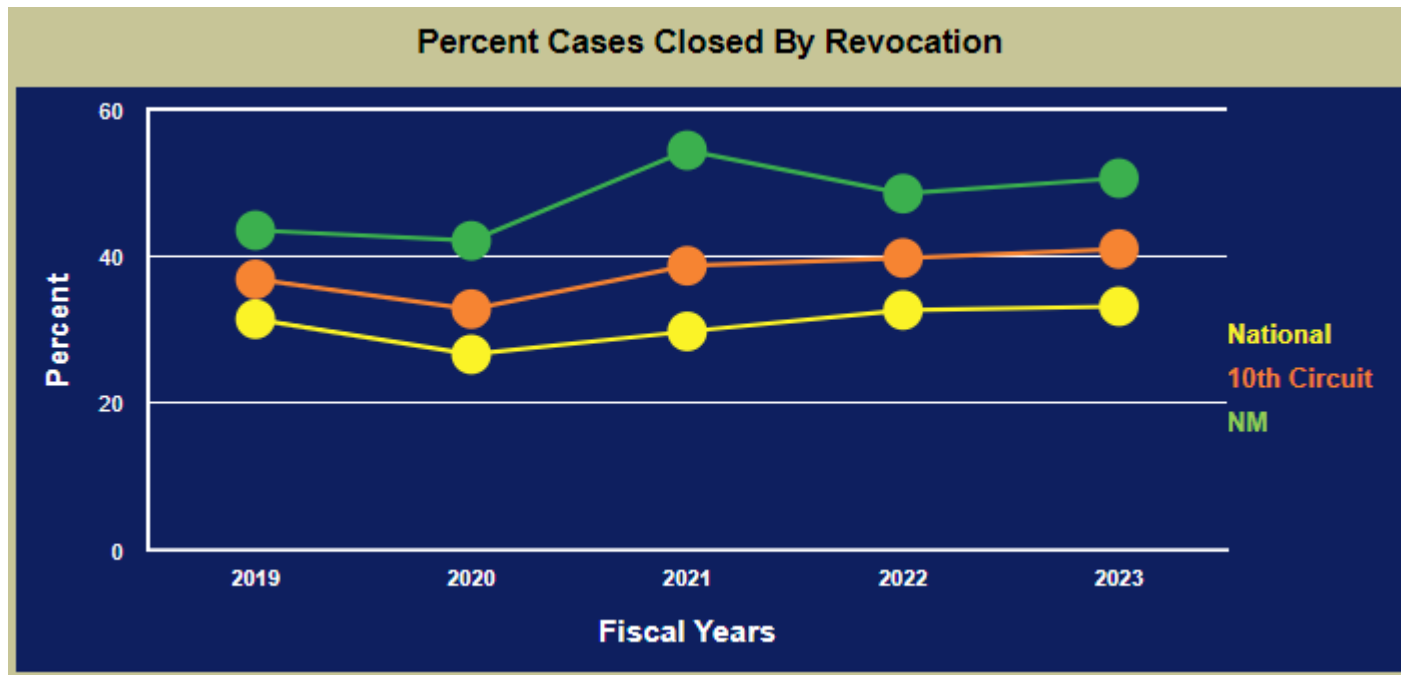
- ▶ Changes to Armed Career Criminal Act (ACCA), re-sentencing under Borden, and the implementation of the First Step Act have led to a significant increase of high-risk offenders released to the community with little notice.
 - ▶ No time for prerelease planning, causing challenges for reentry
- ▶ Criminal justice populations have many risk factors, such as histories of homelessness, mental illness, substance abuse, unemployment, transportation obstacles, and high rates of chronic health problems
- ▶ Elevated risk for recidivism, suicide, and failure in community functioning.
- ▶ This program is designed to increase the opportunity for success by addressing the criminogenic factors (factors related to the increased likelihood of recidivism). Those factors include the following:
 - ▶ history of anti-social behavior.
 - ▶ criminal/deviant peer associations.
 - ▶ substance abuse.
 - ▶ dysfunctional family relationships.

RIO: A New Approach

▶ A 2016 study which tracked federal offenders released in 2005 indicates that prior federal offenders recidivate at an alarming pace (DeGiusti, 2018):

▶ 49.3 % were rearrested within 8 years of their release from prison.

▶ In **District of NM FY 2023**, our revocation rate was **50.6%**, compared to the national average of 33.2%.



RIO Development

- ▶ The first “drug-court” model was established in 1989 in Miami, Florida following the crack cocaine epidemic
- ▶ Before 2010, there were 2 federal treatment courts. By late 2016-2017 there were 5 Federal Treatment Court Programs
- ▶ RIO is modeled after the Eastern District of Pennsylvania Federal Treatment Courts
 - ▶ STRIDES (Strategies that Result in Developing Emotional Stability)
 - ▶ STAR (Supervision to Aid Reentry) - established 2007
 - ▶ Relapse Prevention Court
- ▶ In NM, we found it impossible to create a court that excluded co-occurring substance use and mental health disorders.
- ▶ The hybrid model developed for RIO addresses the specific needs of our State’s population (rural, high poverty, high crime rates) while following evidence-based practices of the Adult Drug Treatment Court Model

RIO Development

- ▶ RIO participants are often individuals with a poor performance history on supervision and “look bad on paper”
- ▶ RIO addresses any violations, such as relapses, using a graduated sanction matrix
- ▶ BJS survey of federal inmates in 2004 found that 45% reported histories of Substance use or dependence
 - ▶ 26% were under the influence of drugs or alcohol at the time their offense was committed
 - ▶ 18% committed their offenses to feed their addiction.
- ▶ Researchers with Probation & Pretrial Services Office of the Administrative Office of the United States Court found that 17% of supervised federal offenders reported “current” drug problems and 9% reported “current” alcohol problems.
 - ▶ 43% reported that drug use had “led to [their] legal problems.”
 - ▶ the rate of offenders with problems was closely associated with the offenders’ overall risk levels (as measured by the Post Conviction Risk Assessment, or PCRA).



What Is RIO?

- ▶ Reentry through Integrated Opportunities is the District of New Mexico's first reentry/problem solving court
 - ▶ Hybrid model of a reentry/problem solving court that combines judicial supervision and rehabilitation services, with closely monitored focus on recovery and treatment to reduce recidivism and improve offender outcomes.
- ▶ Launched on 9/19/23 with 10 male participants; though we do accept females
- ▶ Based on the Adult Treatment Court model
- ▶ Evidence-based practices to reduce recidivism and equip participants with the tools and resources to be successful.
- ▶ RIO consists of multidisciplinary team members from U.S. Probation, U.S. Attorney's Office, Federal Public Defender's Office, Treatment Specialist, Mentor Coordinator, and is led by a District or Magistrate Judge.
- ▶ We are a "back-end" program. As with most federal reentry and drug courts, we focus on participants with *high* criminogenic risks and needs.
 - ▶ The archetype participant suffers from drug and/or alcohol abuse or addiction, needs mental health treatment, and often has experienced significant trauma; with extensive criminal histories.
- ▶ Voluntary program offered to individuals who have a history of ***poor compliance on community supervision*** or *who have served lengthy custodial sentences*, validated measure of **high/moderate risk** and/or are reentry candidates with ***high needs***. (PCRA, SPARC, PTRR)

RIO Summary

- ▶ 52- Week program, *minimum*. Participants receive credit for each successful/compliant week.
 - ▶ In-person Court every 2 weeks
 - ▶ Federal Supervision office/home visits according to risk level
 - ▶ 4 hours monthly community service
 - ▶ Individual therapy at least 2x/month
 - ▶ Assigned RIO Mentor and group 2x/month
 - ▶ Veterans Justice Program Specialist/mental health clinician
- ▶ Will not receive credit for any weeks not in compliance
- ▶ RIO operates with a graduated sanction and incentive matrix to help shape negative behavior and promote pro-social engagement
- ▶ Goal is to provide intensive services to support compliance and successful reentry to the community
- ▶ After participants successfully complete 52 weeks, they are eligible for a reduction of their supervised release period up to one year.

RIO Key Components

- ▶ Integrated approach. Cannot separate the substance use/mental health needs from the justice system case processing
- ▶ Non-adversarial approach. AUSA and FPD promote public safety while protecting participants' due process rights
- ▶ Early identification of eligible participants and prompt placement into problem solving court
- ▶ Access to a continuum of alcohol, drug, and other related treatment and rehabilitation services
- ▶ Abstinence is monitored by frequent alcohol and other drug testing
- ▶ Ongoing judicial interaction with each participant is essential
- ▶ Supervision to monitor and gauge effectiveness
- ▶ Partnerships with community agencies and stakeholders

By reducing revocations and imprisonment, the reentry program has the potential to reduce costs of incarceration by utilizing community supervision

- Community Supervision is \$4,742/year (\$14 daily)
- BOP is \$51,711/year (\$142 daily)

Client's Latest Supervision Level	All Cases Closed FY2023					Cases with Treatment Services								
	# of Cases	Total # of Days Under Active Supervision (includes PreRelease days)	Average # of Days Active Supervision Per Case	Successful Personal Contacts (PH,P-HI, PC,PE,PO)	Approximate # of Days Between Contacts (Days Supervised divided by Chrono Count)	# of Cases	Days Supervised		Treatment Cost * (before Copay & AdminCost deduct)			Total Government Cost * (Treatment\$ - Copay - Adjustments)		
							Total # of Days Under Active Supervision (includes PreRelease days)	Average # of Days Active Supervision Per Case	Total Treatment Cost	Average Treatment Cost Per Case	Average Treatment Cost Per Day Active	Total Govt Cost	Average Govt Cost Per Case	Average Govt Cost Per Day Active
RED (High, H/3, H/2, H/1, M/3 else R9)	256	78,282	306	3,610	22	201	75,779	377	\$1,064,151	\$5,294	\$14.04	\$1,062,410	\$5,286	\$14.02
ORANGE (Moderate, M/2, LM/3 else R8, R7)	148	70,578	477	2,211	32	133	69,812	525	\$641,248	\$4,821	\$9.19	\$639,676	\$4,810	\$9.16
YELLOW (Low/Moderate, M/1, LM/2 else R6, R5)	160	97,629	610	2,809	35	142	95,538	673	\$855,691	\$6,026	\$8.96	\$854,446	\$6,017	\$8.94
GREEN (LM/1 else R4)	215	158,326	736	3,337	47	190	148,601	782	\$918,793	\$4,836	\$6.18	\$916,767	\$4,825	\$6.17
BLUE (Low, L/2, L/1 else R3, R2, R1, R0)	113	83,952	743	870	96	86	68,535	797	\$163,604	\$1,902	\$2.39	\$159,174	\$1,851	\$2.32
[No Risk Level Assigned]	60	8,931	149	73	122	10	1,095	110	\$6,770	\$677	\$6.18	\$6,770	\$677	\$6.18
Total:	952	497,698	523	12,910	39	762	459,360	603	\$3,650,257	\$4,790	\$7.95	\$3,639,244	\$4,776	\$7.92

- RIO targets clients in orange and red; the highest cost
- Reduces the negative collateral consequences of re-incarceration on families and our community.

RIO Program Team

- ▶ **The Honorable Matthew L. Garcia, U.S. District Judge, and the Honorable Laura Fashing, U.S. Magistrate Judge**
 - ▶ Leads the RIO team and every court session
 - ▶ Reviews every case prior to acceptance to RIO and provides feedback on case and appropriateness
 - ▶ Provides an opportunity for a positive interaction with a person in a position of authority and within the criminal justice system, spends 3-7 minutes with each participant at the podium, every session
 - ▶ Provides feedback on behavioral changes, both positive and constructive, and delivers sanctions during court session

▶ **Rachel Jacobs and Angelica Hall, Assistant Federal Public Defenders**

- ▶ Participates in all pre-court staffing. Reviews all PSR's, arrest warrants, and relevant documents and information.
- ▶ Advises the participants as to the nature and purpose of the problem-solving court, rules governing participation, and consequences of abiding or failing to abide by the rules and how participating in RIO will affect their interests. Gives input on participant progress and adjustments to treatment plans, including sanctions.

▶ **Caitlin Dillon and Jena Ritchey, Assistant United States Attorney**

- ▶ Participates in all pre-court staffing. Advocates for public safety and victim interest. Discusses case referrals with assigned AUSA and provides feedback on eligibility.
- ▶ Agrees that positive drug test or admission of substance will be addressed with RIO court judges and may not result in additional charges. Makes decisions regarding the participant's continued enrollment in RIO based on performance in treatment, rather than on legal aspect of the case, barring additional criminal behavior.

▶ **Ron Travers, Chief US Probation Officer**

- ▶ Oversees U.S. probation office and all prospective referrals. Provides access to resources to run RIO program. Ensures all guidelines are being adhered to and guides U.S. Probation office in identifying alternative approach to supervision.

▶ **Camilla Duarte, Supervisory USPO/RIO Program Coordinator**

- ▶ Coordinates all RIO referrals and conducts initial screening of candidates prior to sending to RIO team for review, oversees probation officer, provides feedback on compliance issues, identifies new participants, responsible for RIO documents (agreements, all finalized manuals)

▶ **Danielle Padilla, RIO US Probation Officer**

- ▶ Direct supervision of all RIO participants; daily to weekly contact with each participant
- ▶ Creates probation plan for each participant with # of visits, # of UA's, etc., responsible for enforcing compliance for violations, prepares RIO progress reports for staffing, coordinates with treatment providers; Provides oral progress report to the RIO Team during the bi-weekly pre-meeting

▶ **Cammie Hanrattie, LCSW, Mental Health Clinician**

- ▶ Manages treatment for participants and will assist with coordination of care. Makes recommendations on course of treatment and assessment of needs. Provides treatment reports.
- ▶ Responsible for informing probation of any violations/issues. Gives feedback on sanctions/incentives and attends pre-court staffing and court sessions. Primary point of contact for mentor coordinator.
- ▶ Contract Therapy also provided by Choice Recovery Path, Counseling World, and community stakeholders as appropriate

▶ **Michael Rooney, Mentor Coordinator**

- ▶ Facilitates RIO Life Skills mentor group 2x/month and works with RIO participants to connect them with individual mentors and support them through the challenging reentry and reintegration process. Identifies community supports to address individual needs and supports participants through addressing underlying mental health and SUD needs. Ongoing recruitment and training of mentors and connection with community supports.

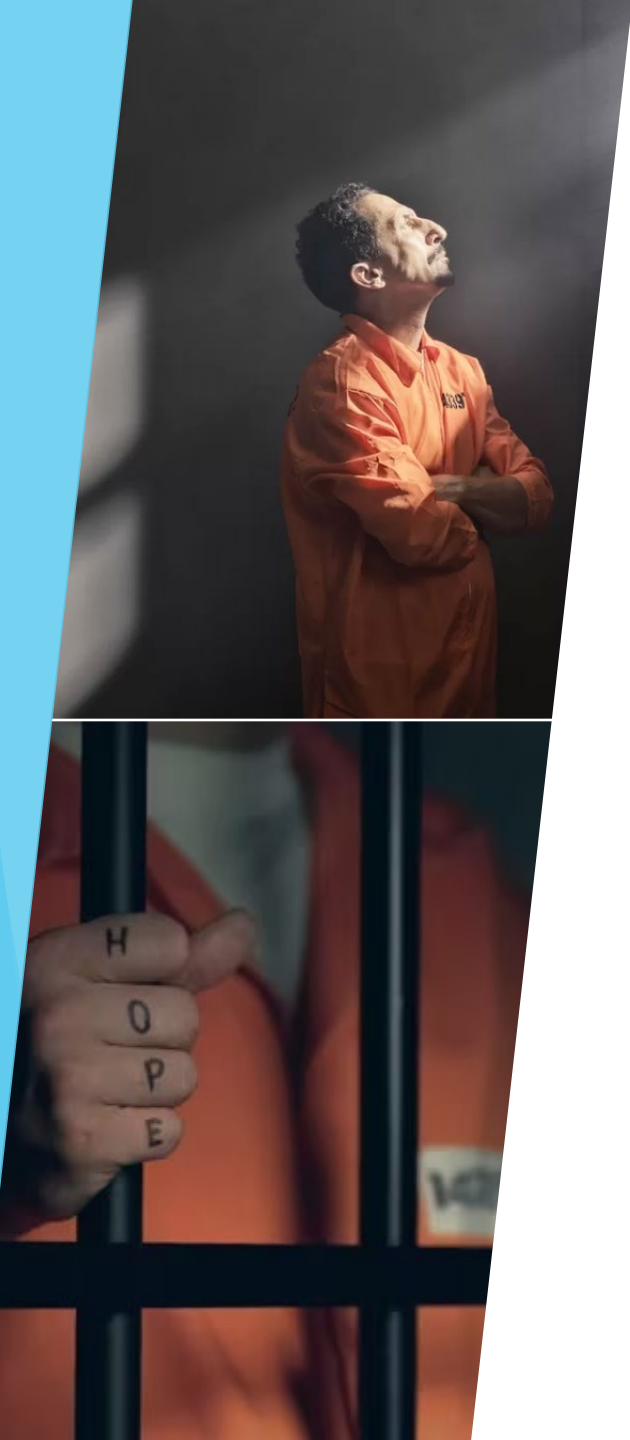
Success Stories

- ▶ RIO Mentor and Treatment Court Graduate, David Torres
- ▶ RIO Graduate, Justin Pacheco
- ▶ RIO Graduate, Andre Martinez
- ▶ RIO Graduate, Santana Diaz



Special Thanks to RIO Program Working Group

- ▶ **The Honorable William P. Johnson, Chief United States District Judge**
- ▶ **The Honorable Laura Fashing, United States Magistrate Judge**
- ▶ **Ron Travers, Chief United States Probation Officer**
- ▶ **Alex Uballez, United States Attorney**
- ▶ **Mitch Elfers, Clerk of Court, United States District Court**
- ▶ **Margaret Katze, Federal Public Defender**
- ▶ **Joi Rodriguez, Veterans Justice Program Specialist**
- ▶ **Aja Brooks, Executive Assistant United States Attorney**
- ▶ **Danielle Padilla, United States Probation Officer**
- ▶ **Daniel Snyder, Assistant Federal Public Defender**
- ▶ **Niki Tapia-Brito, Assistant United States Attorney**
- ▶ **Ashley Kittrell, Paralegal to the Honorable William P. Johnson**
- ▶ **Camilla Duarte, Supervisory United States Probation Officer**



Thank you

For RIO Referrals or any other RIO Program Questions

Please contact Camilla Duarte,
Camilla_Duarte@nmp.uscourts.gov

(505) 331-7644

- ▶ DeGiusti, T. (December 2018). *Innovative Justice: Federal Reentry Drug Courts- How Should We Measure Success?*, Federal Probation Journal, Volume 82 (3), p. 11-20.
- ▶ DeGiusti, T. (December 2018). *Best Practices in Treatment Court Evaluation*. Federal Probation Journal, Volume 82 (3), p. 21-27.
- ▶ National Association of Drug Court Professionals NADCP and the National Drug Court Institute (2019). *Planning Workbook and Adult Drug Court Best Practices*, developed by Bureau of Justice Assistance.
- ▶ United States Sentencing Commission. (September 2017). *Federal Alternative-to-Incarceration Court Programs*. www.ussc.gov