

# Examining the Evidence:



**Research and Implementation of Sentencing  
Alternatives in the Federal System**



The  
Revolving  
Door of  
Recidivism



- Comprehensive review of the Federal Probation and Pretrial Services System
- Main Finding: Become an “Outcome Driven Agency”. Decisions from agency funding to how an officer should supervise offenders must be based on data.

We now have the ability to measure  
our outcomes in increasingly  
sophisticated ways



An avalanche of research continues to teach us what works and what fails to reduce recidivism.



## Changing Behavior

- **We are responsible for changing offender behavior in the long-term...beyond the term of supervision**



- **Change does not come from persuasion but must come from within the offender**



## NIC Organizational Development and Collaboration Core Papers

- Principle of Effective Intervention:  
<http://www.nicic.org/pubs/2004/019342.pdf>
- Organizational Development:  
<http://www.nicic.org/pubs/2004/019344.pdf>
- Collaboration:  
<http://www.nicic.org/pubs/2003/019343.pdf>

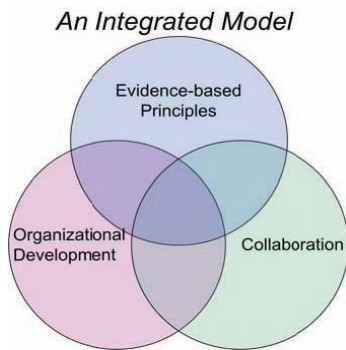


# Research to Results

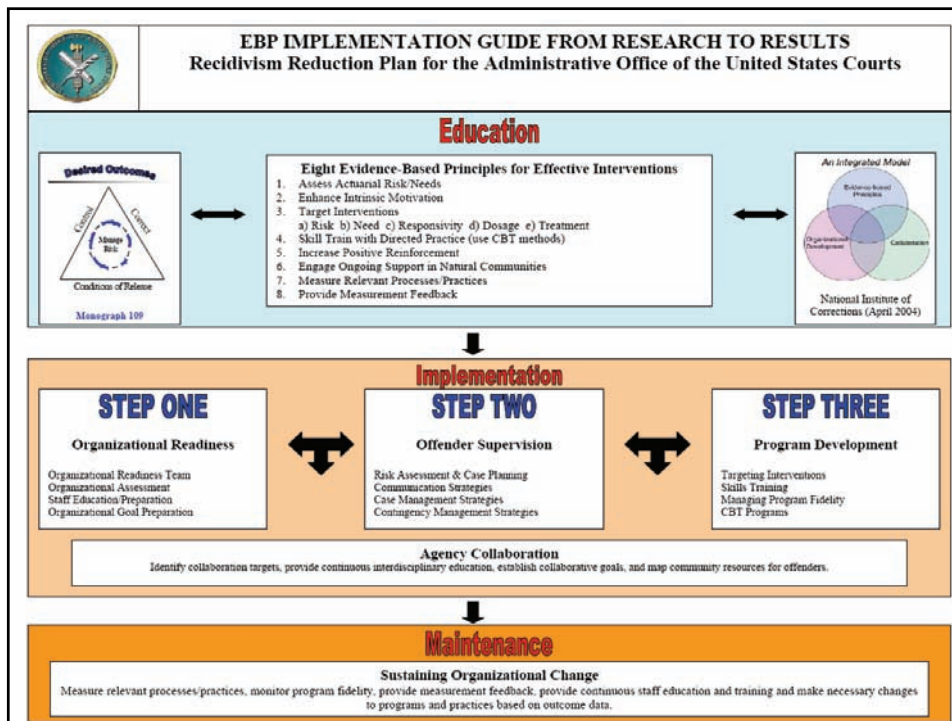
- 2 million dollars for federal implementation of evidence-based practices.
- The money was distributed to federal probation and pretrial services districts via a grant process (self-selection of early adopters).
- 16 of 94 districts were funded.

<p><b>Risk and Needs Assessment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•The use of risk/needs assessment tools</li> <li>•Retooling low-risk, administrative caseloads</li> <li>•Reengineering case planning</li> </ul>	<p><b>Cognitive-Behavioral Interventions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Train officers in CBT interventions</li> <li>•Procuring for manualized CBT programming</li> <li>•Concentrating on fidelity to the CBT model</li> </ul>
<p><b>Building Intrinsic Motivation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Changing the types of interactions that occur between officers and offenders</li> <li>•Placing an emphasis on the relationship between officer and the offender.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Other Interventions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Reentry Courts</li> <li>•Defender-Offender Workforce Development</li> </ul>

# Three Spheres of Influence



“The biggest challenge in adopting better interventions isn’t identifying the interventions with the best evidence so much as it is changing our existing systems to support the new innovations”





## Long Road and Windy Road Ahead

- This is difficult and deceptively complex to implement
- Systematically assisting districts with implementation
- Letting research lead the way