

# RE-ENTRY



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## **The problem:**

Our 16 county region has been the epicenter of the opioid crisis for years. Our collective approach to address the issue has resulted in high incarceration rates. Unfortunately our area has also added to the problem with high recidivism rates, and a high cost to our communities in both financial and societal impact. Incarcerated adults with substance use issues continue to go without help and in turn their condition deteriorates and is worse for those around them. The data is clear- nearly 50% of incarcerated adults return to jail within a short period of time after release because these returning citizens face barriers without proper support.

## **The proposed intervention:**

Re-entry programs are specifically designed to help returning citizens to transition to the community with an array of services and supports that are evidenced to greatly increase their opportunity for success. A comprehensive re-entry approach provides the best behavioral science has to offer for this target population. In order to address the substance use, economic, and social impact of the target population a holistic solution is needed. The proposed re-entry approach requires collaboration at a community level. The criminal justice system and behavioral health system must work in tandem to identify people who can benefit in order to reap the maximum benefit while preserving the safety of the

community. A multi-agency screening committee will provide a balanced review of eligible candidates.

Once a cohort of participants are invited to participate in the re-entry program they will engage in intensive substance use treatment, personal skill development, employment seeking, job acquisition, personal accountability, and community tenure. Each component is important to achieve the desired outcomes.

The program is expected to be 12 weeks in duration followed by a transition to community housing and ongoing supports. Connectivity to ongoing substance use and mental health treatment is critically important. Optimal group size is 8-10. The ideal continuum would be a transition from re-entry to recovery residence and then to affordable community housing. Sustaining employment is fundamental with achievable future job growth opportunities.

### **The expected outcomes:**

Promising practices indicate that this type of intervention can yield replicable results similar to

- 75-85% success completing the program (8 month)
- 100% of those completing the program will be employed
- 100% of those completing the program will begin repaying restitution, court costs
- 100% engage in substance use disorder or mental health treatment

### **Resources needed:**

- This intervention is expected to cost less than \$10,000 per person or 1/3 of the cost of a year of incarceration.
- Drug fee affordable housing needs to be developed to provide a home after the program completion
- Ongoing support network and mentor services will need to be assembled with program graduates (peer support) with professional support.
- Transportation needs to be an essential element as part of the overall solution