

---

## Income: More people are on Pathways out of poverty.

---

### Journey Home Mobilization Plan Agenda to Action

---

#### Why It Matters

- Yearly, 300-600 individuals return to Dane County from prison. In 2003, 66% in Dane County returned to prison within two years of release (70% State of Wisconsin rate). The current re-incarceration rate is 39% (three-year time frame).
- Returning citizens who fail to successfully reintegrate back into the community are likely to violate rules or commit new crimes. This threatens their opportunity to reconnect with their families and improve their lives.
- Without employment, returning citizens can't find housing, reunify with their family, or become productive members of the community.
- Families suffer when the primary wage earner is not able to find employment. Children of returning citizens are likely to become incarcerated, too.
- When returning citizens re-offend, taxpayers pay not only the cost of re-incarceration (the average cost to the state is \$25,985 annually per inmate<sup>1</sup>), but also increased supports needed for families.
- With the success of this initiative, we are contributing to the decrease in the number of individuals who are returning to prison, increasing the opportunity to succeed in school, work and life.
- Parents in the home is a protective factor for children. Successful reintegration keeps families together and increases the likelihood of breaking the cycle of incarceration.

**Goal: 90% of the participants of the Journey Home Reintegration Initiative will not return to prison within two years of their release.**

#### Promising/Best Practices and Research

- Reintegration – Research shows that by helping returning citizens access at least three of these five critical areas: Residency, Employment, Support, Education and Treatment (RESET) we are laying the foundation for a successful reintegration into the community.

#### Strategies

- Offer monthly Service Fairs to allow returning citizens to access needed resources for a successful re-entry into the community
- Offer orientation for all returning citizens to determine the level of services that are needed
- Link returning citizens with Residency, Employment, Support, Education and Treatment as needed to aid in their reentry into the community
- Provide parenting skills through Parenting Inside Out as part of our RESET Education area
- Monitor progress of each client working with our Resource Specialist

#### 2020 Community Impact Investment - \$406,988

- Increase in the number of employers that will hire returning citizens and increase returning citizens' basic and life skills.
- Some of this work will come through connections with our HIRE Initiative.
- Continue to keep the return to prison rate for Journey Home participants below 10%.

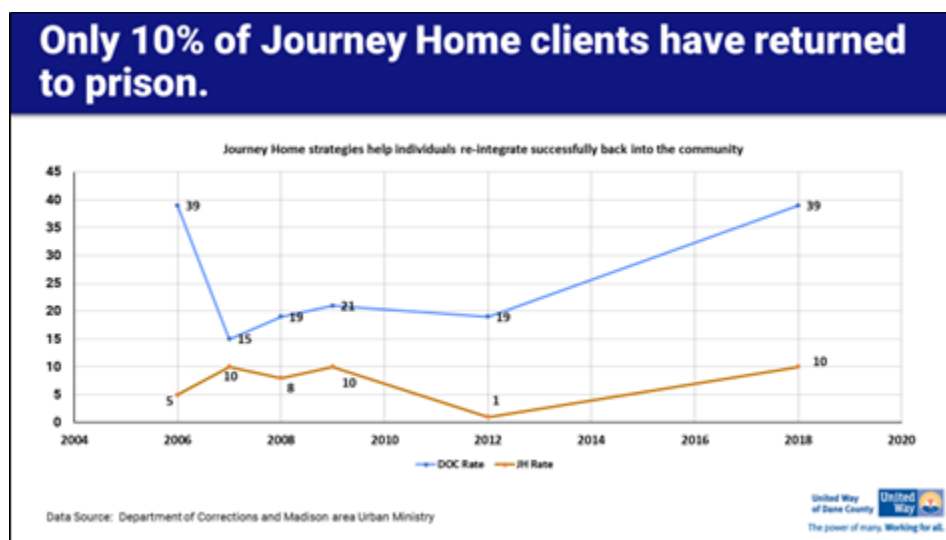
#### 2019 Progress on Journey Home

- In 2019, 596 returning citizens participated in Journey Home; 65 individuals worked one-on-one with the Resource Specialists with only seven (11%) individuals returning to prison in 2019. Community re-incarceration rate (individuals who returned to prison within three years of release) now 39%. Baseline when we began this work 12 years ago was 66% (individuals who returned to prison within two years of release).
- For successful reintegration and increased family stability, the following is needed: Residence, Employment, Support, Education and Treatment (RESET).

---

<sup>1</sup> Secretary Matthew Frank, "Cost of Incarceration in Wisconsin Prisons". Presentation to Sentencing Commission April 30, 2004.

**Measures**



**How We Accomplished It**

The Journey Home Initiative continues to successfully support returning citizens reintegrating back into the community as evidenced by the re-incarceration rate for these participants at our goal of 10%. The re-incarceration rate was 11% as of December 2019. 83 service providers have attended the monthly Service Fairs to provide assistance to returning citizens who are looking to RESET (Residency, Employment, Support, Education and Treatment) their lives. 49 returning citizens have attended the monthly Service Fairs in 2019.

**Journey Home Mobilization Plan**

<b>Results</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>65 new clients received one-on-one assistance through Journey Home.</li> <li>182 attended orientation with 182 interviewed to be a part of Journey Home.</li> <li>7 returned to prison, a return to prison rate of 11%. Dane County’s reincarceration rate is 39%.</li> <li>49 individuals have attended the service fairs.</li> <li>83 (unduplicated) service providers have attended the service fairs to assist clients around Residency, Employment, Support, Education and Treatment (RESET).</li> <li>72 letters were received from inmates who are looking for services upon release.</li> </ul>
<b>Residency</b>	<p>Returning residents have a difficult time finding a place to live. Some are placed back into situations in which they are not able to thrive. Journey Home staff work with landlords to secure safe and stable residency.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2019, 79 people needed housing and 31 found stable housing (39%).</li> </ul>
<b>Employment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>98 returning citizens needed employment and 74 (76%) found employment earning between \$7.25 and \$16 an hour</li> </ul>
<b>Support/Treatment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>80 individuals received assistance with behavioral health needs.</li> <li>476 received bus tickets or were provided with other transportation assistance</li> </ul>

In May we launched the updated Journey Home Mobilization Plan with RESET as our revised strategies for assisting returning citizens as they reintegrate back into Dane County (formerly REST). The new education strategy focuses on ensuring this population has a high school diploma. A new curriculum, *Parenting Inside Out*, is offered to help refresh parenting skills to allow returning citizens to successfully reconnect with their children upon release.

**Staff Contact:** Angela Jones, (608) 246-4376, [angela.jones@uwdc.org](mailto:angela.jones@uwdc.org) Updated March 2020