

Inside-Outside Relationships Bridging Facilities and Communities

Western Technical College, La Crosse, WI

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At any one time, nearly 6.9 million people are on probation, in jail, in prison, or on parole in the United States. Each year, more than 600,000 individuals are released from state and federal prisons. Another 9 million cycle through local jails.





Reflection

- What is the biggest barrier for incarcerated people?
 - Education
 - Employment
 - Housing
 - Mental health
 - Community connections
 - Family and peer support
 - Commitment of individual

Stigma



[\[Play\]](#)

Why serve on
the inside?

Partnering with facilities—prisons, jails, mental health treatment sites, etc.—creates opportunities for people on the inside, facility staff, and social service agencies on the outside.

Facilities: ground zero for social failures

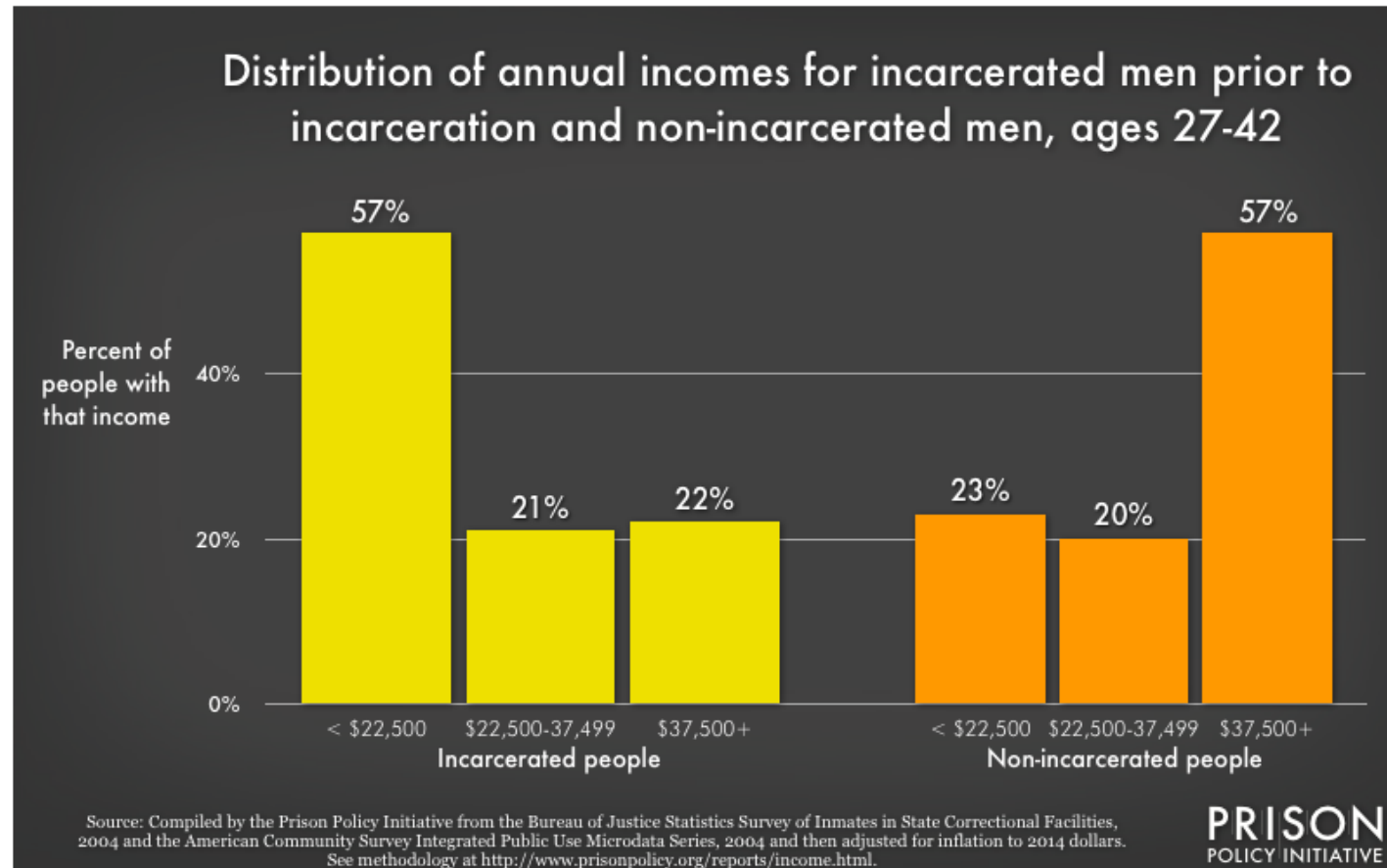


Figure 3. Incarcerated men are concentrated at the lowest ends of the national income distribution. The median incarcerated man had a pre-incarceration income that is 48% that of the median non-incarcerated man.

<https://www.prisonpolicy.org/reports/income.html>

Facilities: ground zero for social failures

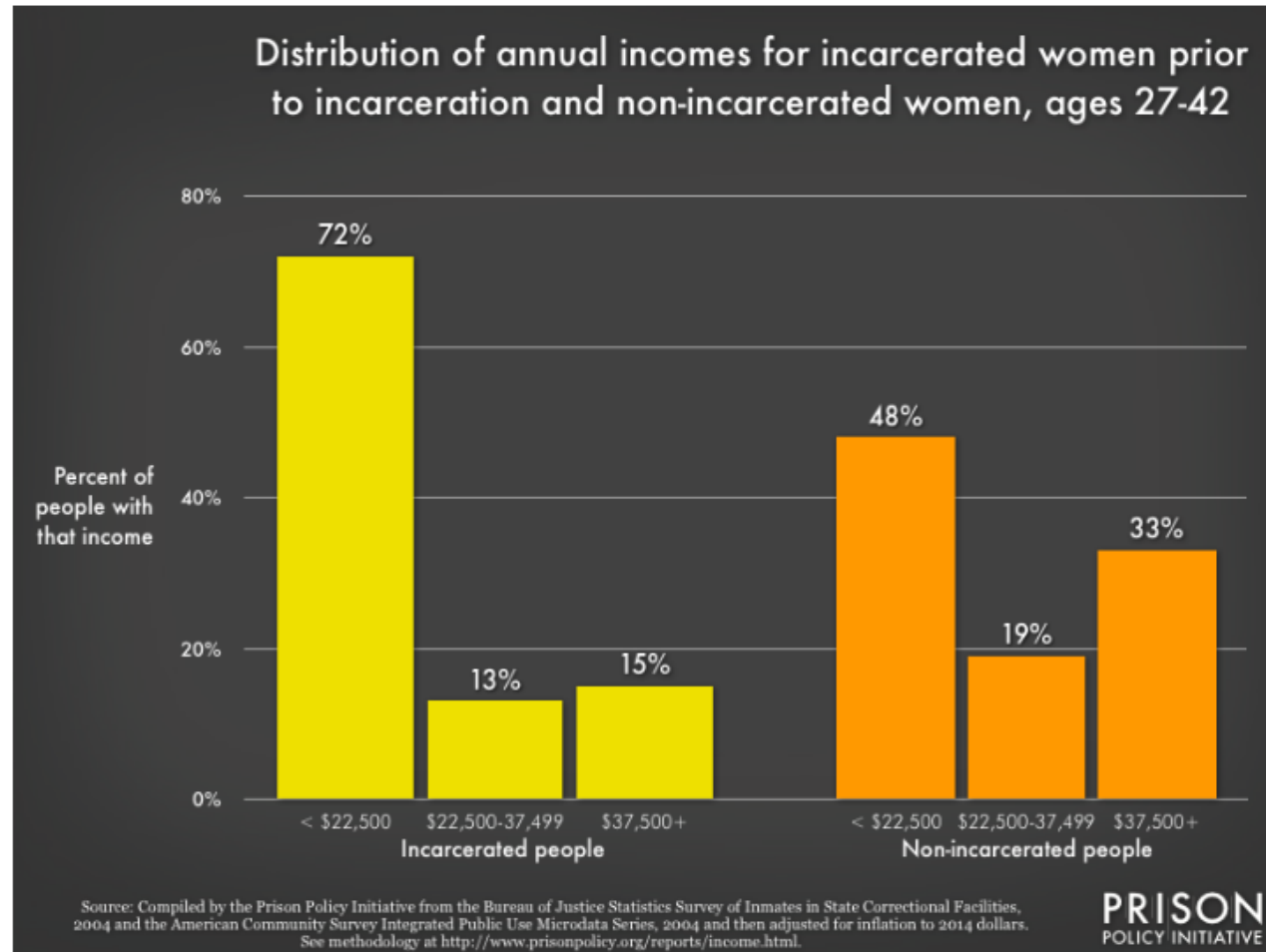


Figure 4. Incarcerated women are concentrated at the lowest ends of the national income distribution. The median incarcerated woman had a pre-incarceration income that is 58% that of the median non-incarcerated woman.

<https://www.prisonpolicy.org/reports/income.html>

Facilities: ground zero for social failures

Learner Support and Transition students
(including Jails) with completed intake paperwork

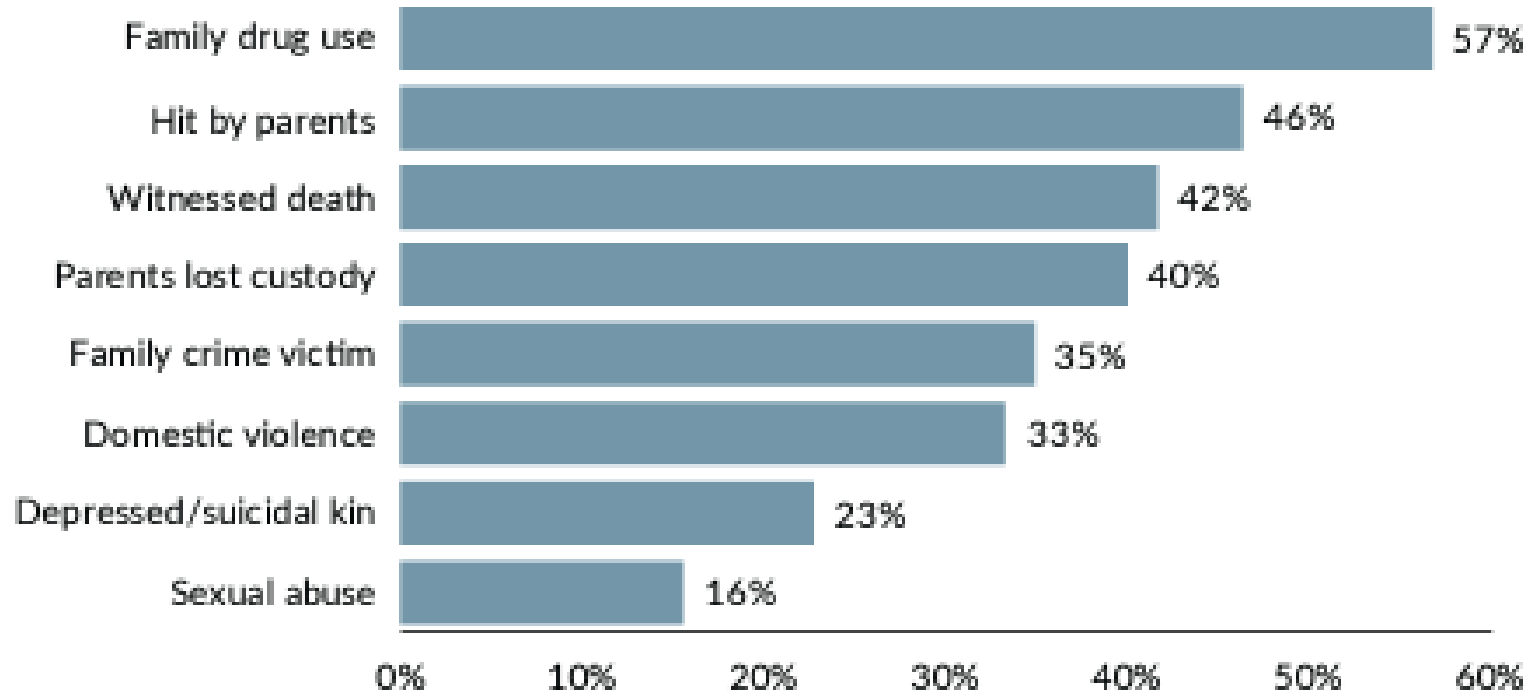


- Below FPL (\$13,590 or less)
- Above FPL (\$13,591 or more)

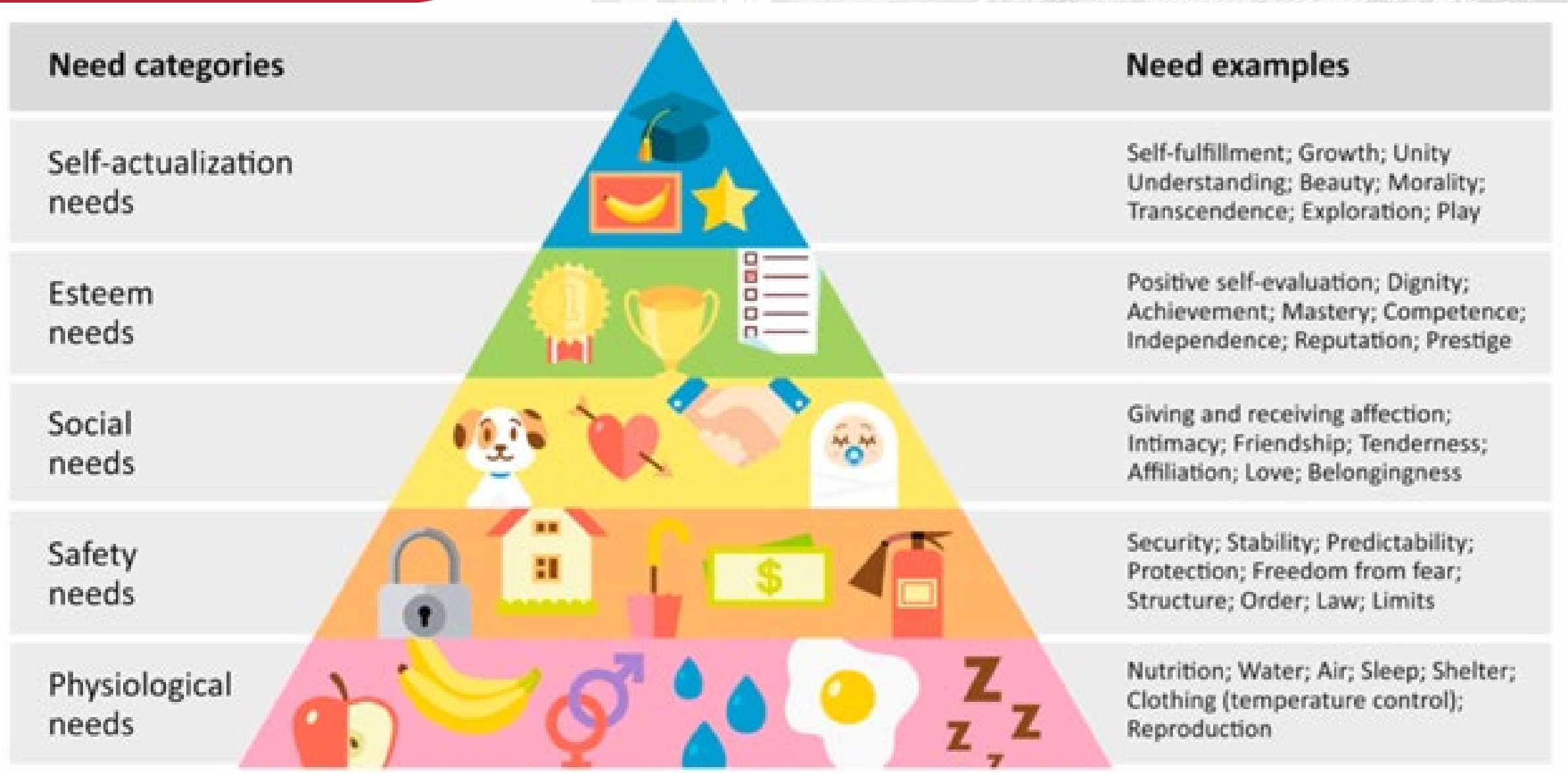
59%

N=422/717

Figure 5. Those leaving prison reported high rates of exposure to trauma during early childhood; the most common childhood trauma was growing up with a family member who struggled with serious drug problems.



Source: The Boston Reentry Study.





Deary County



Proven on the inside

Employment and "soft skills" education is...

- how Proven began its work in the Jail
- how Proven began its re-entry groups
- how Proven first launched credit for prior learning (CPL)

Project PROVEN Employment Syllabus

Date	Class Description	Class Documents (type in CPL)
_____	Orientation	<input type="checkbox"/> Case Plan <input type="checkbox"/> Letter to Myself <input type="checkbox"/> Re-Entry Goal Worksheet <input type="checkbox"/> Career Clusters Interest Survey
_____	Career Assessment and Exploration	<input type="checkbox"/> True Colors Scoring <input type="checkbox"/> True Colors Career Explorations
_____	Barriers to Getting a Job	<input type="checkbox"/> Barriers to Employment Brainstorm <input type="checkbox"/> Barriers to Employment Assessment <input type="checkbox"/> Statement of Change
_____	Networking and Applications	<input type="checkbox"/> Elevator Speech <input type="checkbox"/> Application 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Application 2
_____	Resume	<input type="checkbox"/> Resume
_____	Cover Letter	<input type="checkbox"/> Cover Letter
_____	Interviewing	<input type="checkbox"/> Common Interview Questions <input type="checkbox"/> Your Stories <input type="checkbox"/> Behavior-Based Questions
_____	Barriers to Keeping a Job	<input type="checkbox"/> Keeping a Job Action Plan <input type="checkbox"/> Advancing in Your Job Action Plan
_____	Communication on the Job	<input type="checkbox"/> Communication Style Quiz <input type="checkbox"/> Workplace Communication Scenarios
_____	Conflict Resolution on the Job	<input type="checkbox"/> Identify Your Stressors <input type="checkbox"/> Conflict Styles Quiz
_____	Financial Literacy	<input type="checkbox"/> ABCDE Budgeting <input type="checkbox"/> Budget
_____	Customer Service	<input type="checkbox"/> TBD

Current CPL Stats

138

students earned college credit in jail

38%

students of color v. County pop.: roughly 10% POC and County arrests: roughly 20% POC

540

credits

\$100,000

Worth of credits

Proven on the outside

Job Club





Tech Club



Rec Club

Leadership Group

County to eliminate revenue from jail calls, provide free phone time

Chloe Hilles Nov 27, 2022 0

City of La Crosse begins 'Landlord Mitigation Program' to help get homeless into housing

By Leah Rivard Oct 11, 2022 Updated Jan 24, 2023

Chloe Seelig: With a chance, people involved in justice system can advance

Nov 30, 2022



Laundry for All

[View fundraiser](#)

Total raised: \$240 | You've raised \$0

1-1s





Transition to college

Current Re-Entry Stats

300+

students served yearly

100+

credit students we're actively working with

66%

jail-to-campus transition rate

37%

recidivism rate v. 68% national average

La Crosse County Jail
Independent Living Resources
St. Clare Health Mission
La Crosse County Justice Support Services
Catholic Charities
League of Women Voters
La Crosse County Probation and Parole
Coulee Recovery Center
Oxford House
La Crosse County Comprehensive Community
Services
Marine Credit Union Foundation
La Crosse County Veterans Service Office
REACH

Consumer Credit Counseling Services
Driftless Recovery Services
Workforce Connections
Everybody Bikes
Unity House
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
La Crosse Area Family Collaborative
Next Chapter La Crosse
Couleecap
Salvation Army
YWCA/YMCA
The Parenting Place
New Horizons
La Crosse Public Library

A few partners

But where do I start?

- Engage in professional development around incarceration, addiction, trauma, and racism
- Partner with facility staff—make sure they have your information, specifically when and how to connect
- Help people on the inside plan for the outside (1-1s)
- Lead groups or classes in your areas of expertise
- Establish a re-entry point-of-contact and safe space

Exit Reflection

- What facilities are near you?
- In what ways might you partner with those facilities?

We'd love to connect!

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