

# Reentry Ready Resources: Focus on Finances

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#### **Reentry Ready**

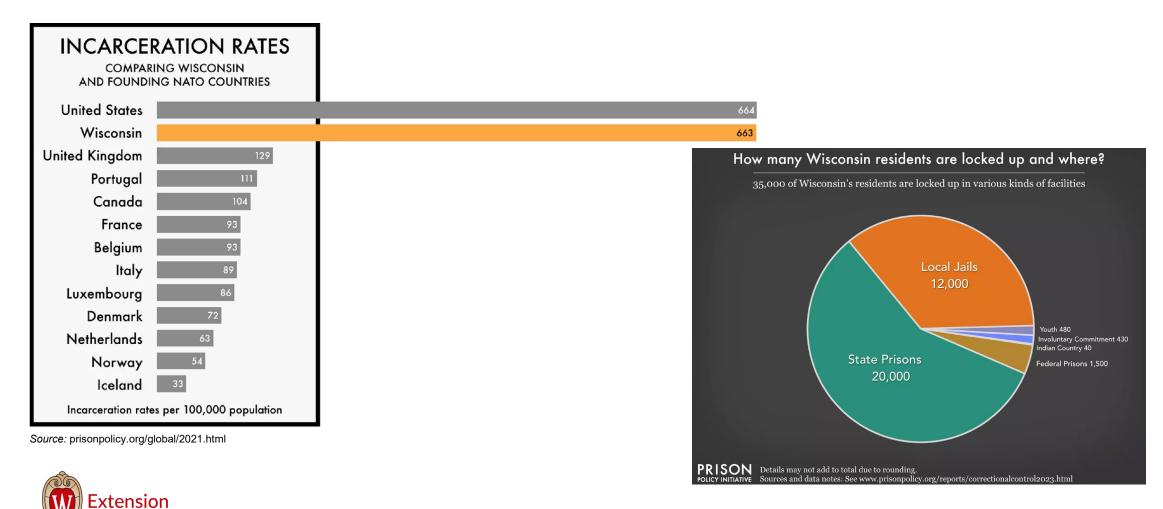


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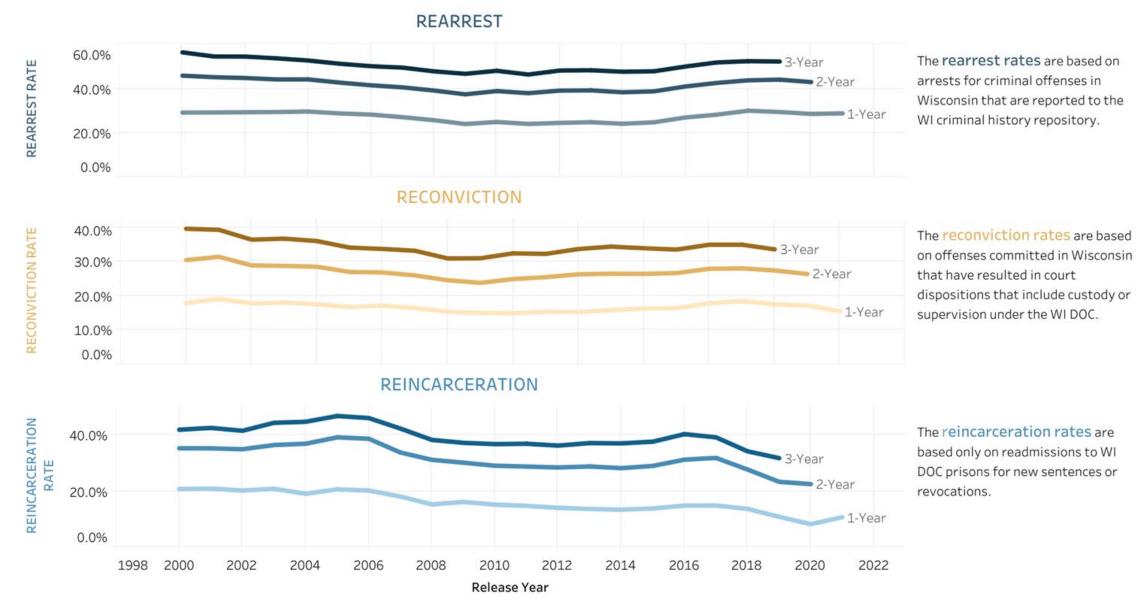
### **Putting Our Work In Context**

VERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

- The United States has the highest incarceration rate in the world, mirrored by Wisconsin
- Wisconsin has the second highest rate of black-to-white imprisonment disparity and the highest jail incarceration rate of Native Americans in the nation and the world



# Wisconsin DOC Recidivism by Rearrest, Reconviction, and Reincarceration; 2000–2021



### **Expense of Reincarceration**

In 2021 alone, 41 states spent well over \$8 Billion to incarcerate 193,000 people for supervision violations and revocations.

Cost of Recidivism + State Population; in 2021 Dollars

- 1. Wisconsin: \$72 per resident; \$426,157,181 total
- 2. Vermont: \$61
- 3. Arkansas: \$58
- 4. Virginia: \$57
- 5. Wyoming: \$53

Justice Center, Council of State Governments, April 2023

# Origin Story: National Reentry Research

Debt to Society: Asset Poverty and Prisoner Reentry (Martin 2011)

- "The almost exclusive emphasis on employment as the measurement of economic well-being is short-sighted because it ignores the importance of financial education and asset ownership."
- "Many ex-offenders have difficulties meeting their financial obligations, some of which are ordered by the court."
- "Most people released from prisons and jails have few financial resources. It is unlikely their financial outlook will improve soon after their return to the community."

## **Origin Story: Local Efforts**

- Financial literacy education is not typically presented by staff at correctional facilities
- Common financial questions from PIOC
  - Credit
  - Debts in collection
  - Reestablishing bank accounts
  - •Finding housing, especially as a Registered Sex Offender
- Not a concise online location for reentry resources for individuals released from incarceration
- How can Extension assist these individuals?

### INANCIAL WELLNESS WORKSHOPS: REENTRY READY

Taught by: Katie Gellings, Human Development & Relationships Educator, Green Lake County Extension

3 CLASSES

SIGN UP IS REQUIRED! • DATES: 1/9, 1/16, 1/23



CHOOSING FINANCIAL PRODUCTS & SERVICES

TRACKING INCOME & BENEFITS

PAYING BILLS & EXPENSES

SAVING MONEY

THROUGH THE MONTH

DEALING WITH DEBT





UNDERSTANDING CREDIT

PROTECTING YOUR MONEY

OTHER HELPFUL RESOURCES

Goal: to empower individuals to control their personal finances after release

Module 1: Choosing Financial

**Products and Services** 

Module 2: Tracking Income and

Benefits

Module 3: Paying Bills

Module 4: Saving





**AUTO LOAN** 

**MORTGAGE** 

SAVINGS ACCOUNT

**DEBIT CARD** 

**CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT** 

SECURED CREDIT CARD

**CREDIT CARD** 

### FINANCIAL WELLNESS WORKSHOPS: REENTRY READY

Taught by: Katie Gellings, Human Development & Relationships Educator, Green Lake County Extension

3 CLASSES

SIGN UP IS REQUIRED! •

DATES: 1/9, 1/16, 1/23



CHOOSING FINANCIAL PRODUCTS & SERVICES

TRACKING INCOME & BENEFITS

PAYING BILLS & EXPENSES

SAVING MONEY

BUDGETING & GETTING THROUGH THE MONTH

DEALING WITH DEBT





UNDERSTANDING CREDIT

PROTECTING YOUR MONEY. INSURANCE & RETIREMENT

OTHER HELPFUL RESOURCES

Goal: to empower individuals to control their personal finances after release

Module 5: Budgeting and Getting

through the Month

Module 6: Dealing with Debt

Module 7: Understanding Credit

Module 8: Protecting Your

Money, Insurance, & Retirement



### Case Study — Individual, Formerly Incarcerated

Description: John was released from prison 9 months ago. He started working through a temp agency and has been hired on as a permanent employee working full time for the past 3 months. He has two children, ages 8 and 9. They live with their mother, but occasionally they stay overnight with him. He has an apartment and he must pay electric and water each month. John recently purchased a car to drive to work. He would also like to build an emergency savings account.

Step 1: List take-home pay for each person in the household who is employed.

John brings home \$2,225.00 per month from his salary-based job. In addition, he does small projects for an elderly neighbor who is having vision issues and is unable to drive for which he is paid \$40.00 each week.

Step 2: Determine monthly expenses and debt, and monthly income for each person in household, and list on Monthly Budget Worksheet. Separate into Monthly Expenses and Debts.

John's housing expenses: Rent: \$750.00; Electricity: \$50.00; Water: \$50.00; Renters Insurance: \$20.00

John's **fixed** expenses: Car Loan: \$250.00; Car Insurance: \$40.00; Cell Phone: \$50.00; Cable/Wi-Fi/Streaming: \$90.00; Restitution: \$200.00; Debt owed to friend: \$150.00

John's **variable** expenses for this last month: Gasoline: \$100.00; Grocery: \$300.00; Eating Out: \$50.00; Personal Care/Household Items: \$20.00; Laundry Costs/Clothing: \$20.00; Prescription: \$10.00

John's emergency savings each month: \$100.00

Step 3: Subtract expenses and debt from income to determine if his spending plan covers his monthly expenses.

Questions: Does John have money left over every month? Or are his expenses more than his income? How much is he ahead or short each month?

#### **Monthly Budget Worksheet**

#### **Basic Living Expenses**

Monthly Expense	\$Amount
Rent	750
Electricity	50
Heating Oil or Gas	
Water/Sewer	50
Cable/Internet	90
Renter's Insurance	20
Cell Phone	50
Gas for Car	100
Car Insurance Payment	40
Groceries	300
Eating Out	50
"Stuff" for Household & Personal Care	20
Clothing and Laundry	20
Doctor co-pays	
Prescriptions	10
Entertainment Hobbies/ Memberships	
Pets	
Gifts/Donations	
Other insurance	
Miscellaneous	
Bus Passes	
Money put into savings	100
MONTHLY EXPENSES (total from above) \$	1650
+ MONTHLY DEBT PAYMENTS (total from debt chart) \$	600
= ADD UP TOTAL MONTHLY SPENDING \$	2250 /

#### Debts (bills that charge interest)

	,	
Name of Creditor	Monthly Payment Requested	Total Amount Owed
Car Payment	\$ 250	\$ 10,000
Restitution	200	4000
Personal Loan	150	1500
TOTAL DEBTS	\$ 600	\$ 15,500

TAKE HOME INCOME/ (after any taxes are take	
Income (1) \$	2225
Income (2) \$	160
Income (3) \$	
Income (4) \$	
TOTAL MONTHLY	
NET (TAKE HOME) INCOME \$	2385
Minus Total	
Monthly Spending \$	2250
Difference +/- \$	135

#### **Payday Loans Scenario**

Scenario: An unexpected car repair this month means you do not have enough money remaining to cover all your expenses. You think you need about \$300 to get by until you get paid again in two weeks. You do not have a credit card or any money in your savings account. A payday loan seems like the only option.

The local payday loan store will take a check postdated two weeks to loan you \$300.

Amount you want to borrow: \$300
<b>Determine the costs:</b> The payday loan store charges \$15 for every \$100 borrowed. How much will you be charged to get your \$300?
Initial charge:
Adding this amount to the \$300 loan amount, what is the total cost of the loan now?
Total initial loan amount:
Unfortunately, ongoing expenses continue to add up and you do not have the money to cover your loan after two weeks. The loan store will renew your loan for another two weeks by charging you another \$15 for every \$100 borrowed. How much will you be charged to renew your \$300 loan?
First renewal charge:
Adding this to the total initial loan amount, what is the total cost of the loan now?
Total loan amount owed after first renewal:
If you continue to renew your loan every two weeks, how much would you owe if you paid off the loan after a total of five renewals?



### Track your debts and how much you owe with this **Reentry debt log**

- 1. This tool will give you a clearer picture of your debt. Write down to whom you owe the debt, how much is owed in total, and how much you can afford to
- 2. Then list the potential consequences of delaying payment.
- 3. If you have criminal debts make sure you understand the consequences of not paying them.

#### Remember, a bill isn't always debt.

For instance, your phone bill isn't debt, but any past due amount is debt.

system debt

Common debt types to help you brainstorm:





















support



Back child Credit card Friends

Medical and family

or past-

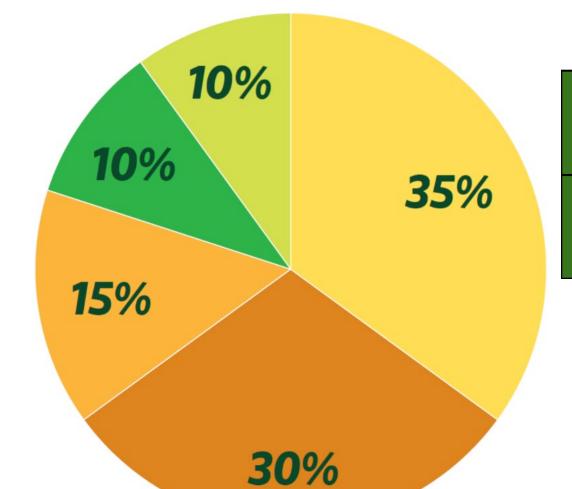
such as fees and fines

To whom do you owe the debt?	Total amount left to pay	Weekly or Monthly payment	Code (A-I)	Consider the consequences of not paying each type of debt
	\$	¢		A. Reincarceration
	\$	\$	B. Repossession (of	
				something you own)
	\$	\$		C. Loss of driver's license
				D. Loss of housing
	\$	\$		E. Garnishment (a portion of your paycheck or money
	\$	\$		in an account is taken to pay what you owe)
				F. Loss of service (utilities cut
	\$	\$		off or loss of cell phone service)
				G. Lawsuit or other collection
	\$	\$		effort from a creditor or debt collector
				H. Negative report to credit
		¢		reporting company
	\$	\$		I. Other

Total weekly (or monthly) payment

DEALING WITH DEBT





Length of Credit History

Types of Credit Used

**New Credit** 

Payment History

Net Worth

**Amounts Owed** 

### **Website Creation and Review**

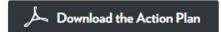
### Reentry Ready Resources



Recently released from prison or jail?

Have questions?

We have some answers for you!



 Brainstormed possible topics

 Narrowed to most pertinent topics

 Considered best ways to organize the information

If you're not able to find the answer to your question on this site, please reach out to your local social worker, parole or probation officer, library, or visit these sites:

- 211: Call 2-1-1. Can't call? https://www.211.org/about-us/your-local-211
- · FairShake: www.fairshake.net
- · Legal Tune Up: https://legaltuneup.org/about

#### Housing

- + Is there anything I can do to improve my chances of getting housing?
- How can I find housing?

 Collected feedback on dynamic site

# **Community Partner Feedback Process**

Who are our partners?
Who do we need to reach?
What information to add?



### Reentry Ready Resources

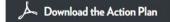
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- FairShake: www.fairshake.net
- Legal Tune Up: https://legaltuneup.org/about

#### Housing

- H Is there anything I can do to improve my chances of getting housing?
- How can I find housing?

- Resource guides by Psych 601 students for 14 counties
- Feedback from community partners
- Engagement with UW–Madison faculty
- Conference presentations

### Reentry Ready Resources



Updated: August 2023 **Welcome home!** This guide provides resources throughout Winnebago County that may be helpful for those re-entering into the community. All information gathered in this guide was found via online searches or contacts who are connected to the resources.

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#### ADVOCAP Affordable Housing and Homeless Prevention Programs

ADVOCAP is an organization that aims to provide assistance and resources to low-income families and individuals in the community, in order for them to achieve safe and comfortable living.

#### Address and Location:

2929 Harrison Street, Oshkosh, WI 54901



#### Contact Information:

- Phone (inquiries about affordable housing rentals/availability): 920-922-7760 ext.
- Phone (family development specialist OSHKOSH): 920-426-0150
- Phone (family development specialist NEENAH): 920-725-2781
- Email (inquiries about affordable housing rentals/availability): rentals@advocap.org
- Website (affordable housing): https://www.advocap.org/services/affordable-housing/

#### **Hours of Operation:**

- Monday Friday hours: 8 a.m. 5 p.m.
- Closed Saturday and Sunday

#### Important Information:

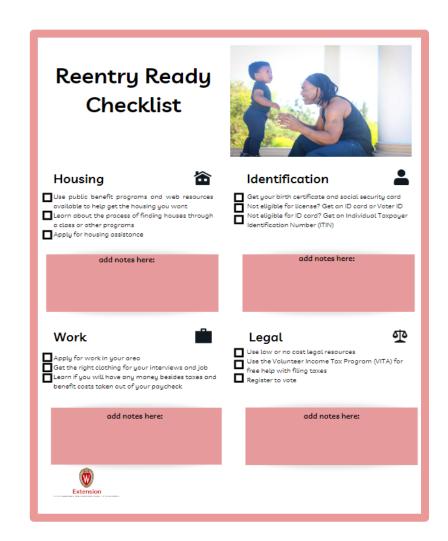
- Eligibility for Affordable Housing application: Rentals may be available to individuals or families whose total household income is under 80% of the County Median Income. Rentals are prioritized for individuals and families enrolled in other ADVOCAP programs, especially those involved in the Homeless Prevention Programs. Rental may also be available for disabled individuals who live with 2-4 other adults in the same home, sharing living costs and case management or care staff. Applications need to include income verifications including employment, SSI, SSDI, Child Support, and any other additional income.
- Eligibility for Homeless Assistance Program: Persons must be homeless, at imminent
  risk of homelessness (court ordered eviction, having to leave a motel etc.), or
  fleeing/attempting to flee domestic violence. In order to contact ADVOCAP for
  homeless assistance, you must contact a Family Development Specialist in your area
  for next steps and resources (the numbers for which are listed below) and
  participate in a Coordinated Entry Survey.

# Reentry Ready Checklist

Aid in Reentry Planning

Ensure Accessibility
 (Specifically within Facilities)

Guide to Tracking Resources



# Reentry Ready Certificate of Completion

### **CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION**

Reentry Ready: Focus on Finances
Financial Competency Curriculum
6 Hour Course

Presented by the University of Wisconsin-Madison

**Division of Extension** 

Facilitator: Todd Wenzel, Human Development & Relationships Educator, Winnebago County

April 30, 2024

Date of Completion

Participant Name



### **Reentry Ready Financial Competency Curriculum**

- 1. Choosing Financial Products and Services
- 2. Tracking Income and Benefits
- 3. Paying Bills
- 4. Saving
- 5. Budgeting and Getting Through the Month
- 6. Dealing With Debt
- 7. Understanding Credit
- 8. Protecting Your Money, Insurance, and Retirement



# Reentry Ready - Impact

### **Evaluation - Website**

- The average time spent during a website visit is 9 minutes and 53 seconds
- The top 10 pages visited are:

1.	How can I find housing?
2.	Is there anything I can do to improve my chances of getting housing?
3.	Where can I find local homeless and housing services?
4.	How do I apply for a job with felonies on my record?
5.	What if I don't have anything professional to wear to a job interview?
6.	How can I start my own business?
7.	How do I rebuild relationships with my children/other family members?
8.	What mental health services are there in my community?
9.	What forms of ID can I get if I can't get a drivers license?
10.	What if I don't have any ID?

### **Evaluation - Curriculum**

- 92% reported learning "A Lot" about tracking their money
- 91% reported "Yes" on understanding how to get and read a credit report
- 88% reported learning "A Lot" about dealing with debt
- Feedback responses
- The most visited topics on the Reentry Ready Resources website are Housing and Work

# Reentry Ready Presentations and Conferences

- Presentation to UW-Madison Chancellor Jennifer L. Mnookin in December 2023
- Presentation to UW-Madison Provost Charles Isbell in March 2024
- Association for Financial Counseling & Planning Education national conference in November 2023
- National Extension Association of Family & Consumer Sciences national conference in September 2024

### **Reentry Ready: Focus on Finances**



### Todd Wenzel, Katie Gellings, Amanda Kostman, Jeanne Walsh

**University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension** 



#### Introduction

Wisconsin mirrors the United States incarceration rate with 663 individuals per 100,000 population being incarcerated. Wisconsin also has the second highest rate of black-to-white incarceration disparity in the US, as well as having the highest jail incarceration rate of Native Americans in the nation. At any given time approximately 35,000 individuals are incarcerated in Wisconsin.

Despite the prerelease planning and case management offered at correctional facilities, many individuals are not fully prepared for release and the responsibilities and expectations that follow. This extends to not being financially prepared for release and the ongoing financial responsibilities of public life.

This is especially important in Wisconsin as we spend the most money per capita of any state on rearrest, reconviction, and reincarceration.

#### **Objectives**

Research has shown that improving reentry outcomes for individuals can lower correctional costs, reduce prison and jail populations, and increase community safety.

To address the financial education needs of people impacted by the legal system, our team developed the **Reentry Ready: Focus on Finances** program. Objectives include:

- Provide those impacted by the legal system with resources necessary for reintegrating into society.
- Increase the financial capability of those impacted by the legal system through personal financial education.
- Facilitate participant ability to follow through on their plans to build, maintain, and enhance money management skills and behaviors.

#### **Curriculum and Materials**

Understanding this data, the needs of formerly incarcerated individuals, and the lack of financial education available in correctional facilities, the Reentry Ready Extension team has created several resources to aid individuals in successfully transitioning from incarceration.

### Reentry Ready: Focus on Finances Participant Curriculum

The curriculum was drawn primarily from the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's Your Money, Your Goals curriculum and the Focus on Reentry companion curriculum, as well as existing Extension resources and materials. The goal of the curriculum is to empower individuals to control their personal finances after release.

The curriculum features eight modules:

- 1. Choosing Financial Products and Services
- 2. Tracking Income and Benefits
- 3. Paying Bills
- 4. Saving
- 5. Budgeting and Getting Through the Month
- 6. Dealing With Debt
- 7. Understanding Credit
- 8. Protecting Your Money, Insurance, and Retirement

The curriculum is typically delivered in-person by UW-Madison Extension educators at Wisconsin Department of Corrections correctional facilities and county jails. An online presentation version has also been developed and piloted by UW-Madison Extension educators.

#### **Curriculum and Materials**

#### Reentry Ready Checklist

The downloadable action tracker allows participants to plan the steps they'll take to manage their finances. This tool features sections for housing, identification, work, legal, income and benefits, expenses, health insurance, and your future. Each section includes 2-3 action steps for that category that participants can check off when complete.



#### **Reentry Ready Resources Website**

The website includes resources on how to find housing, acquire forms of ID, find work, file taxes, open a bank account, apply for public benefits, find free or affordable medical care, and many other topics. It also features county-specific resource guides. This site is used by probation and parole officers and community service providers to connect those impacted by the legal system with services that can help them when reentering communities.



#### **Evaluation**

Participants complete a post-class evaluation of three knowledge-gain questions and two open-ended feedback questions.



"I made my first budget at 57 years old"
"I plan to use everything in some way"
"I haven't yet lived my life and I plan on doing everything to do good and stay free"

#### **Future Goals**

- Working with probation and parole agents to track participants post-release to understand the effects these resources are having when put into practice.
- Expanding our educator team and getting these resources and classes into more correctional facilities.
- Developing partnerships throughout the state to increase post-release success and reduce recidivism in those utilizing our resources.
- Creating a training series to assist other educators in utilizing these resources.



# Reentry Ready: Focus on Finances NEAFCS 2024



# Reentry Ready – Next Steps

- Further build evaluation data from courses, including 6-12 month post-release evaluation
- Expand Reentry Ready courses in the state
- Increase partnerships & use of the website action plan worksheet with community partners
- Developing a Train-the-Trainer series to allow anyone to present the curriculum

### **Application To Your Environment**

What do you think this work could look like in your situation and organization?



# Questions?

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