

The background features a large, faint, circular seal of the State of Indiana. The seal contains a central figure of a Native American man in traditional dress, surrounded by a wreath. The text "THE STATE OF INDIANA" is arched across the top, and "1816" is at the bottom. The word "SEAL" is visible on the left side.

# Student Success and Completion Committee

Supporting Justice-Involved Individuals in Postsecondary Education

December 12, 2023

SUPPORTING JUSTICE-INVOLVED INDIVIDUALS IN POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

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# CURRENT CHE INITIATIVES



INDIANA COMMISSION *for*  
HIGHER EDUCATION

## RELATED GOAL AND STRATEGIES

- ▶ As part of the HOPE Agenda, the Commission **aims to lead Indiana to be Top 10 in the nation by 2030 in postsecondary attainment for the justice involved**
  - Indiana currently **43<sup>rd</sup>** in the percentage of adults in correctional facilities enrolled in school or college *(2021 U.S. Census)*
- ▶ Strategies include:
  - Partner with Department of Corrections to implement Indiana's Prison Education Program (IPEP) *(Pell Grant Reinstatement -see next slide for more details)*
  - Develop cross-sector statewide taskforce to identify specific lines of action beyond IPEP to support barrier removal to postsecondary training and education opportunities (anticipated in 2024)
  - Evaluate options for expanding state financial aid
  - Serve as thought partners to local Marion County collaborative initiatives

# INDIANA PRISON EDUCATION PROGRAM (IPEP)

- ▶ Effective July 1, 2023, Pell Grant funding eligibility expanded to eligible students enrolled in prison education programs (PEPs)
  - Builds upon Second Chance Pell Experiment started in 2015, in which three private Indiana institutions (Holy Cross College, Indiana Tech, and Indiana Wesleyan University) participated
- ▶ U.S. Department of Education has now shifted responsibility of PEP administration to states; Indiana Department of Corrections (IDOC) leading IPEP effort
- ▶ CHE - IDOC partnering to create stakeholder consortium guiding IPEP implementation
  - Goals are to 1) increase postsecondary education and training to incarcerated individuals, and 2) engage released individuals to support credential attainment

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# SOME COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDER PERSPECTIVES



INDIANA COMMISSION *for*  
HIGHER EDUCATION

# Unique Problems of Incarcerated Students

Kristina Byers

Michelle Daniel Jones

John Vance



# Problem: Orphan Credits

- Definition: accumulation of credits that don't lead to a degree.
- Why they happen
- Real life examples
- How they can be avoided

# Problem: Incarcerated students lack the agency in managing their Pell eligibility

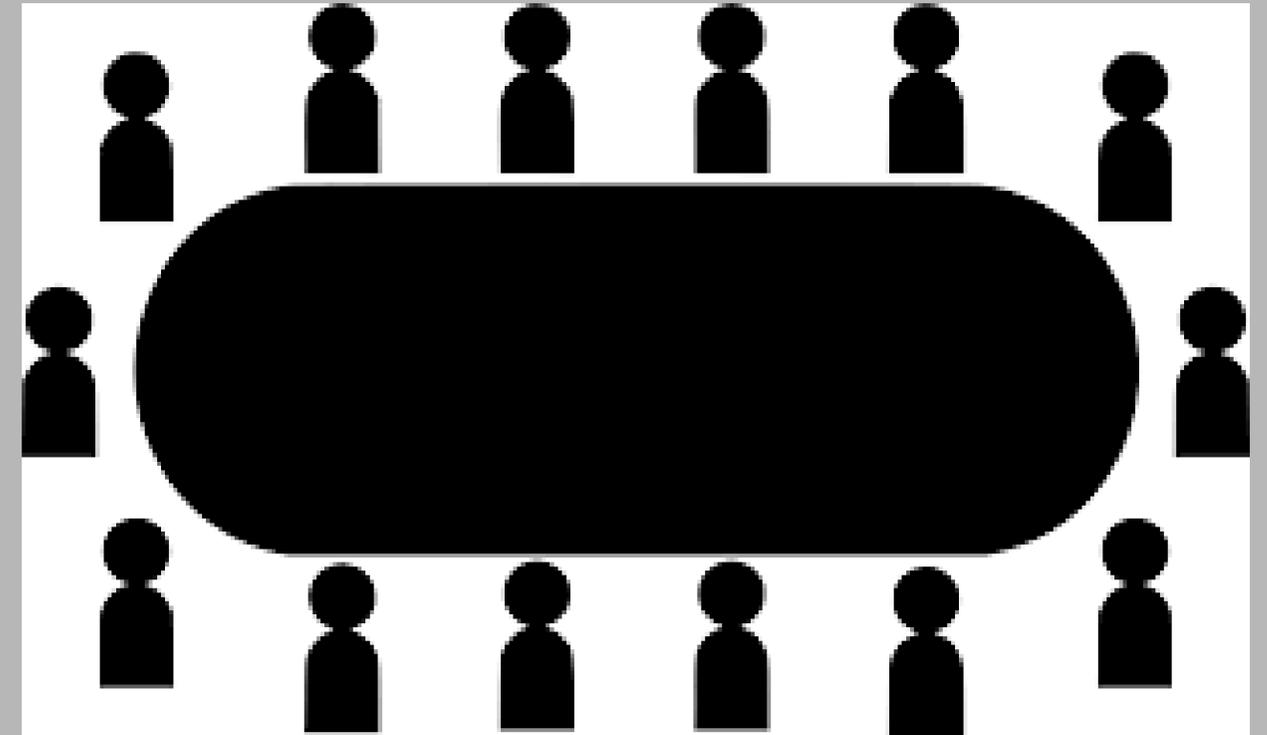
- Mid-semester withdrawals–transfers, lockdowns, release
- Default and depletion of lifetime Pell eligibility
- USDOE Fresh Start Program offers way out
  - Deadline: August 2024
- Financial Aid counseling for incarcerated students, unique to carceral setting

# Problem: Discrimination against formerly incarcerated students results in inequitable access

- Indiana has still not “banned the box”
- 25% of colleges and universities in Indiana still require information of convictions
- Even high-achieving formerly incarcerated students are banned from applying after they are released

# Final point

Engaging formerly incarcerated students in CHE decision making



# Questions?

Contact us:

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# REFORM

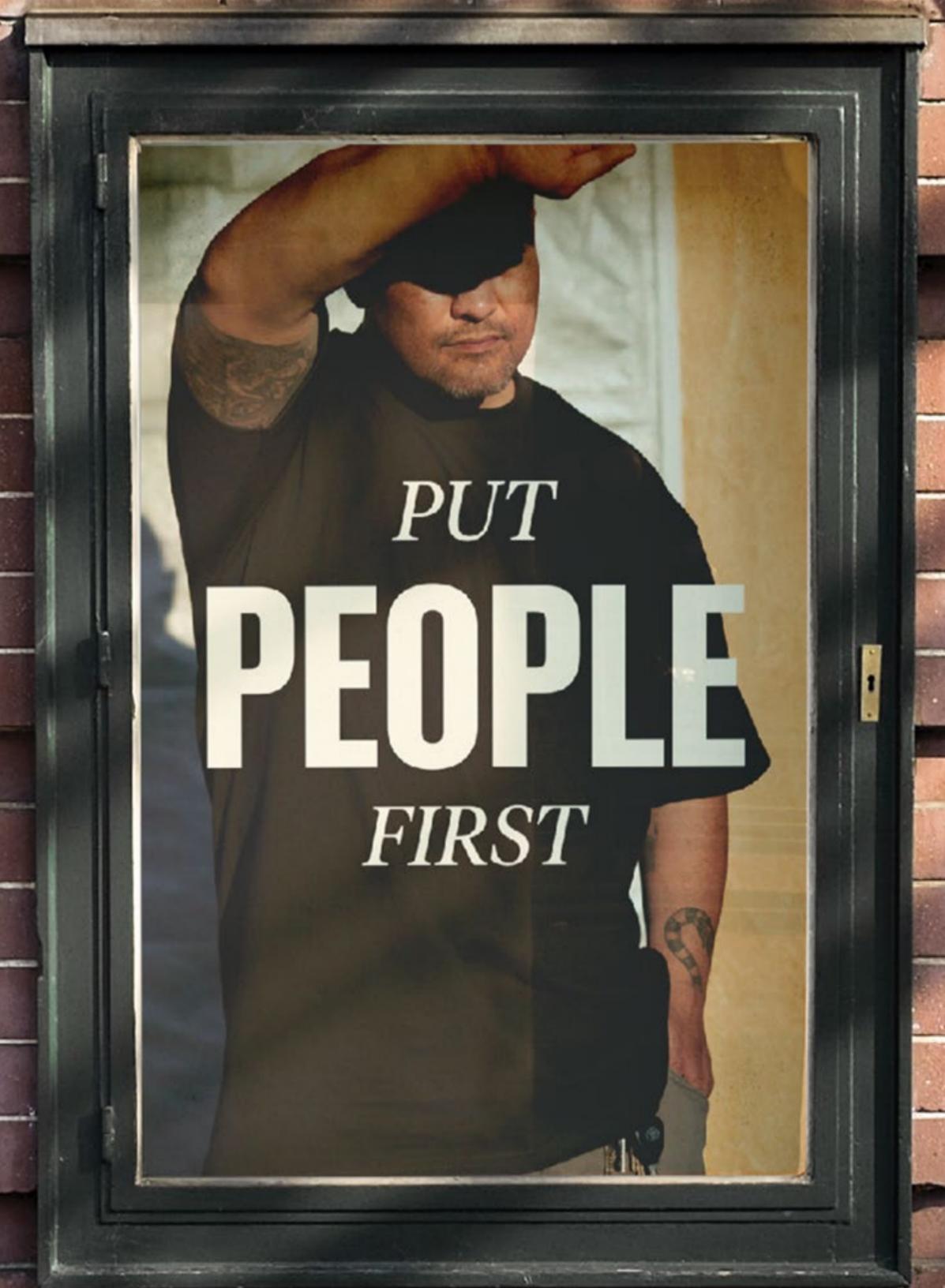


# OUR MISSION

REFORM aims to **transform probation and parole** by changing laws, systems and culture to create real pathways to work and wellbeing.

# OUR APPROACH

- **Build Coalitions to Change Policy**
- **Change the Narrative**
- **Engage the Private Sector**
- **Support the Grassroots**



# Indiana Secure Communities Coalition

A diverse coalition of 120 members including reentry providers, academics, faith leaders, directly impacted individuals, public servants, advocates, and employers.

- We are working together to build a criminal justice system here in Indiana that is fair, fiscally responsible, and supports safety in our communities.
- By passing evidence-based supervision reform legislation, we believe we can support rehabilitation and meaningful pathways to safety and stability for all Hoosiers.

[www.SecureCommunitiesIN.com](http://www.SecureCommunitiesIN.com)



# Barriers to Education for System Impacted People

- Access to basic needs (housing/food/transportation)
- Societal stigmas
- Lack of economic means
  - Supervision fees **criminalize poverty** by directly tying a person's financial stability to their success on supervision.
  - Nationwide, two out of every three people on probation make less than **\$20,000** per year, with nearly 40% of those making less than **\$10,000** annually.
- Counterproductive supervision conditions
- Lack of family support to pursue education
- Difficulty navigating the educational system



# Disparities in Educational Attainment

Less than 20% of 18-24 year olds who are incarcerated have a high school diploma vs. 70% of other 18-24 year olds

Just over half of formerly incarcerated people have a high school diploma or GED, and 25% hold no credentials at all.

Of those who have a GED, 75% earned their GED while incarcerated

Formerly incarcerated people are **8 times** less likely than the general population to earn a college degree.



# Assessing the Impact of Education

People who participate in **educational programs** while in prison are 43% less likely to return to prison after being released than those who don't.

Their chances of finding employment post-release are **12% higher** than those who didn't participate in educational programs.

Lower educational attainment actually increases a person's likelihood of **being arrested**.

**Education is a proven tool in reducing recidivism. It is a pathway to job security, familial stability, and improved public safety.**



**Supporting Access to Education**

**Fair chance opportunities**

**Changing the narrative**

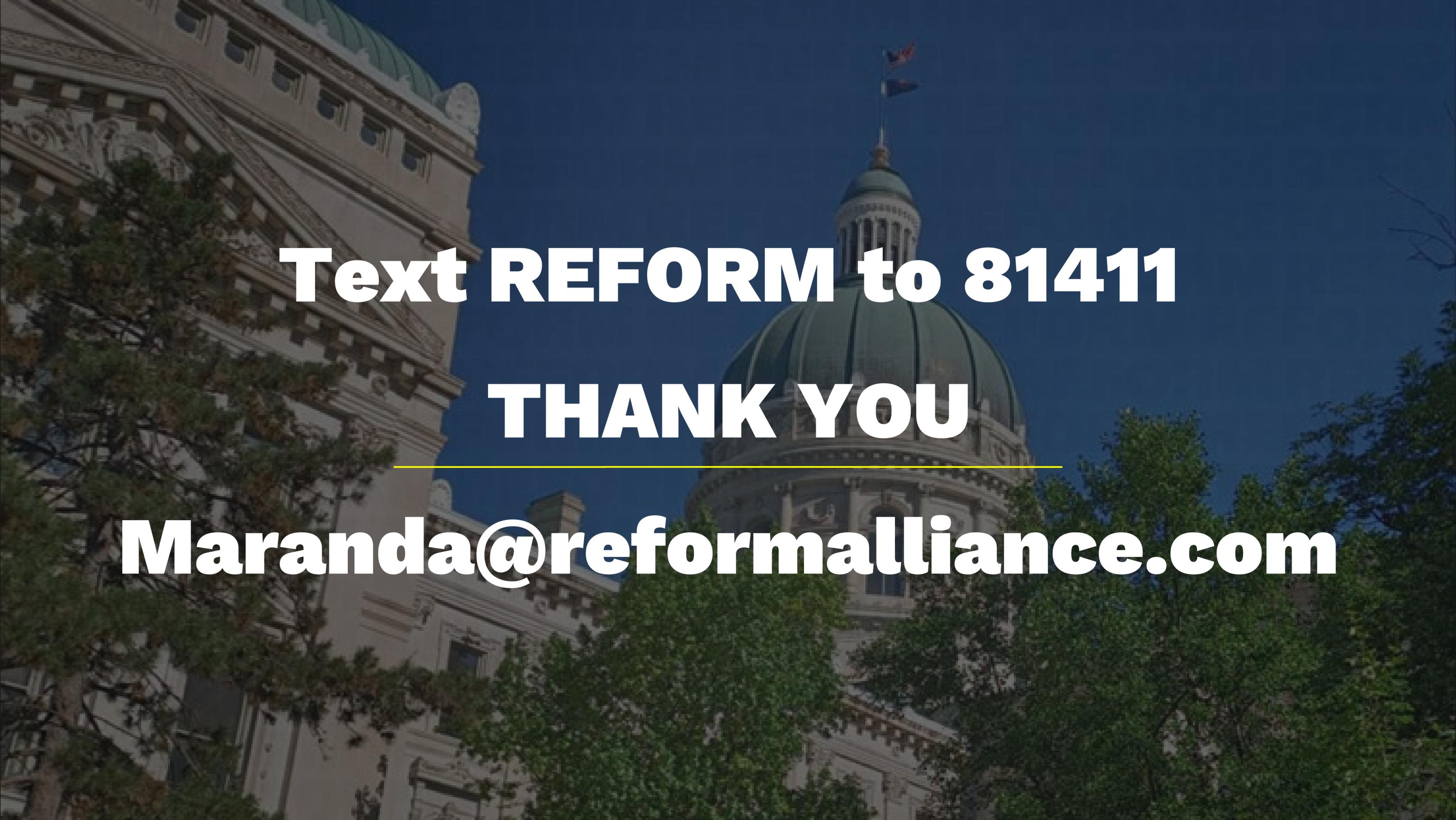
**Access to community  
resources**

**Accommodating supervision  
stipulations**

**Providing financial  
assistance**

**Accountability & incentives**





**Text REFORM to 81411**

**THANK YOU**

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**Maranda@reformalliance.com**



**CLOSING THE GAP  
WITH GRACE AND  
INTENTIONALITY**

# The Challenge



Marion County is in the 7<sup>th</sup> percentile for Safety in Indiana



11,000+ returning citizens are released annually to Marion, Boone and Hendricks Counties



85% of returning citizens are unemployed at the time of arrest



Youths of Color more likely to be waived to Adult court (2x Black Youth)



Indiana has a 14% Drop Out Rate



Pay Inequality

# The Purpose

Reduce Recidivism  
through Workforce  
Development

1

Create Safer  
Neighborhoods

2

Close Equity Gaps

3

Restorative  
Justice

5

Provide  
Holistic Wrap  
Around  
Services

4

Increase  
Credential  
Completions

6

# Partnership / Community Impact

➤ Increased  
Retention

➤ Reduced  
Recidivism

➤ Safer  
Neighborhoods

➤ Shifted  
Mindset



- ➔ Dedicated Career Coaching
- ➔ Access to Degrees, Short Term Credentials, Industry Certs & Skilled Training
- ➔ Employability Skills Development
- ➔ Job Placement Assistance & Advocacy
- ➔ Mental and Substance Abuse Support

# Key Services



- ➔ Personal Assistance Services
- ➔ Expungements
- ➔ Charge Reduction/Elimination
- ➔ Diversion and Restorative Options
- ➔ Group Mentoring

...and much more!

# Key Services cont'd



# Partners & Collaborators

- ★ Marion County Prosecutor Office
- ★ Neighborhood Christian Legal Clinic
- ★ Indiana Public Defender Agency (State & Juvenile)
- ★ RecycleForce
- ★ IDOC
- ★ Hoosier Initiative for Reentry (HIRE) Dept of Correction
- ★ PACE
- ★ Edna Martin
- ★ Helping Veterans and Families
- ★ Marion County Reentry Coalition
- ★ Indianapolis Parole
- ★ Step Up Indianapolis
- ★ Fathers and Families
- ★ Minority Health Coalition
- ★ Marion County Public Health Department
- ★ T3 Mental Health Services
- ★ Males 2 Men/ Rebuilding the Village



Social enterprises that, together, constitute one of the largest and most successful prisoner re-entry programs in the country.



- **Immediate employment, work-focused program**
- **On-the-job, industry-recognized training/credentialing**
- **Job placement, career exploration assistance**
- **Mentoring, supportive services**

### Economic impacts for individuals, employers, and Indiana communities:

- ▶ Job placements concentrated in recycling and environmental services, logistics, infrastructure and municipal work
- ▶ Quality job placements: \$18 - \$24 per hour
- ▶ Building talent pipelines with individuals who have committed serious crimes but need self-confidence and financial stability through work
- ▶ Helping employers connect with and support this labor force of justice-impacted citizens

# The Promise



**Educate**



**Empower**



**Impact**



# Questions?

For more Information contact us at:

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CHANCE**  
STRATEGIES, LLC



**INDIANA COMMISSION *for***  
**HIGHER EDUCATION**