



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Justice-Involved Programming: UW–Madison Division of Extension

Extension Overview

- Extension is a partnership between the federal, state, and county government
- This partnership was established in 1914 with passage of the Federal Smith-Lever Act
- Each state Extension program is part of a university. In our case Extension is a division of UW Madison
- Each County in Wisconsin has an Extension office. Today we have team members present from our Milwaukee County Extension office and our Fond du Lac County Extension office.
- Funding from government sources has declined. For example, in 2000, 34 percent of the budget for the University of Wisconsin was funded by state revenue. Today, this is 14 percent.

Extension's Mission

Extension embodies the Wisconsin Idea by partnering to develop and connect the research and educational resources of UW-Madison with residents and communities to address local, statewide, and national issues



Extension's Civil Rights Commitment

An Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) / Affirmative Action (AA) employer, University of Wisconsin–Madison Division of Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title VI, Title IX, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act requirements.

Statewide Network

- Extension has deep local ties that develop regional and statewide networks able to respond to emerging issues
- Working in and with communities allows Extension to connect research and resources directly to affected populations and areas



Entrepreneur in Training Partnership



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DEFY
VENTURES



INSTITUTE
FOR CORPORATE AND SOCIAL IMPACT



Currently & Formerly Incarcerated Wisconsinites

While in custody, WI residents earn less than \$1.50/hour

(Prison Policy Initiative, 2017)

15% of people released from WI prisons are reincarcerated after 1 year, 41% after 3 years.

(WIDOC, 2022)

63,341 people are on state supervision as of June 30, 2023

(WIDOC Community Corrections, 2023)

An estimated 60% of formerly incarcerated Americans are without jobs at any given time.

(Prison Policy Initiative, 2022.2.8)

Only 55% of people have reportable income after incarceration, a median of \$10,090/year.

(The Brookings Institute, 2018)

Formerly incarcerated men make 40% less than their potential annual earnings prior to imprisonment.

(The Pew Charitable Trusts, 2010)



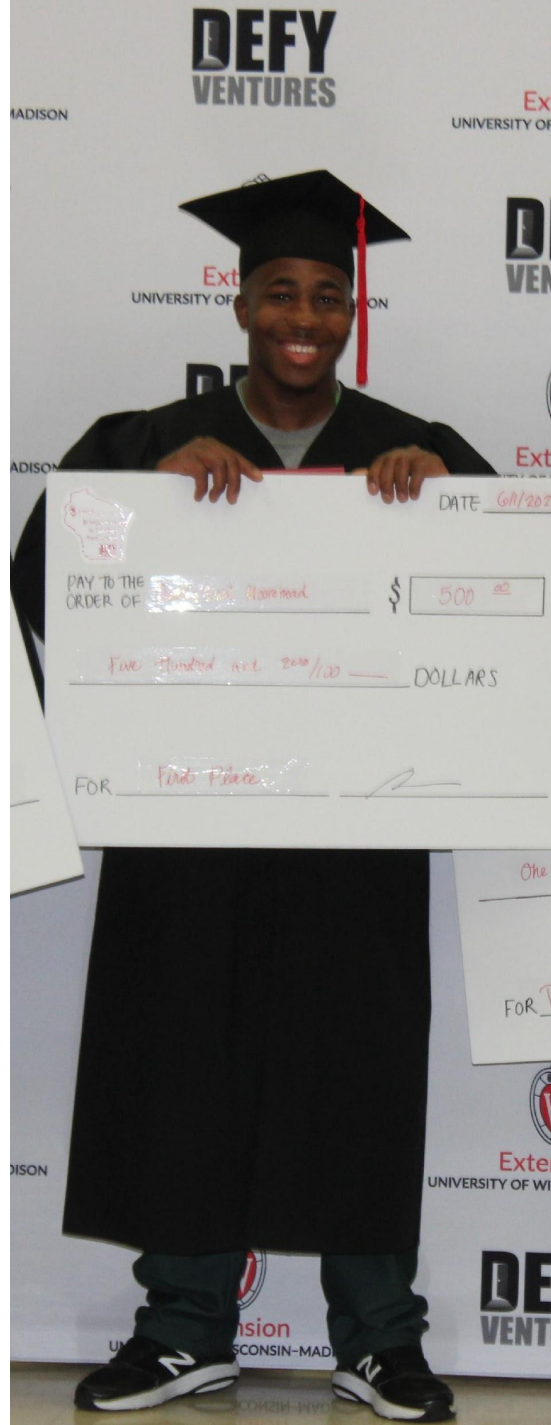
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A Solution

Teach
entrepreneurship, career readiness, & personal development
inside WI prisons and in
the community
post-release.

Photo credits: *Racine Journal Times*





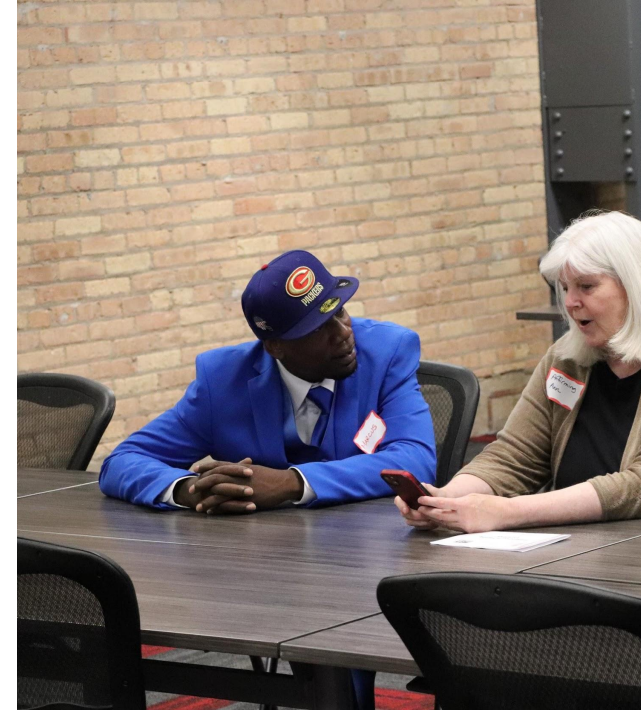
Building up leaders & employers, instead of ~~repeat~~ offenders

CEO of Your New Life

- 6–8 months including 3 milestone events with volunteers
- No restrictions for type of conviction or length of sentence
- 3 prisons in Racine & Waushara Counties
- Credit for Prior Learning from Moraine Park Technical College
- **Coming Soon:** Digital Badges from Continuing Studies & Extension



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Entrepreneurship Bootcamp

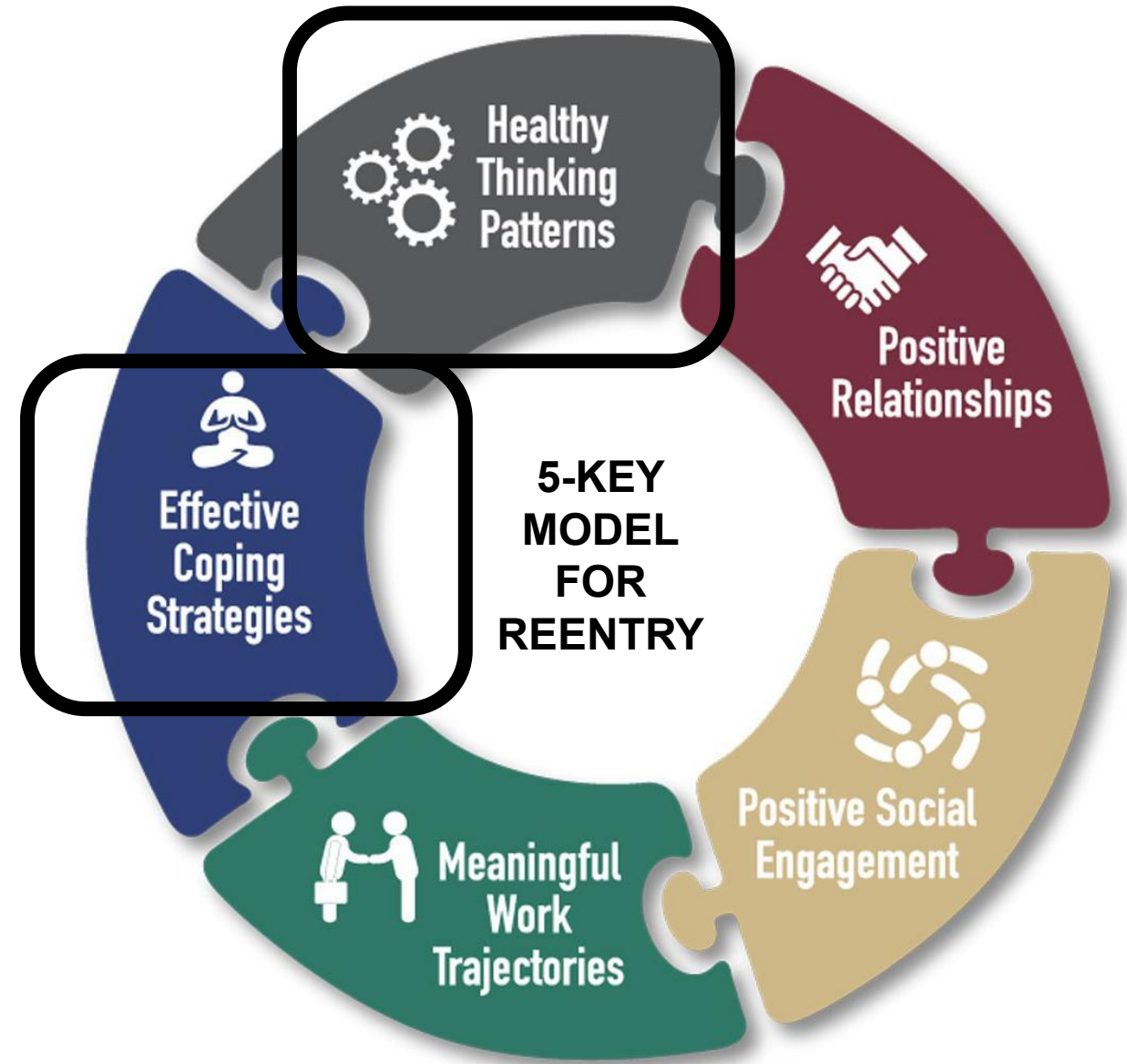
- Community-based program for those with reentry stability
- 14-17 weeks long with 3 volunteer events
- No restrictions for length of sentence, type of conviction, or educational attainment.
- **Coming Soon:** Digital Badges from Continuing Studies & Extension

Hybrid Class Offered From:

- Partners in Hope (Milwaukee)
- Via Zoom

Improving Reentry Wellbeing

<p>Post-Release program graduates & current participants</p>	<p>31 entrepreneurs have finished the program and 16 have incorporated businesses so far</p>
<p>Prison program graduates</p>	<p>48 have finished the program</p>
<p>Employment</p>	<p>6 program finishers have returned home. 4 are employed and 2 aren't seeking jobs at this time.</p>



CURRENT SITUATION

Within 3 years of returning from state prison:

- 52% of people are rearrested.
 - 33% are reconvicted.
 - **41% are reincarcerated.**

Outcomes of Defy Ventures Program Finishers

- 80% employment within 90 days of release
- Less than 10% recidivism after 1 year
- Less than 15% recidivism after 3 years



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Join In

Volunteer at group business coaching events

- **Monday, April 22**, 5:30-7:30pm on Zoom
- **Tuesday, April 23**, 8am - 1:30pm at Racine Youthful Offender Correctional
- **Thursday, May 23**, 7:30am-3:30pm at Robert E. Ellsworth Correctional (Union Grove)

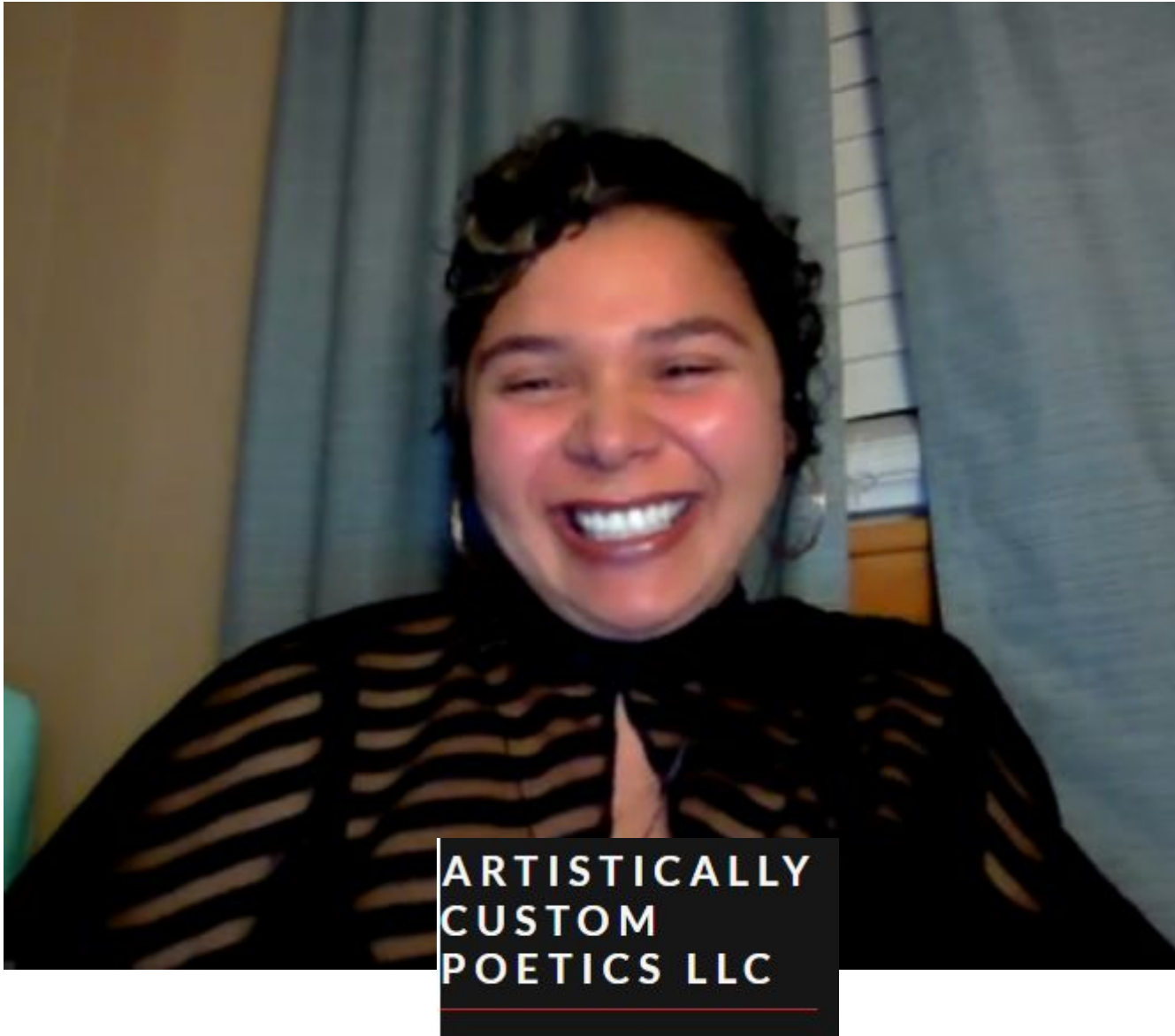
EIT Partnership Conference: Present, Network, Sponsor, & Learn

- **Friday & Saturday, June 7-8**, Summit Place, West Allis

<http://go.wisc.edu/EITPartnership>



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"Without this program I may have lost hope in myself, from not having the positive thinking necessary to grow. That's why I love how the books go through the different levels of teaching. They teach you to encourage yourself so that you are continuously growing, not just your business, but within. I do plan to go into Pre-Accelerator because I know that I am going to push myself and that I will have all of these great people to support me through the process."





“I have been working with DOC for 15 years and have been involved with many different types of institutional and community efforts. I can say, without a doubt, this is one of the most well thought out, comprehensive and delightful experiences that I have had. It will no doubt have a lasting impact on the young men involved and maybe even more so for the volunteers. Thank you all.”



The Literacy Link Project



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THE LITERACY LINK 

Connecting children and parents in justice-involved families through literacy-rich experiences

Parental Incarceration in Wisconsin



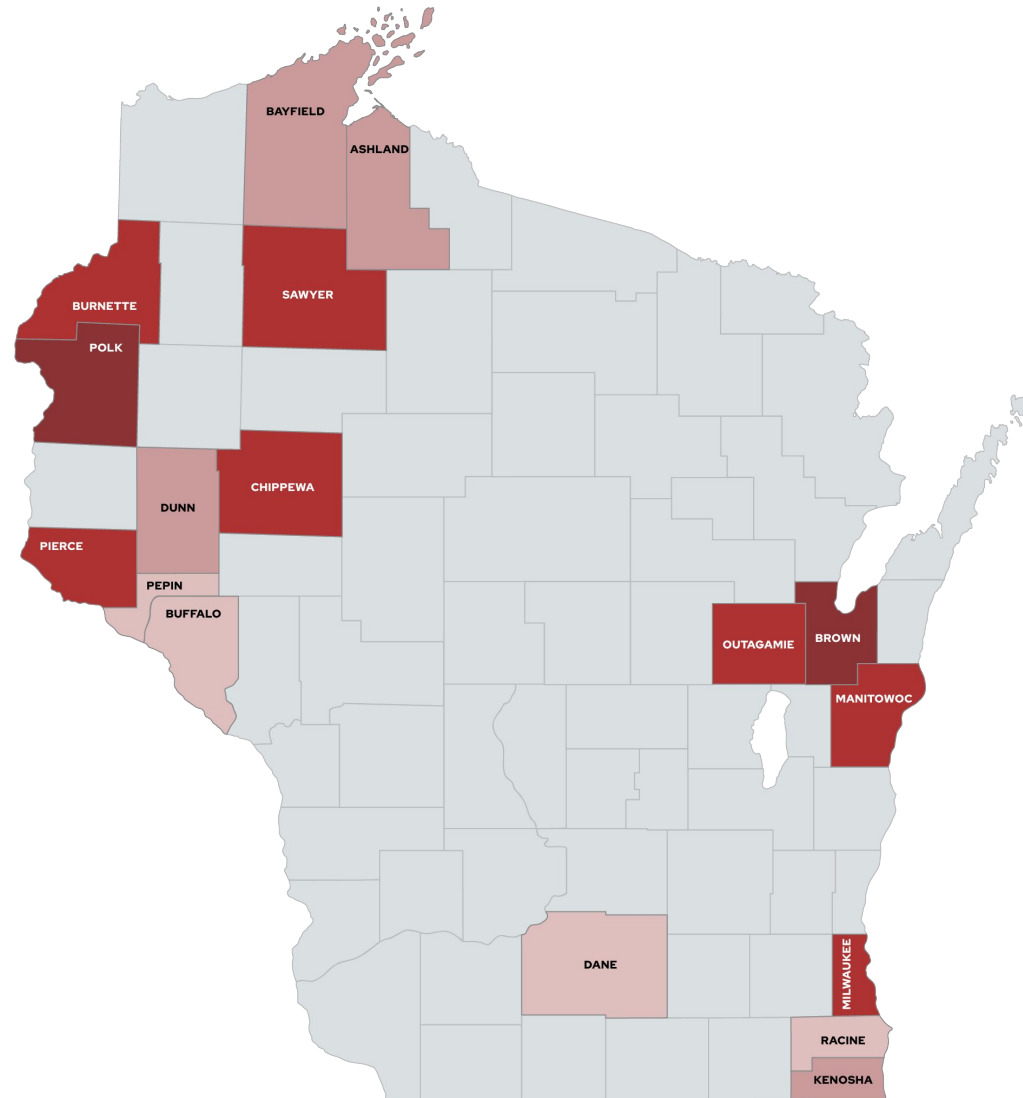
Annie E. Casey Report: *Children of Incarcerated Parents, A Shared Sentence*, 2023



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THE LITERACY LINK 

Expansion 2017–Present



Program Implementation

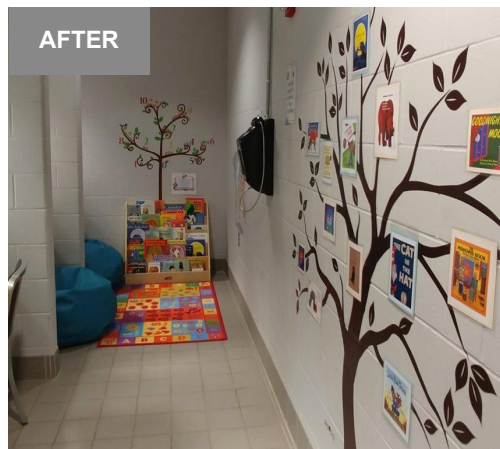
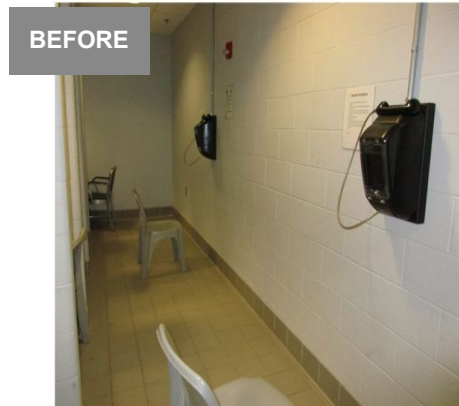
- 2017 Pilot
- Pilot Expansion
- Post-Pilot Implementation
- WI Idea Grant Team

Strategies

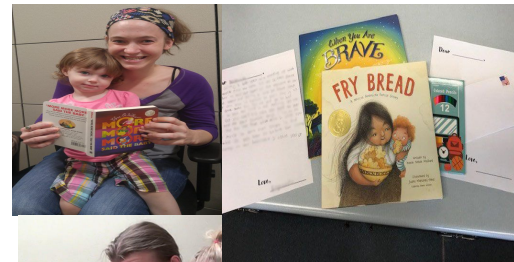
Making Reading Memories



Physical Space Changes



Parent/Caregiver Education & Support



SUPPORTING CHILDREN WITH INCARCERATED PARENTS

a two-part series for parents and caregivers
free online via Zoom

Tuesdays, April 4 & 11
6:00 - 7:30pm



CONNECT, DISCUSS AND ENGAGE...

Children impacted by the incarceration of a loved one often experience stress and need extra support. This series will help caregivers strengthen connection and foster resilience.

April 4 - Building Your Bond: Talk, Read and Connect with Your Child
April 11 - Strong Feelings: Supporting Your Child Emotionally

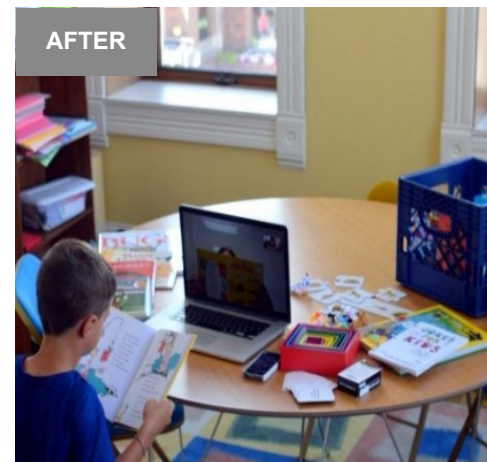
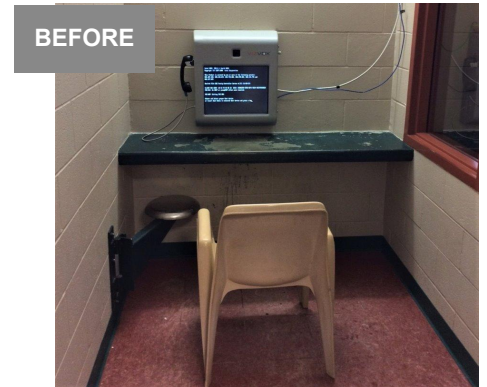
Registration Required!

Scan QR Code
or go to
go.wisc.edu/8eht9l

Participating parents & caregivers will have an opportunity to choose *free* books for their children!

Questions? Contact Heidi Ungrodt: 715-573-5288 or heidi.ungrodt@wisc.edu

TeleStory

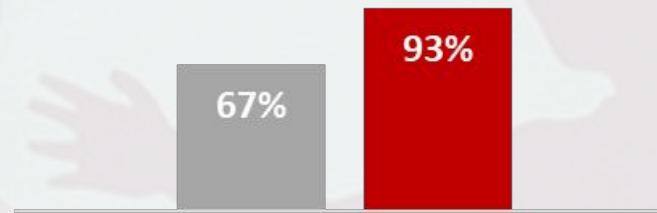


Literacy Link - Parent Education and Parent-Child Connection

At entry, nearly **3 in 4** parents reported Literacy Link was their *first ever* exposure to education about parenting.

Improved parent **confidence**

Before and **After** Workshop



Read Book to Child

Improved parent **intentions**

Because of workshop I intend to...



Read With Child

Communicate With Child

Share With Caregiver

Nearly all caregivers agreed the videos helped connect parent and child

93%

Over half of caregivers read more often to child

56%

"My son's been on my hip asking to go to the library basically every day so he can find new books."

Ways to Support

- **HOST A BOOK DRIVE**
- **ASSIST w/ BOOK RECORDINGS**
- **FUNDING SUPPORT**
 - **BOOK VENDING MACHINES**
 - **MKE COUNTY JUSTICE-INVOLVED FAMILIES EDUCATOR**

Financial Security



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Financial Education

Milwaukee Extension's Financial programming goal is to provide residents and communities the necessary resources, tools and pertinent financial education and training that will foster their journey towards achieving financial well-being.



Target Audiences

- Low income individuals and families
- Individuals impacted by the Justice system
- Older adults/families who are preparing for end of life
- Immigrant populations with specific financial capability issues, notably undocumented populations
- Youth aging out of foster care
- Service providers that work with families of limited means in programs with a mission of financial stability



Reentry Ready Focus: Financial Capability Workshop

Purpose: To empower individuals in taking control of their personal finances post-release

“First time I was incarcerated I was 14 years old. I feel like I’m empowered and I feel like I am ready to tackle the world. From a person that has been incarcerated for 30 years of his short life, I have never been given the resources that I have been given in this class. I’m excited to get released and show myself and my family what I have learned and the progress and the steps that I have taken”.



The Milwaukee Community Reintegration Center
Building a Path to Success Program Graduation Class of 2023.

Financial Education Programs

Encouraging Financial Conversations- A series that will help social workers, case managers, other front line staff engage their clients in positive conversations around money.

Planning AHEAD- A 7-session research-based program that will help participants understand how to prepare for the end of life for themselves or a loved one and understand the importance of having a plan in place.

Financial Education Programs

- **Rent Smart-** focuses on the knowledge and skills essential for a successful renting experience. It challenges participants to know and understand their rights and responsibilities as a tenant, as well as the rights and responsibilities of their landlords.
- **Financial Workshops**
 - Introduction to Financial Institutions
 - Saving
 - Budgeting
 - Credit/Debt Management

Next Steps

- Classroom Observations
- Partnerships
- Attend Reentry Events
- Staff Trainings



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THANK YOU!