

Leading Best Practices in US Prisoner Re-entry Employment Programs

The background image shows three workers in white protective suits and high-visibility vests cleaning a wall with long-handled brushes. The workers are wearing white hard hats and blue gloves. The wall is made of concrete and has some graffiti on it. The workers are standing in a line, and the one in the foreground is actively scrubbing the wall. The image is partially obscured by a large white circular graphic on the right side.

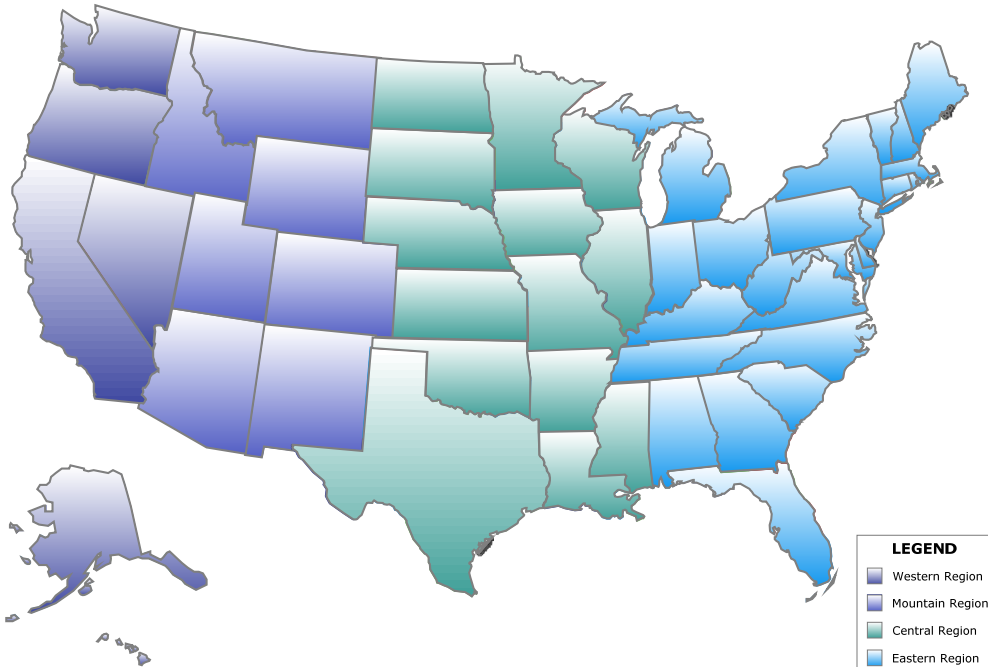
**Diane Williams
President and CEO,
Safer Foundation**

www.saferfoundation.org



United States

USA REGIONS



United States Total Population
307,006,550

of Prison Facilities
5,069

Total Capacity
2,093,021

Total People Incarcerated
2,297,400

Operating at 110% Capacity

Corrections Spending - \$52 billion

About Safer

Safer Foundation is a 38-year-old, not-for-profit organization, headquartered in Chicago, Illinois with locations statewide and in one location in Iowa.

- ✓ 478 employees on staff (including Pivotal Staffing Agency)
- ✓ 1,752 people served per day (approximately)
- ✓ 58% reduction in recidivism rates (versus other IL releases)
- ✓ 2,700 job starts in FY09

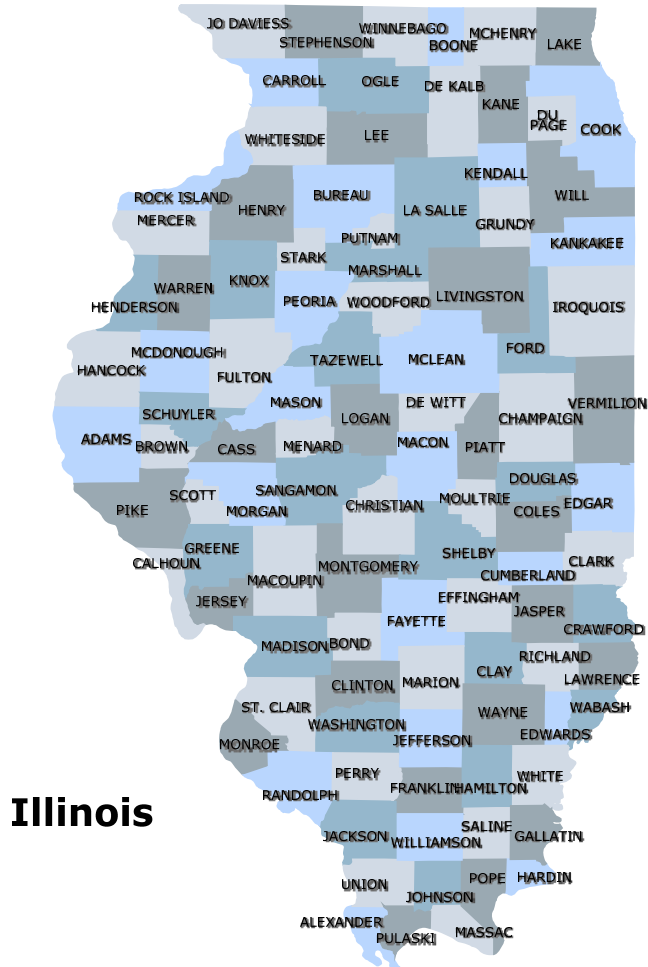
Over 10,000 clients expected in FY 2011



Illinois



Illinois



Illinois Total Population
12,910,409

of Prison Facilities
55

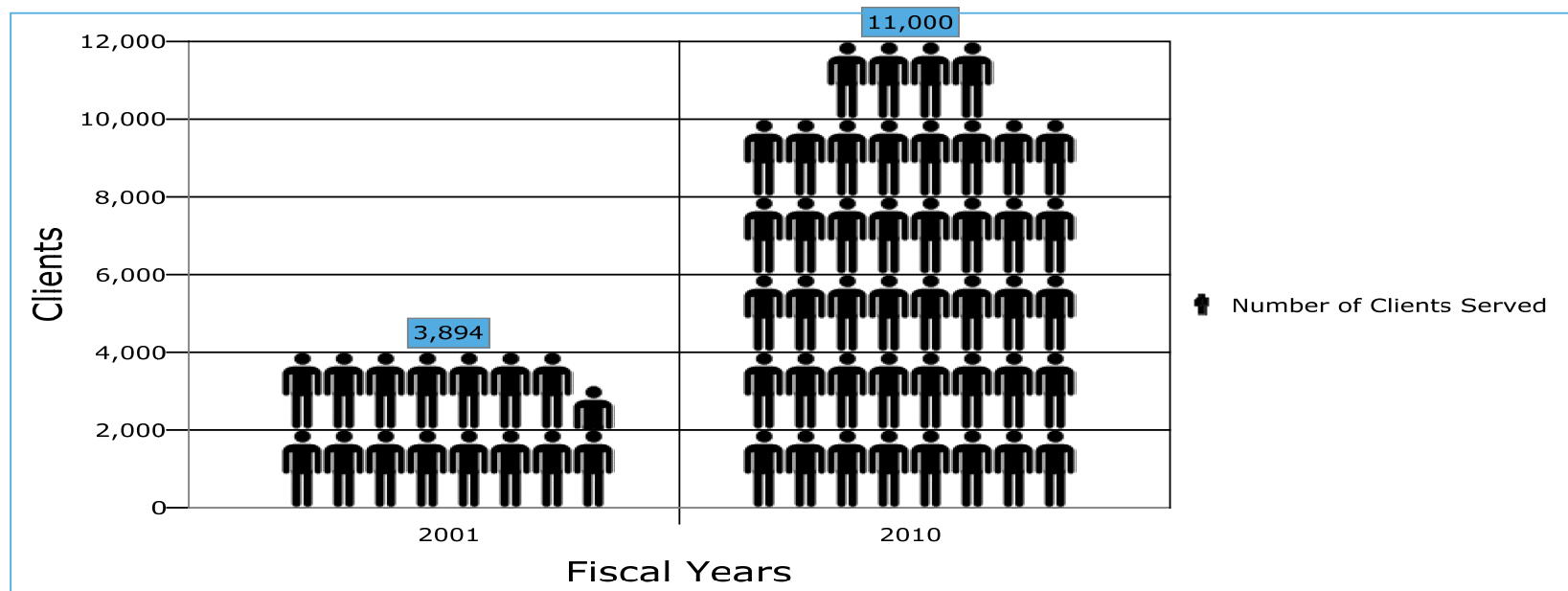
Total Capacity
31,000

Total People Incarcerated
45,545

Operating at 147% Capacity

Corrections Spending - \$1.2 billion

Safer has Seen a Dramatic Increase in Clients Seeking our Services



Typical Client (reflective of demographics of the US prison population):

African American Male

26 – 35 Years Old

Single

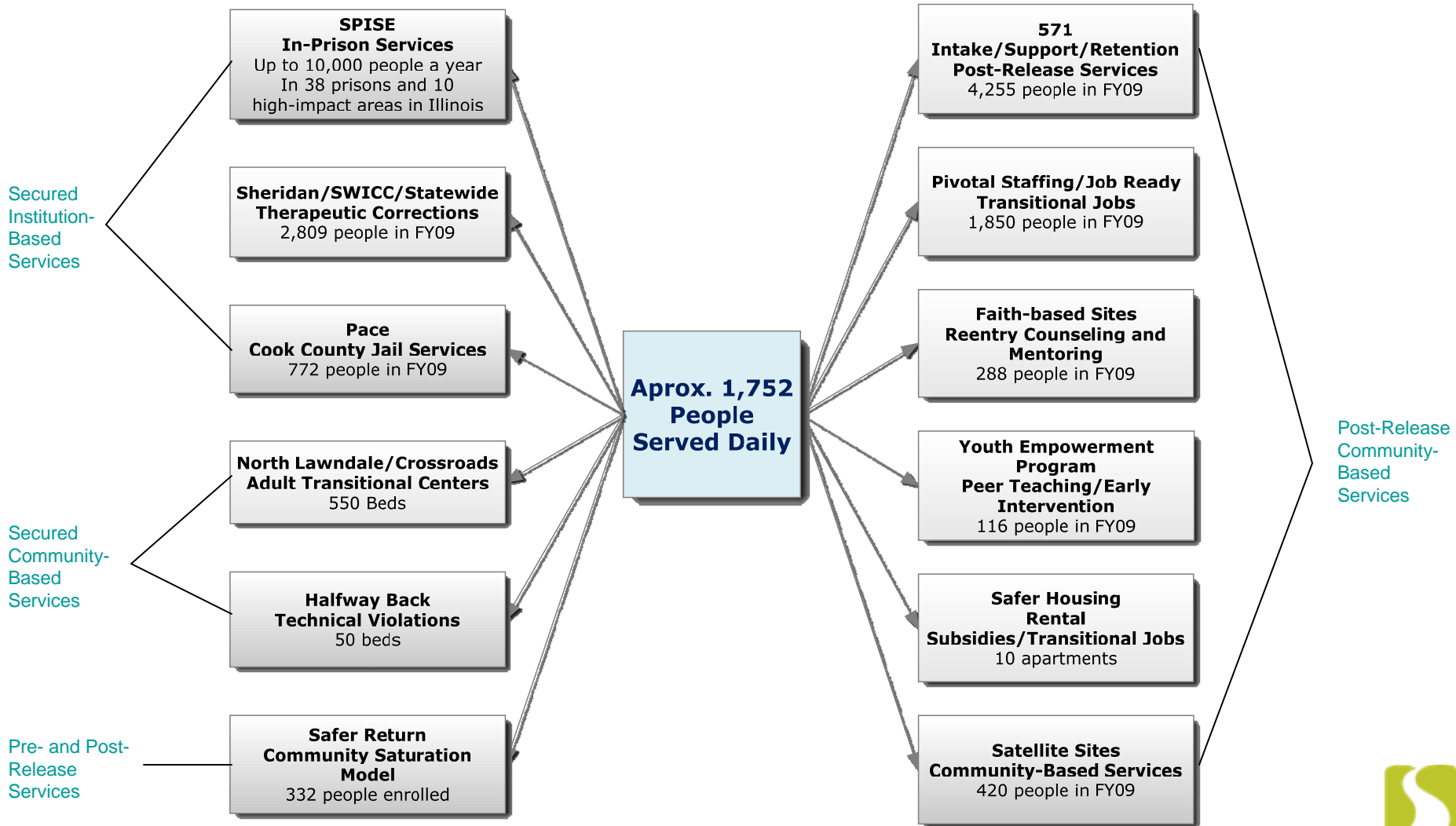
Father

Possession of a Controlled Substance

No Post Secondary Education

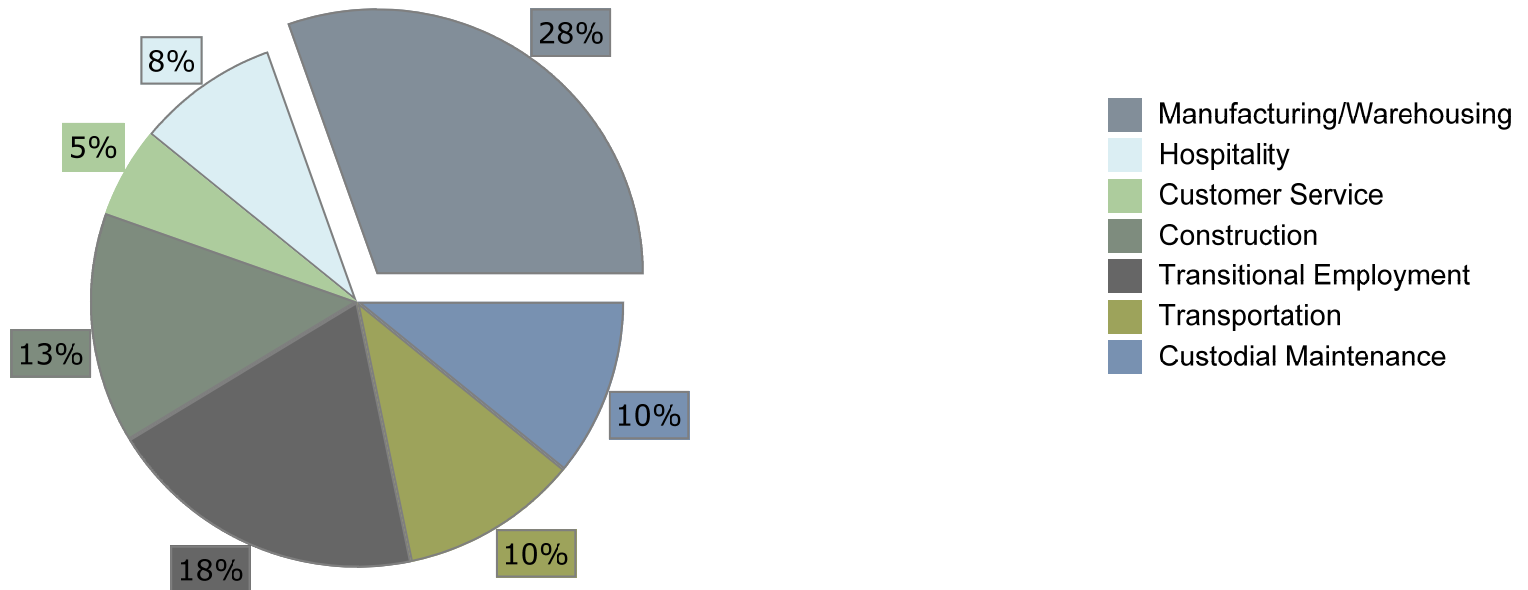
Limited and disjointed work experience

Safer Programs



Safer Job Placement: Sectors

Employment Sectors



The Employment Gap - Currently countries around the world are seeing high unemployment rates. There are an overabundance of people trained for certain occupations. In fields where jobs are available there remains a shortage of adequately trained talent to step into these positions.

Safer's Role – At Safer, we place close to 3,000 people in jobs annually. Part of the role of our managers is to identify recent labor market trends and job prospects within key sectors for people with criminal records. Our goal is to not only get people into jobs, but to position them to earn livable wages and sustain long term careers with opportunity for growth and advancement.

Safer's Partners

Safer has fostered several partnerships over the years that have proved fruitful in our on-going mission.

Safer's Partners Include (but are not limited to):

Illinois Department of Corrections

Elected officials on the local, state and national levels

Other like-minded organizations and institutions

Non-correctional state and local government agencies

Legal aid clinics

National H.I.R.E. Network

Human service organizations

Advocacy groups

Academic and research institutions

Think tanks

Faith-based organizations

Philanthropic institutions

Hundreds of businesses

What's Working

www.saferfoundation.org



In Illinois

In-Prison Programs and Specialty Prisons

S.P.I.S.E. Statewide Partnership to Increase Safety through Employment

- In-prison reentry support and job preparedness
- Located in 38 or 39 Illinois state prisons

Sheridan and SWICC (Southwestern Illinois Correction Center)

- Therapeutic communities offering intensive drug treatment
- Focus on singular goal of ensuring successful reintegration and the establishment of self-sufficiency

Parole Reform

Model program: Operation Spotlight

- Focus on three areas: increased parolee contacts, more effective risk assessment and support, and improved cooperation with local law enforcement, service providers, and community.

Policy Reform

C.A,R.R.E. - Council of Advisors to Reduce Recidivism through Employment

- Consists of over 100 state, local and national members
- Annual public policy conferences serve to vet best practices; strategize with public officials; make sound recommendations for new public policy initiatives

Community Saturation Models

Model program: Safer Return (East Garfield Park Chicago)

- Welcome Home Panels starting in prison
- Reentry Planning and Coordination
- Employment post release
- Mentoring/peer support
- Community Parole

The Green Economy: Preparing Workers for the Jobs of Tomorrow

Currently countries around the world are seeing:

- High unemployment rates
- An overabundance of people trained for a limited number of positions
- A shortage of adequately trained talent to step into positions that are and will be available

In the face of international economic downturn, many countries have built a green component into their stimulus plans, opening up the door for more green collar jobs.

The “green economy” has and will continue to create job prospects for traditionally disadvantaged workers (i.e. people with criminal records) with limited work history and without higher education. Positions available offer opportunities for advancement and higher wage earnings.

Green Job Development

Safer's Green Jobs Mission - A portion of Safer's job training is focused on emerging green job markets in the areas of energy efficiency, renewable energy, waste reduction, urban agriculture, and horticulture industries.



- Contract with the Dept. of Community Development
- Partners: The Delta Institute and Rebuilding Exchange; The ReUse People of America (TRP)
- Provides 70 clients with training related to the controlled deconstruction of buildings and salvaging of materials



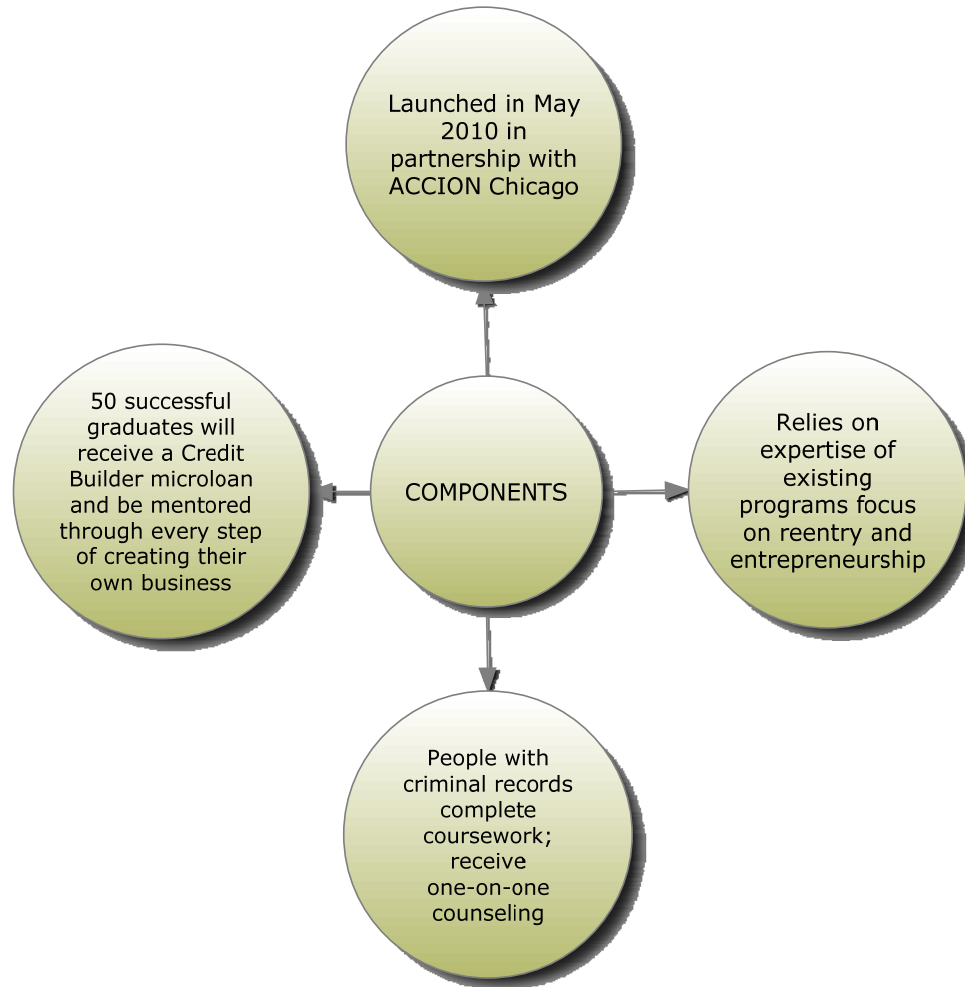
- Contract with the Dept. of Family and Support Services
- Partner: The Dept. of Streets and Sanitation
- 33 clients join work crews and participate in community beautification projects like snow removal and alley upkeep



- Contract with the Dept. of Environment
- Partners: Garfield Park Conservatory; Christy Webber Landscaping
- 50 people will be provided with green job training in sustainable landscaping and urban agricultural projects
- Safer has partnered with WRD/Greencorps Chicago to do additional training

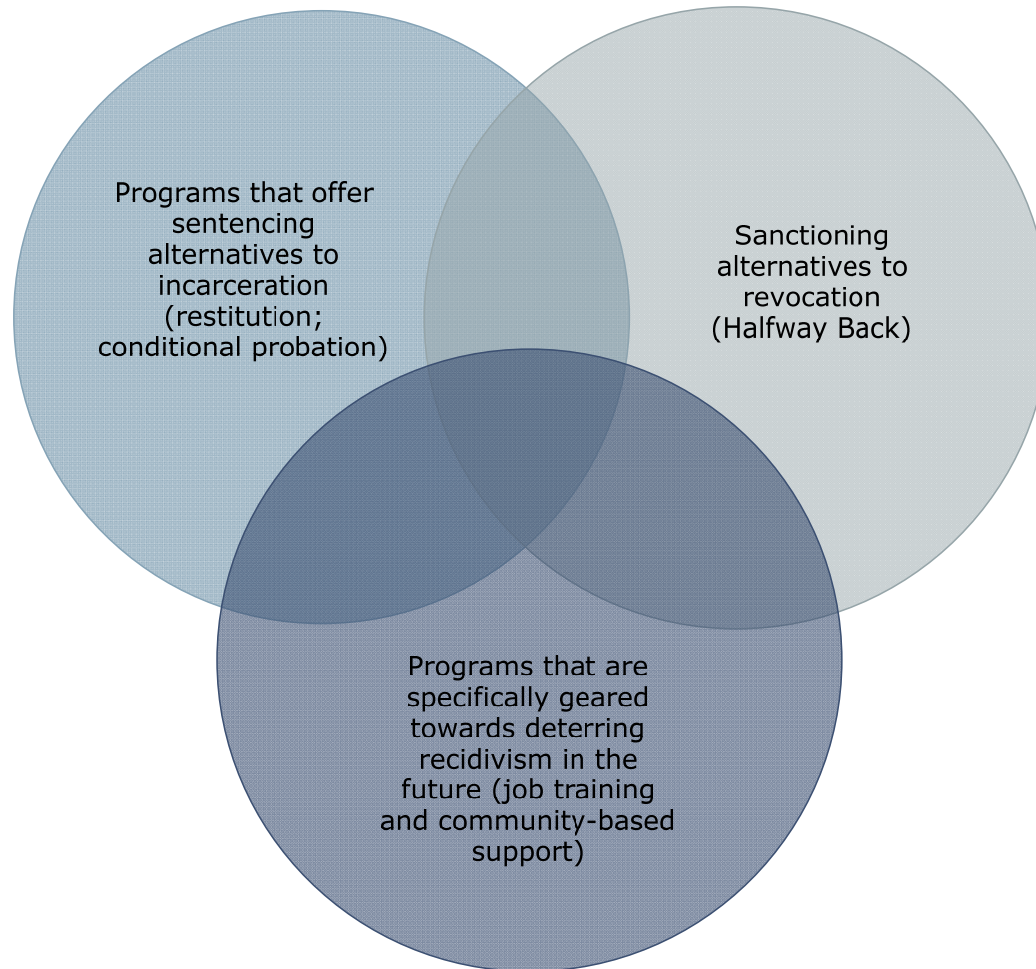
Social Enterprise: Promoting Business Growth and Community Development

Safer Foundation's Micro Enterprise Reentry Investment Trust (**M.E.R.I.T.**) Program enables individuals to invest in their futures and participate productively in the local economy



Diversion Models

Diversion programs are key to routing people out of the criminal justice system effectively. Such programs generally fall under one or more of the below three categories.



Making Diversion Programs Work for You



3-Year Recidivism Results

Services Overall

Recidivism rate for those who were re-incarcerated after services were provided

