

Building the Road Home for Returning Residents

Roughly 10% of the people The Partnership serves through federally funded jobs programs self-identify as having had prior justice system involvement. In collaboration with Cook County's Justice Advisory Council, The Partnership created the Cook County Coordinated Reentry Council, which convened over seven months to develop recommendations for systemic changes to the region's reentry system.

This effort includes The Reentry Navigation Initiative: The Road Home, a 34-month demonstration project, intended to address people's holistic needs upon returning to Cook County from incarceration in Illinois' penal institutions. This initiative includes an emphasis on workforce development, occupational training, and permanent, unsubsidized job placement.

Launched in early 2022, The Road Home initiative offers 150 eligible participants enrollment into a comprehensive reentry program beginning pre-release that addresses the barriers to successfully return to the community. Cook County's investment of ARPA funds will allow the program to expand, serving those who have returned to the community but continue to face barriers to employment.



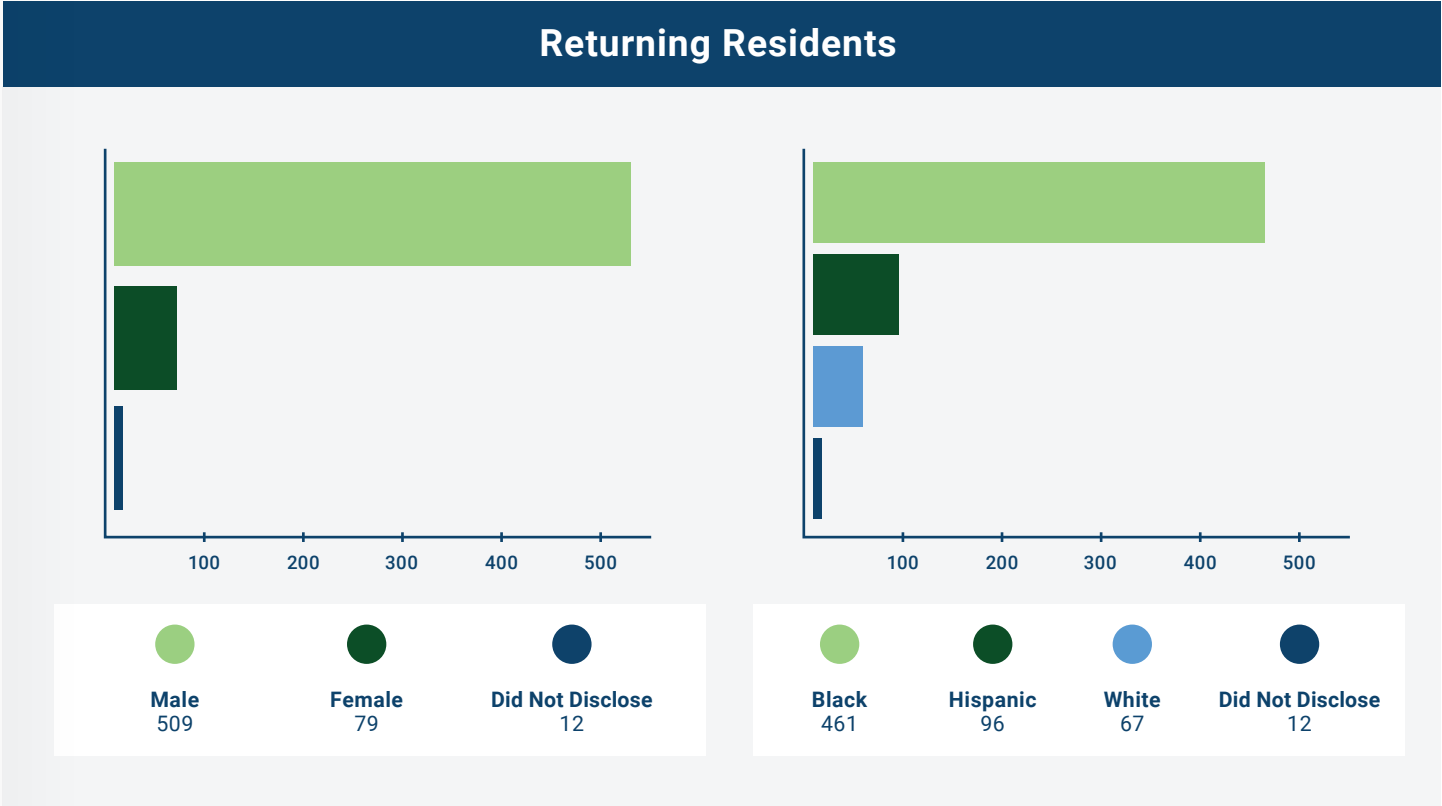
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If you take a step back and look at resources available to people returning home from incarceration in Chicago and Illinois, The Partnership's introduction of the navigator model became the connective tissue that brought all of those resources together to create one seamless reentry.

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– Francisco Perez, Reentry Navigator

Within the last Program Year, The Partnership’s network served 600 returning residents. **Of those 600 served, 214 were placed into employment in a variety of industries, with more than half of those 214 working in the manufacturing and transportation sectors.** Returning residents earned an average of \$23.88 per hour. The Partnership continues to work with the remaining individuals to find employment opportunities.



“ Reentry is vitally important because it addresses the restorative aspect of the individual and community that is often overlooked by our criminal justice system. Reentry is public safety. ”

– Michael Cannon, Reentry Navigator