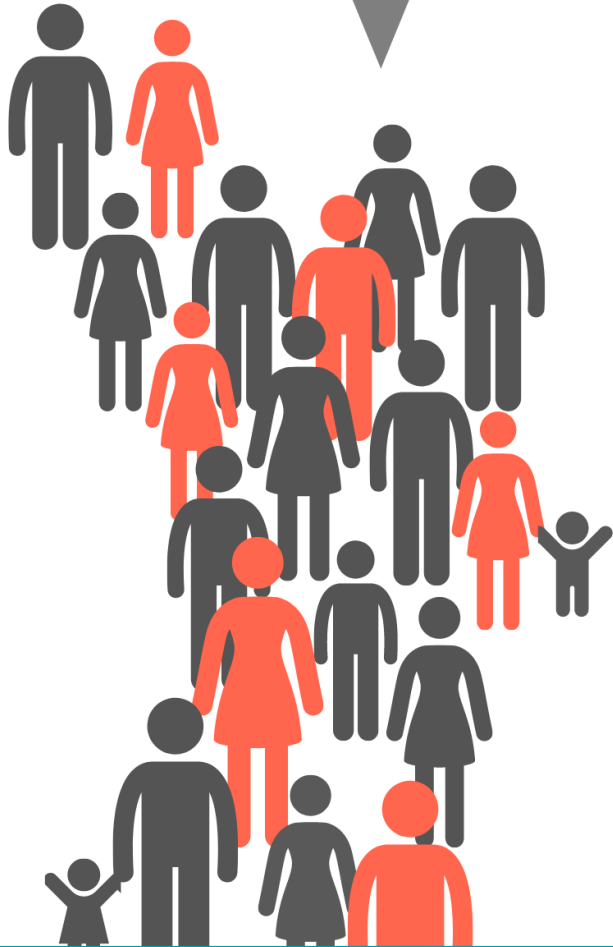




# Reentry Services

**Annie Herz: Executive Director, Sponsors, Inc.**

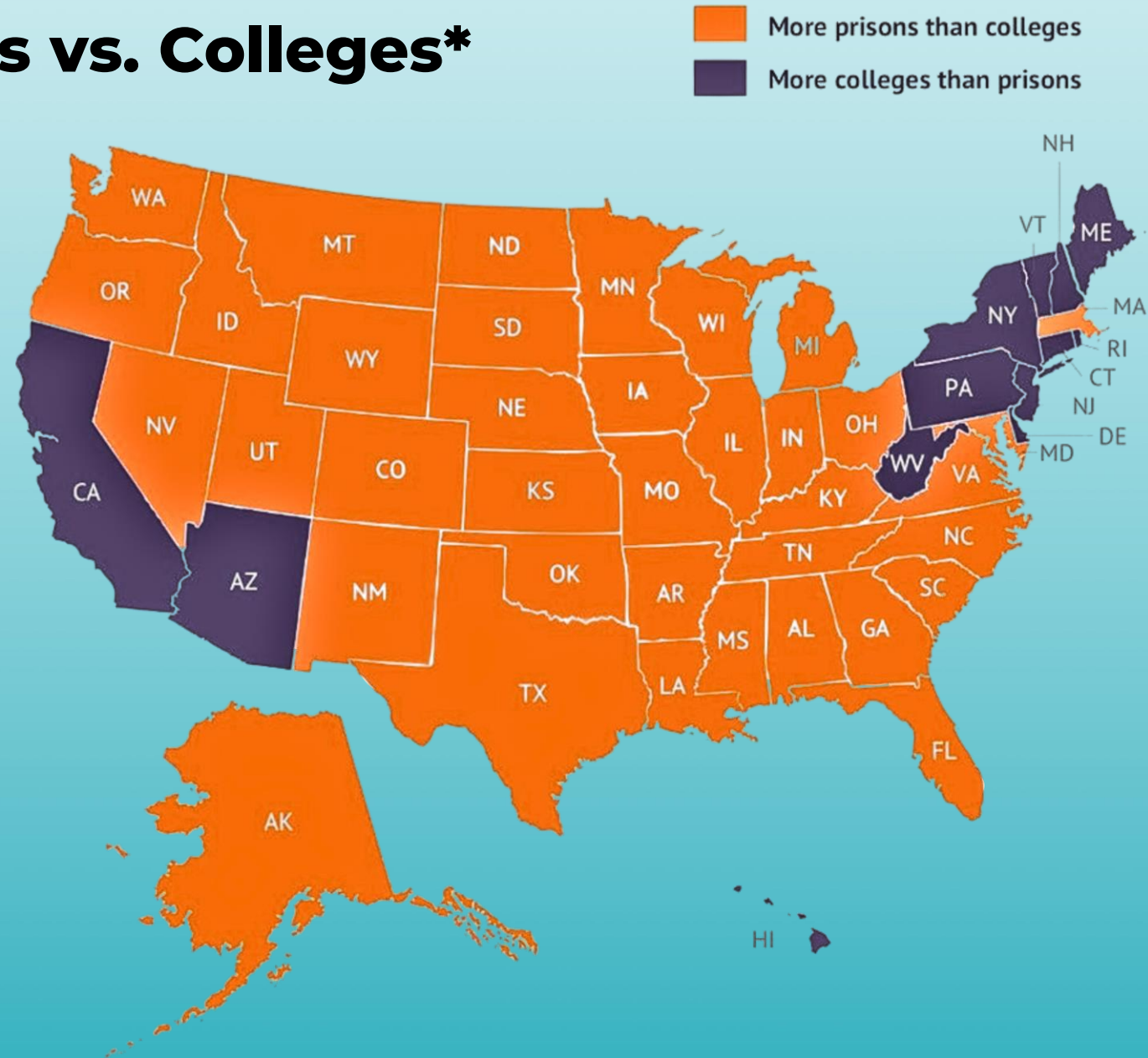
1 in 3 Americans  
have criminal  
records.



100 MILLION  
Americans have  
criminal records



# Prisons and Jails vs. Colleges\*



*\*College= An institution where you can earn a bachelor's degree or above*

Source: <https://studee.com/discover/usa-prison-v-college/>

# What are Reentry Services?

*Services that support individuals transitioning from incarceration back to the community*

- Housing
- Behavioral Health
- Employment Support
- Peer Support
- SUD Treatment
- Vital Records/DL
- Education
- Mentorship
- Case Management
- Transportation
- Technology support



# Poverty & Homelessness

- Adults in poverty make up ~ 11% of the population, and are 3x times more likely to be arrested than adults above the poverty line.
- At least 1/3 of the AICs in the U.S. fall under the poverty threshold at the time of arrest.
- People experiencing homelessness are 11 times more likely to face incarceration.



# Reentry Data

**95% of people incarcerated will eventually be released (many will return to the same environments that led to their imprisonment)**

**Over 600,000 people nationally will be released from prison in 2025 and over 7 million from local jails**

**~ One half of people in state prisons are parents (2016)**

**In 2025 ~4,500 people will be released from prison in Oregon.**

**Over 129,000 individuals cycled in/out of Oregon county jails in 2023**

**~50% of those releasing from state custody in Oregon will be homeless.**



# Sponsors History

1973: Founded by a group of volunteers

1988: Began providing housing – started with 5 beds

Today: 11 sites with over 227 beds of transitional and long-term housing for people with conviction histories

## Sponsors Inc. helps ex-prisoners make transition back into society

By Chris Norred  
Of the Emerald

An ex-convict was walking along West Eighth Street last month. An ex-convict on West Eighth Street is not very newsworthy, but this ex-convict stopped as he passed by the house at 767 W. Eighth St.

On the front porch of this big white house hung a sign with large blue wooden letters, "SPONSORS Inc., founded 1973."

"I'd heard about them when I was inside, and I knew I had to have a little help to get settled, so I dropped in," the ex-prisoner said, who asked that his name not be used.

Sponsors Inc. was founded in Eugene 13 years ago by Sister Janice Jackson to provide transitional services for ex-prisoners and to help them adjust to life outside of the institution.

Sponsors provides food, clothing and transportation as well as information and counseling for ex-prisoners, said Sister Evelyn Gerardo, Sponsors outreach coordinator. Most of the releases come directly through Sponsors and have from the state prison and have neither housing nor employment, she said.

Many come to Sponsors the day they are released and have no other family or friends to turn to, Sister Gerardo said. Sponsors provides job listings, a telephone, a message board and coffee to assist the ex-prisoners in finding jobs and housing.

"You really notice the changes when you get out," said one ex-prisoner. "It seems like the world is moving faster. Sponsors is a tremendous help; you can just drop in and find somebody to talk to."

Sponsors survives with the help of about 111 volunteers, all who worked for the organization in some capacity in the past year, Sister Gerardo said.

Volunteers can help provide local services or become one of a core group of Sponsors who visit with inmates at the Oregon State Correctional Institute in Salem each month.



Photo by Rene Martin

Lucy Lynch is the director of Sponsors Inc., a non-profit transitional service for ex-prisoners.

The visitation program is helpful for the prisoners, and it is also helpful for the volunteers, Sister Gerardo said. "The volunteer's main goal is to be a friend and advocate; they share what's happening in the community, provide 'reality checks,' and try to give an accurate picture of the outside," she said.

One ex-prisoner was released in June and is now attending the University. He is 23 and spent the last 2 years in prison. He also asked that his name not be used.

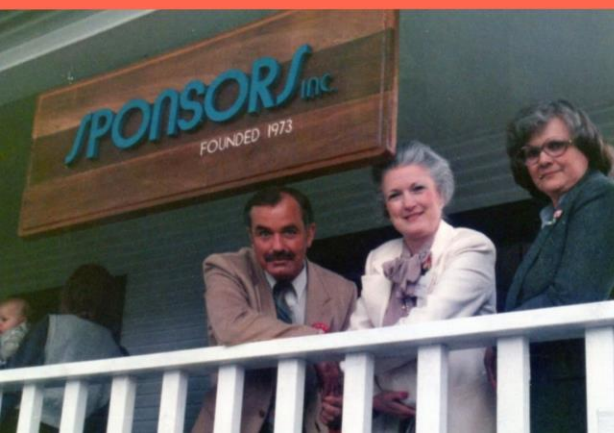
"If you want to rehabilitate yourself in prison, you've got to take the initiative yourself. There's enough opportunities there to occupy 40 percent of the inmates. I had 6 visits in 2 years, and making friends inside is not real easy. If you find

somebody you can trust, that's one thing, I didn't trust a lot of people."

When he got out, he did the usual just-released things, ate a meal, took a long walk, etc. Then he went to Sponsors. He had already arranged to stay with some friends. He went to Sponsors to get some clothes, to look for jobs, and he got into an ex-prisoners meeting group.

The return-to-prison rate for ex-prisoners who get some sort of help such as that offered by Sponsors is about 14 percent, said Lucy Lynch, Sponsors director. The return-to-prison rate for those who don't get some help is about 40 percent, she said.

"It's quite clear that offering these folks something other than 'now you're out' makes big difference," Lynch said.





***Sponsors philosophy  
is based on the  
belief that people  
can and do change,  
and that a strategic  
intervention at  
the appropriate  
moment can serve  
as a catalyst  
in that change.***





**Releasing from  
Prison:**

**What might some  
of the barriers to  
success be?**



# Housing...the foundation of stability

- ✓ 112 transitional housing beds
  - 2 campuses
  - staffed 24/7
  - Wrap around services
- ✓ 115 long-term housing units in Eugene
  - The Oaks at 14<sup>th</sup>
  - Ferry St. Quads
  - Tiny Homes
  - 6 shared homes

We provide housing to over 500 people each year.





# Target Population

- People releasing from federal, state or county correctional facilities who would otherwise be homeless
- Individuals assessed as moderate to very high risk of recidivism.
- Additional Priority Populations:
  - Seniors
  - Women with children
  - Veterans
  - People with disabilities and mental health diagnosis



# Transitional Housing - Roosevelt Crossing

- Established in 2010
- 45 units of transitional housing
- 86 beds for men releasing from jail or prison (60-90 days)
- 10 dedicated beds for Veterans (VA GPD)
- Administrative Offices
- Funded by Tax Credits, a VA grant and private foundation grants





# Transitional - Downtown Campus

- 24 Transitional Beds (90 – 120 days)
- 5 safe and comfortable units for mothers and their children
- Wrap around service



# Mothers In Prison



- 58% of incarcerated women are mothers
  - impacts 147,000 minor children

*(2022, Prison Policy Initiative)*
- An estimated 58,000 people are pregnant when they enter local jails or prisons

*(2022, Prison Policy Initiative)*
- An estimated 1.3 million people living in the U.S. were separated from their mothers before their 18th birthdays due to their mothers' imprisonment

*(2022, Prison Policy Initiative)*
- The needs of justice involved women are different from those of men





# Long-Term Housing – The Oaks at 14th

- Partnership between Homes For Good and Sponsors
- 54 one-bedroom apartments
- Project Cost: \$9,200,000 (2018)
- Funding: LIHTC's, Lane County, and Foundation grants
- Permanent Supportive Housing for men & women with criminal histories





# The Oaks at 14<sup>th</sup>





# Long-Term Housing – Tiny Homes

- Funding: Private, Lane County, and Foundation grants
- 10 furnished efficiency studio apartments
- Completed in 2020
- Permanent housing for people with conviction histories





# Tiny Homes



# On the Horizon...

## **The Coleman**

- Collaboration between Sponsors, Homes for Good & Lane County
- Newest Affordable Housing Community
- 54 Units
- Waiting on state funding





**THE COLEMAN**





# Wrap-around Supportive Services

# TRANSITIONS PROGRAM

- Basic Needs (housing, food, clothing)
- 24/7 Staffing
- Case Management
  - Regular check-ins
  - Goals
  - Assessments (URICA, LS/CMI, PHQ-9)
- Group Programming (CBI, MET, SU Tx)

*Expectations:*

- *Regular UAs*
- *Follow Guidelines*
- *No alcohol/drugs*
- *Conditions of parole*





# Mentorship Program

- Brings together trained community volunteers with Sponsors participants
- Most matches begin while participants are still incarcerated and extend several months post-release
- Cultivates healthy social connections, fosters productive habits and builds community
- Coordinates fun, engaging activities such as: hiking, canoeing, beach trips, theatre, golfing, bowling, movie nights, art projects
- Available to anyone in LC with a conviction history.



# Reentry Resource Center (RRC)

## Employment support

- Resume writing
- Interview practice
- Second chance employers
- Work supplies (boots, work clothes, safety gear, etc.)

## Workshops/Clinics

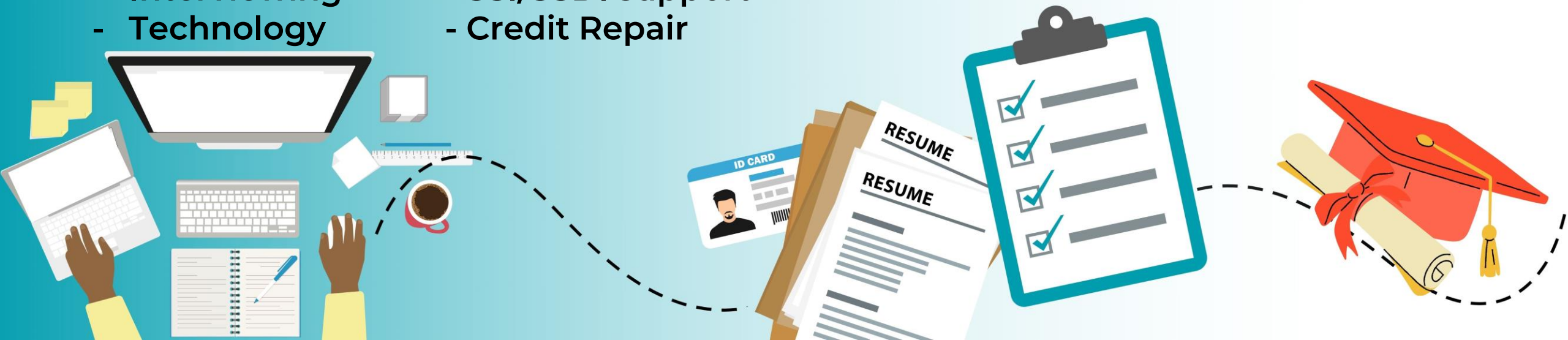
- New Participant Orientation
- Resume writing
- Interviewing
- Technology
- Law clinic
- SSI/SSDI support
- Credit Repair

## Long-term housing support

- Compile vital records
- Housing packets
- Financial support for housing and other needs

## Higher Education

- Discuss education options/connect with resources
- Support with FAFSA application





# Health & Wellness

- **Behavioral Health Therapist**
  - Individual counseling/EMDR
- **Peer Wellness Specialists**
  - Lived experience with mental health challenges and/or in recovery
  - Individual support
  - Transportation to medical appointments and recovery meetings
  - Assistance navigating healthcare systems
- **Group Programming**
  - Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) groups
  - Motivational Enhancement Therapy (MET)



# Program Completion

- Successful program completion:
  - Find and maintain income source
  - Obtain longer term housing
  - Maintain compliance with program rules and the conditions of parole or probation
  - Are drug and alcohol free upon program completion
- For the past 20 years, each year between 65-75% of Sponsors' program participants have successfully completed the transitional housing program.





# Cost of Recidivism

- The cost of recidivism in Oregon was \$70,497,666 in 2021  
([https://csgjusticecenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/The-Cost-of-Recidivism-Infographic\\_508v2.pdf](https://csgjusticecenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/The-Cost-of-Recidivism-Infographic_508v2.pdf))
- Each Oregon recidivist costs \*\$104,814
- Reducing recidivism by ONE percentage point for one year results in a savings of \$4,300,000 in state corrections costs alone\*
- Cost of Prison: \$173.88/day\*
- Cost of Jail: \$148/day \*\*
- **Cost of Sponsors service: \$72 per day**

*\*Source: Oregon Department of Corrections*

*\*\*Does not include cost to arrest, book, and prosecute (not to mention victimization, lost wages, insurance costs, etc.)*



# Reentry Services: A Key Role in Violence Reduction

- Target Population
  - Sponsors works with a high risk/high need population
  - A majority of participants have been convicted of person to person crimes (where there was a victim)
- Recidivism Reduction
  - Growing body of evidence illustrates the efficacy and impact of Sponsors' housing and supportive services.
  - Sponsors Studies
    - 30%+ reduction in future crime. (2013 –CJC Study of RRC)
    - PSH – 70% reduction in Recidivism
  - By providing stable housing, appropriate services and interventions, we are able to significantly decrease the perpetuation of future crimes of violence.







**From September 2018 – June 2024**

**Validated Outcomes**

- **231** Individuals were connected with Permanent Supportive Housing
- **87%** Remain stably housed today
- Only **14%** have committed a new felony and returned to incarceration

**~70%** *Reduction in recidivism for the target population*

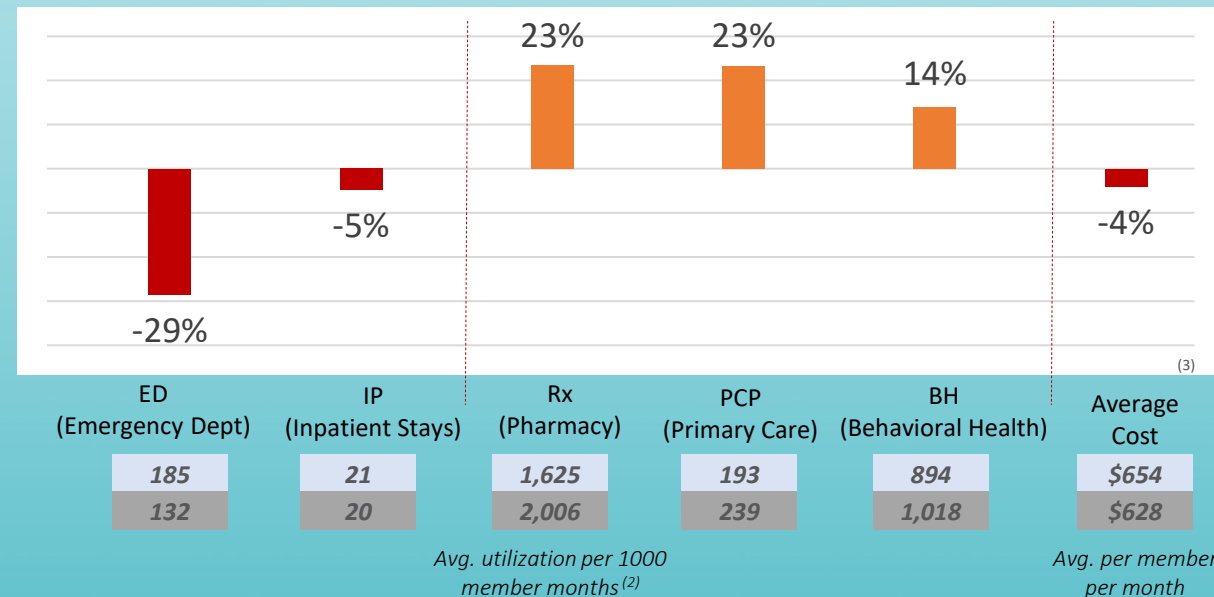
# Sponsors Services Impact Healthcare Outcomes

Trillium Health services utilization from 2013-2017 (based on claims data) <sup>(1)</sup>

Released into Lane County w/o  
Sponsors services (n = 825)

Enrolled in Sponsors long-term housing (n = 95)

*% change in utilization  
from DOC to Sponsors  
populations*



***Healthcare utilization of Sponsors' participants is more appropriate across all categories and cheaper***

(1) Source: Trillium and Criminal Justice Commission.

(2) Due to the difference in sample size between the DOC and Sponsors groups weight of each gender/age/service enrollment group from the total member months was calculated. From those weighted values, the Sponsors group weights were applied to both Sponsors and non-Sponsors cohort to determine average utilization per 1000 member months

(3) Based on average cost per member per month for Pharmacy (Rx), Emergency Department (ED), Inpatient Hospital (IP), Urgent Care (UC), Primary Care Physician (PCP), and Behavioral Health (BH)





# Sponsors

## **REENTRY CONSULTING**



# Partnerships that Advance Reentry Services

- Local
  - Lane County P&P
  - Multiple Partner Agencies
  - Public Safety Coordinating Council
  - Opportunity Oregon
  - Local elected officials
- Statewide
  - DOC: in-reaches
  - Criminal Justice Commission
    - Data
  - Oregon Reentry Coalition
    - To identify gaps in reentry services
    - To improve communication between citizens returning from prison and re-entry organizations/related resources



# *Faces of Reentry.*





# Funding

- 10% - Misc. income
- 12% - Rent, food, and property management fees
- 22% - Grants & donations include foundation, government, individual, and business giving
- 56% - State, County, and Federal Contracts

