



Concordance

FAQ

1. What is Concordance? What is your mission?

Concordance is the only program of its kind reducing reincarceration rates through a holistic, integrated and evidence-informed model that includes 12 essential services under one roof, including integrated, personalized support across substance use and mental health treatment, education, job readiness and employment, housing and legal services, and more.

Founded by President and CEO Danny Ludeman, the St. Louis-based non-profit is dedicated to restoring individuals, rebuilding families, transforming communities and advancing the field of re-entry services.

2. Tell us a little about your approach.

Concordance is redefining re-entry from prison and giving participants their first real chance at success, which is crucial for preventing the devastating cycles of incarceration and poverty that often span generations.

The first step is healing the trauma the person has endured. Then, we partner with our participants throughout their journey. Our holistic approach provides integrated, evidence-informed and personalized support across substance use and mental health treatment, education, job readiness and employment, housing and legal services, and more.

Over the course of 18 months, participants receive a comprehensive schedule of pre- and post-release services – concluding with graduation from Concordance.

3. How many people are in prison currently and, of those, how many return to prison?

Today we have a prison population of 2.3 million. And nearly 4 in 5 (77%) people released from prison will be rearrested within five years, with about a half of those within the first year after release.

4. Who does this mostly affect?

Hundreds of years of systemic racism have resulted in Black and Hispanic people being disproportionately impacted by issues of incarceration and reincarceration. Black men are nearly six times as likely to be in prison compared to whites, and Hispanic men are three times as likely as whites. The numbers are even higher for young Black men.

5. What implications does reincarceration have on individuals?

Reincarceration has a devastating impact. Individuals are five times more likely to be homeless. 72% will not find full-time jobs after prison.

When it comes to the family members of those reincarcerated, children with an incarcerated parent are six times more likely than other children to be incarcerated as adults. Children of incarcerated parents are also more likely to experience depression, anxiety, poor academic performance, school absenteeism and homelessness.

Reincarceration means society suffers too. There is \$80 billion spent annually on correctional supervision alone. In most states, corrections spending is the second-fastest growing public expense (after Medicaid).

But we can change this. Concordance is working to address these issues right now and has a proven, holistic approach to reduce reincarceration.

6. What's next for Concordance?

We are in the midst of our *First Chance* campaign, a \$50 million fundraising effort chaired by David Steward, chairman and founder of World Wide Technologies, the largest minority owned enterprise (MBE) in the world. The campaign, which will help Concordance expand to 11 additional cities by 2025, is backed by prominent business and civic leaders including John Thompson, chairman of Microsoft; Jim Crane, chairman, Crane Worldwide Logistics and owner and chairman, Houston Astros; Jim Fish, Jr., president and CEO, Waste Management; Steve Phelps, president, NASCAR; Arnold Donald, CEO, Carnival Corporation; Wayne Frederick, president, Howard University; David A. Thomas, president, Morehouse College; Mary Schmidt Campbell, president, Spelman College; Emily Procter, actress, entrepreneur and activist; and others.

There are millions of people and families affected by the perpetual cycle of incarceration throughout our country, making it one of the most significant societal issues we face today. We believe every community in America should benefit from this program.

7. Where can I find more information?

Please visit <http://www.firstchancecampaign.org/> to donate and learn more.