

Formerly Incarcerated **A Hire Calling**

In April 2021, The Partnership hosted “A Hire Calling,” a one-of-a-kind virtual event featuring nationally known CEOs and people who have created thriving careers post-incarceration to discuss the business case for “second chance” hiring. The event included the premiere of “The Road Home,” a short and powerful video; a “fireside chat” featuring second chance hiring expert and author Jeff Korzenik; Economic Club of Chicago CEO and President David Snyder as Master of Ceremonies; and The Partnership’s then CEO and event host Karin M. Norington-Reaves.



Roughly 10% of the people The Partnership serves through federally funded jobs programs self-identify as ex-offenders. In collaboration with Cook County’s Justice Advisory Council, The Partnership created the Cook County Coordinated Reentry Council and held seven months of convenings resulting in recommendations for systemic changes to the region’s reentry system. This effort includes The Reentry Navigation Initiative: The Road Home, a 22-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 will offer 150 eligible participants enrollment into a comprehensive reentry program beginning pre-release that will address the barriers to returning successfully to the community.



Impact of Incarceration



People who have been incarcerated are 50% less likely to receive job interview and if employed will earn 10 – 40% less than non-offenders.



Of the 12,000 people released to Chicago annually from IDOC, 55% will be reincarcerated within five years.



Families have a 40% increased likelihood of poverty if the father is imprisoned.



Five million children have a parent that has been incarcerated.

Racial Disparity within Criminal Court System



Nearly half of African American males and almost 40% of Caucasian males are arrested by the age of 23.



33% of African American men in U.S. have a felony record while only 13% of all adult men in U.S. have a felony record.



In Illinois, African Americans are imprisoned at a rate 8.8 times higher than white people; representing 58% of the prison population and 14% of the state population.



African Americans comprise about 30% of Chicago's population but are almost 75% of the detainee population at Cook County Jail.