

# Does Work “Work” in Servicing Justice Involved Individuals? A Research & Practical Perspective



**Presented By:**  
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**Chicago, Illinois USA**



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# Safer Foundation Overview

Founded in 1972, Safer Foundation is one of the USA's largest not-for-profit providers of services designed exclusively for people with criminal records. We focus on helping our clients secure and maintain jobs because we understand that employment offers the best chance at successful reentry.



**8 locations in  
Illinois and  
3 in Iowa**

**250+  
employees**

**~3,300  
job starts  
In FY16**

# Safer Foundation Overview



We are a direct service provider exclusively for people with arrest and conviction records of any type.



We partner with businesses to secure private-sector employment for clients.



We influence legislation and social policy through our consistent advocacy, coalition building and civic participation.



We deliver proven outcomes, evidence-based practices with fiscal integrity.

# Workforce Strategies



**Market Driven** - Safer relies on documented research and industry expertise to gain a deeper understanding of the labor market factors.



**Employer-Driven** - Companies and businesses drive the training requirement based on their current and future needs.



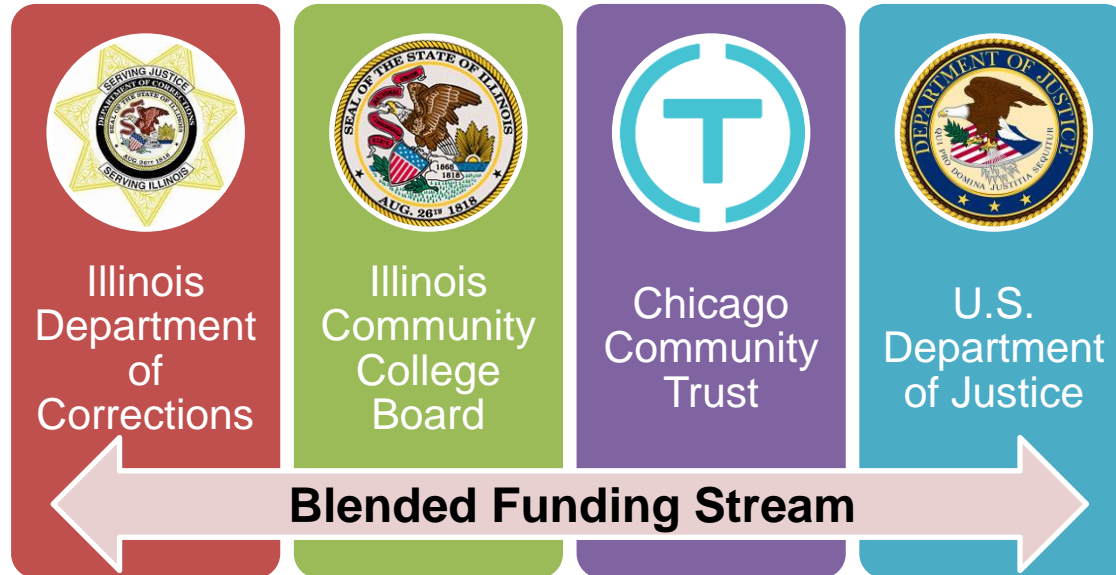
**Best Practice** - Safer continually scans the horizon for best practices that inform what we do and help us do it better.



**Invest in Training** - Safer supports community colleges and training organizations and their efforts to align programs with employer

# Community-Based Corrections: ATC Overview

Safer operates two Adult Transition Centers (ATC) on behalf of IL Department of Corrections, housing up to 550 residents at a little more than half the \$38,000 cost of the state's per day rate to incarcerate. 143 staff employed across both centers.



# Community-Based Corrections: ATC Overview



In FY16  
**Crossroads  
ATC**, served  
887 residents,  
with **70%**  
achieving  
employment

In FY16 North  
**Lawndale  
ATC**, served  
397 residents,  
with **75%**  
achieving  
employment

- Case Management/  
Assessments
- Employment Services/  
Job Readiness/Retention
- Cognitive Behavioral Therapy
- Basic Skills – GED
- Substance Abuse Treatment
- Mental Health Counseling/  
Evaluations
- Community Service
- Life Skills/Financial Literacy
- Family Support
- Parenting Skills
- Off-Site Educational Programs

Employer  
engagement  
is a goal of all  
residents  
spearheaded  
by Safer's  
**Workforce  
Department  
Sector  
Managers**

# Community-Based Corrections: ATC Outcomes

## Economic Benefit of Safer ATC Residents' Employment FY13 – FY16



Category	Crossroads	N. Lawndale	Total
<b>Gross Income</b>	\$13,546,523.36	\$8,393,068.67	\$21,939,592.03
<b>Taxes Paid*</b>	\$3,386,630.84	\$2,098,267.17	\$5,484,898.01
<b>Net Pay</b>	\$10,159,892.52	\$6,294,801.50	\$16,454,694.02
<b>Dependent Support**</b>	\$976,324.57	\$460,184.07	\$1,436,508.64
<b>Maintenance***</b>	\$1,943,363.20	\$1,145,843.85	\$3,089,207.05
<b>Other Expenses****</b>	\$7,625,362.49	\$4,876,685.57	\$12,502,048.06

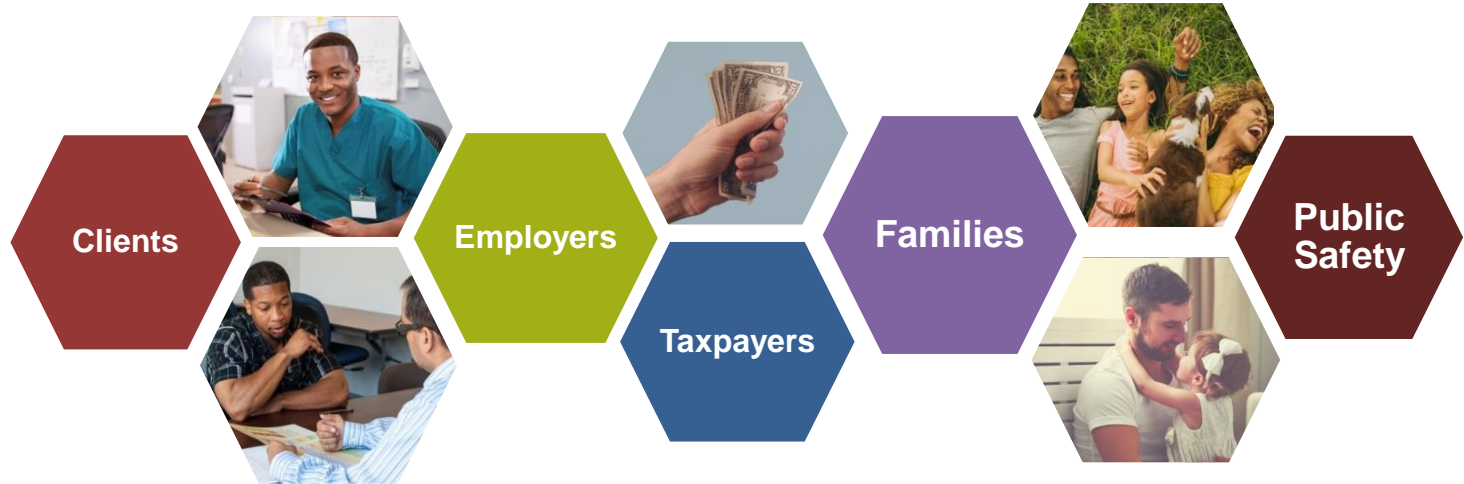
\* Estimated taxes paid (federal, state, Social Security /Medicaid)

\*\* Court-ordered support payroll deduction

\*\*\* Rent paid by resident

\*\*\*\* Resident personal expenses

# Safer's Results Benefit Everyone





# Our Programs Reduce Recidivism



17.5% Recidivism rate for Safer clients who achieve employment



12% Recidivism rate for Safer clients earning industry credentials and living-wage employment



63% lower than statewide average (48%)



67% lower than Cook County average (53%)



# Cost-Benefit Analysis



**\$118,746**

The total cost-savings to taxpayers, other beneficiaries and indirect beneficiaries by preventing one conviction or reconviction.

**\$20.26**

The net benefit to taxpayers for each \$1 spent on Community Based Employment Training/Job Assistance, which had the highest benefit-to-cost ratio.

# Transforming Lives and Generations



## Andrew Garriott

### BEFORE SAFER FOUNDATION

- Served four years for aggravated discharge of a weapon
- Limited employment experience
- Strained relationship family

### WITH SAFER FOUNDATION

- Job Readiness Program
- Strengthening Family Program
- Safer Demand Skills Industry Training: Information Technology

### AFTER SAFER FOUNDATION

- Working full time as a computer lab assistant
- Pursuing an associate's degree in information technology
- Reunited with fiancée and four children

# We Are the Safer Foundation

## Our Mission

To support, through a full spectrum of services, the efforts of people with arrest & conviction records to become employed, law-abiding members of the community and as a result, reduce recidivism.



## Our Vision

To transform communities and generations through equal opportunity for all people with arrest or conviction records.



# Questions



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