

Citizen's Academy

Fostering Community
Understanding



Department of Corrections Capstone Project Team

Amanda Blissett – DOC | Department of Corrections

Alison Notter – DHEWD | Department of Higher Education & Workforce Development

Lisa Dierking – DESE | Department of Elementary & Secondary Education

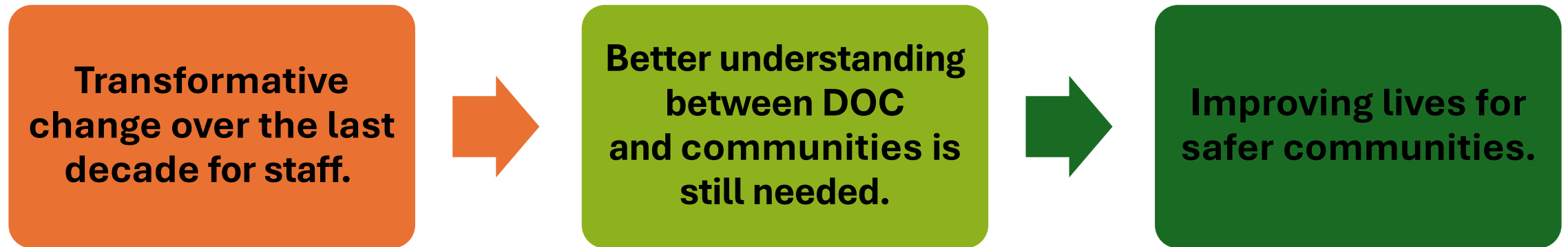
Laura Wilmesher – DESE | Department of Elementary & Secondary Education

Heather Davenport – DHSS | Department of Health & Senior Services

Stephen Hall – DNR | Department of Natural Resources



DOC is Transforming Culture



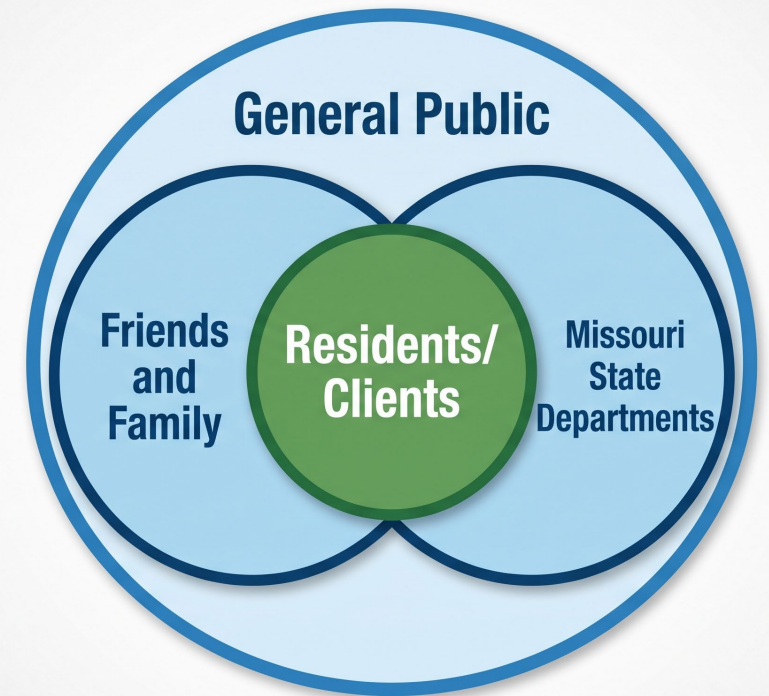


Problem Statement

Missouri communities need clear, accessible, and proactive education about how the Department of Corrections supports public safety through rehabilitation and reentry to build trust and understanding by 2030.



**96% of all incarcerated
Missourians** will eventually be released
and return to local communities.





DOC and Missouri Communities

Over 24,000 incarcerated residents

52,000 people are actively monitored at any given time.

12,000 Missourians reenter the community every year.

More than 2,000 employers in Missouri have identified themselves as second chance employers.

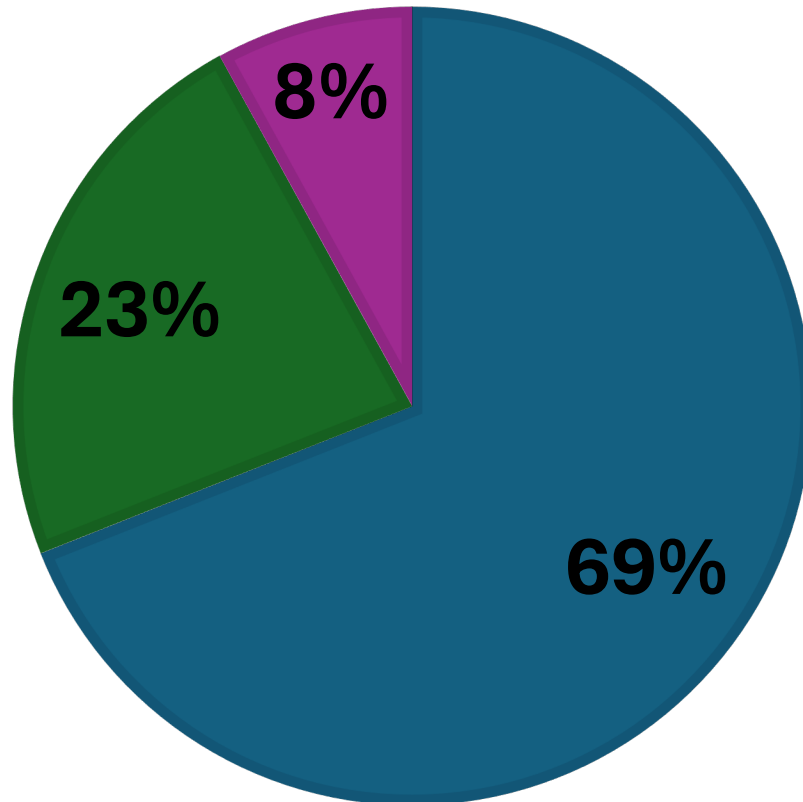
SOURCE: [Offender Profile FY25 | Missouri Department of Corrections](#)



Why: Reentry Success Matters for Missouri?

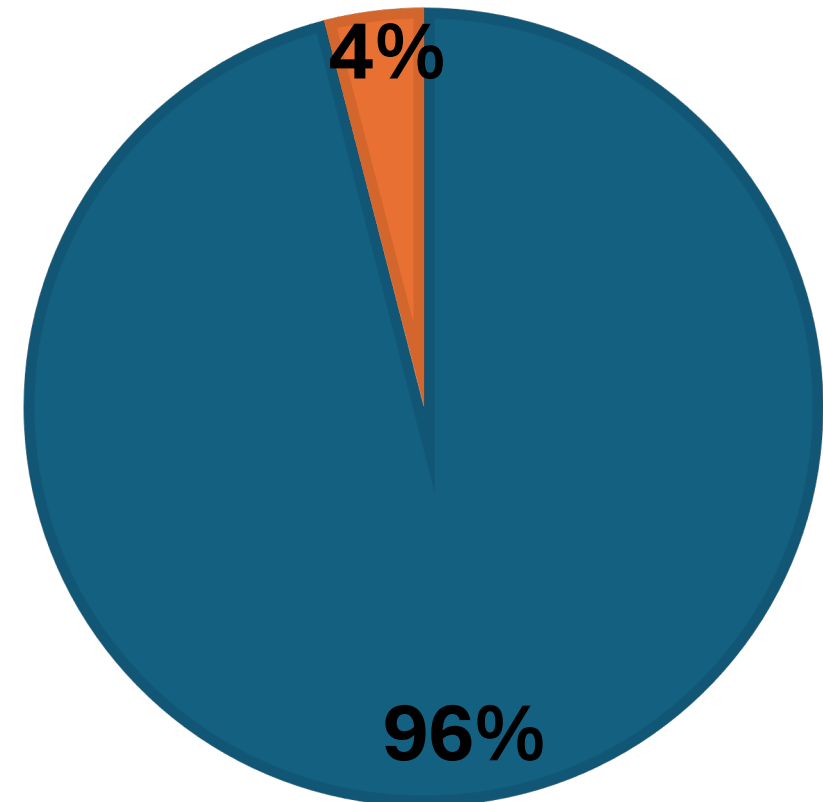
**RATE OF RETURN TO PRISON WITHIN
2 YEARS OF RELEASE**

■ Part or Unemployed ■ Full Time Employment ■ Other



**FUTURE OF INCARCERATED
INDIVIDUALS**

■ Return to Community ■ Remain Incarcerated





How: Resources | Vocations

Program involvement
43% lower odds of
recidivism (2013)

Each state has some
sort of prison education
program (vocational or
other)

Missouri Vocation
Enterprises

More research is needed, but signs point to Vocational Training reduces the rate of recidivism



How: Resources | Education

Career / Technical

- Automotive
- Computer Tech
- Welding
- Certified Nursing Assistant
- Cosmetology
- Culinary
- And More!

Academic

- Adult Basic Education (HiSET)
- Library Services
- University Partners:
 - SLU
 - Rockhurst
 - State-Tech
 - Hannibal-LaGrange
 - Ashland
- Associate and Bachelors

How: Responsibility of DOC Staff





Where (Agencies & Community)

- State Agency Partners
 - **10** State Agencies Participating - Examples
 - Reentry Centers in partnership with DHEWD
 - MVE
- Community Partners
 - Animal shelters (puppies for parole)
 - Faith-Based volunteers from communities





Recommendation 1: Targeted Social Media Campaign

Shows the
important work DOC is
doing

Fosters understanding
of Reentry 2030

Highlighting
personhood of
residents



Recommendation 2: Speaker Series

Quarterly meeting with
local DOC staff to
communities

Topic Considerations:
Family Support
Reentry Services
Bringing in former
offenders, etc.



Recommendation 3: Citizen's Academy

Build off the Speaker Series to culminate into recognizing personhood

Recommended target groups to pilot

Ethics credit / Professional Development for social workers / professionals



+10



Final Thoughts: Statewide Scalability

Missourians don't know how state government works.



We learned so much during Missouri Leadership Academy!



Other departments can use the same framework.

"This really has sparked rehabilitation in my heart."
-Resident, Moberly Correctional Center

Thank you
letters from
residents:

I just wanted to personally
thank you for everything you
all are doing here at
Moberly Correctional Center.

I really enjoyed the Fire
works event. It was so much
more than what I expected.
Well to be honest I didn't
know what to expect, I
just knew I wanted to be
a part of it.

I feel blessed to have
you all as our group of
wardens.

Sincerely
Brian Cox

Fireworks Display
Dorothy Warden Blissett

My name is Darnon Slue. I want to thank you
so much. I enjoyed myself and I hadn't seen
fireworks in a while. This really has sparked
rehabilitation in my heart even more. My favorite
part of the show was the Saturn missile.
Those are the fireworks that make the whistling
sound. I thank my higher power Allah for being
able to see this. I know you said you
were here for me next year. I'll still be here just
celebrating in my life. Thank you so much and
want to never fade. Thank you for the opportunity
Moberly Correctional Center.

Postscript:
Can you please have
something to eat BBQ
for us vegetarians, please
and thank you to rest
year. Even if it's a
veggie Patty.

Darnon Slue
#1276773
Darnon Slue Bay
July 2, 2026
34 0637

RECEIVED
JUL 08 2026
MOBERLY CORRECTIONAL CENTER