



BRIEF PROPOSAL SUMMARY

“After release from prison, life becomes more difficult for ex-offenders than it was while locked-up.”

[Paul Heroux](#) - State Representative, Massachusetts

As ex-offenders attempt to re-enter society the most pressing re-entry challenges are: a place to live/housing; securing employment; and adjusting to social living beyond incarceration. A deficiency in any one of these three is a serious risk factor to relapse.

Recidivism is at an all-time high in the United States. Many prisoners are released from prison without the tools they require to become productive citizens choosing to lapse back into a life of crime. According to a 2013 Pennsylvania DOC Recidivism Report:

- One in 200 Adult Pennsylvanians are currently incarcerated in a Pennsylvania State Correction Institution.
- Ninety Percent of the inmates currently in a Pennsylvania State Prison will eventually be released.
- Approximately 6 in 10 released inmates **Recidivate** within three years of their release from prison.
- Released inmates are more likely to be re-incarcerated (mostly for technical parole violations) during the 18 months after release from prison.

While there are several approaches available to reduce recidivism, methods are scattered and usually only address a minimal amount of issues facing ex-offenders. For example; there are programs for anti-social attitudes, values, beliefs, peer associations, personality, education/employment, family, substance abuse, and leisure/recreation – however, rarely is there a program which addresses all these areas and more to bring about a *Total Change*. Cognitive-behavioral therapy strategies, life-style changes and a safe-haven to practice these new learned behaviors are just some of the reasons The Total Change Program is receiving so much positive response.

NATURE OF PROBLEM TO BE ADDRESSED

2015 in Erie, PA a group of business owners and investors approached Pastor Curtis Jones. Sr. (retired Chaplain for the Albion State Prison) with a request for help. New businesses were looking to build in Erie to provide hotels and other attractions for tourists and help build jobs in the market. There was however, a huge downside to investing in Erie... homelessness, vagrancy and high crime rates. It was determined, through interviews with the groups of people on the street, the local police and the department of justice – that the largest population of loiterers consisted of ex-offenders. Groups of these individuals could be seen around the city of Erie causing concern for new business.

All too often when a prisoner is released from incarceration they do not have a solid plan of action. With no place to go and no one to turn to, they lapse back into the only life they know – a life of crime.

A typical release from prison looks something like this... the offender is released with a list of places to be as soon as they get out. For instance; be at Social Security office at 10 am, then check in with your parole officer across town at 1 pm, then be at the assistance office at 4 pm. Along the way (oh and how do they even get there?). They have to pass bars, street corners where they had met dealers in the past, and all manner of temptations. Drug dealers and gangs are ready with a place to live, food, money and camaraderie. In order for an ex-offender to make better life decisions he will require options.

All too often, when a person is incarcerated for any length of time – the level of freedom after release tends to be the greatest factor in recidivism rather than a deterrent. Without education and a plan, ex-offenders can find the challenges on the outside to be daunting.

An answer to the problem...

There must be a desire to live a life free of crime – this new way of being is from the inside out. The Evidence Based tools provided in the Total Change Program gives the individual the ability to bring about a complete change in their way of life, manner of thinking, decision making process – becoming a productive taxpaying citizen, transforming them into assets of the community as opposed to the liability they once were.

PROPOSAL

The Total Change Re-Entry Program, developed by Climate Changers, Inc. a 501c3 addresses the challenges ex-offenders run into by providing an opportunity to change the outcome. The program includes 3 phases; these components supply the individual with the most comprehensive set of tools to give them the greatest chance of successfully navigating life using a combination of evidence-based programs.

“There is very [good evidence](#) that after being crime free for seven years, the probability of reoffending is about the same as someone who never offended in the first place.”

[Paul Heroux](#) - State Representative, Massachusetts

The Total Change Program

Phase 1 – Pre-Release Program at the institution of incarceration; equipping each participant with the necessary tools enabling them to successfully adjust and function as productive, law abiding citizens within society. Based on [the Integrated Case Management Approach](#), [T4C-Thinking for a Change](#) and [the NIC Transition from Prison to the Community Model](#) Education includes: how society and their family will view them because of their various past indiscretions; the reality of gainful employment and what opportunities may or may not exist to them; equipping them to be able to effectively deal with rejections they will face; discovering what basic identification is required - Driver’s Licenses, Birth Certificates, SS Cards, etc.; and basic interpersonal skills – responsibility, decision making, denial, communication and more. *(program details provided by request only – Mutual Non-Disclosure Agreement required to access this copyrighted material – email kimburney@gmail.com).*



Total Change Re-entry Program

Phase 2 – A 6 to 12 month Intense Residential / Non-Residential community based component further equips participants with the necessary essentials to prepare them as they transcend back into society. Within this phase women are reconnected with their children, which is imperative in the process of bringing families back together. This community based phase includes a place to live, basic necessities, access to agencies (Social Security, Driver’s License, Health Care, Parole Office, Assistance, etc.), education, job training, computer, resume building, health care, support, personal responsibilities – a safe haven to transition and prepare to re-enter society.



Phase 3 – Aftercare, The Total Change Program and its tools remain accessible to all participants as needed to assist them along their journey to living as law abiding, productive citizens. In order for the program to be successful continual support will be provided whenever a participant wants help.

The pre-release classes have proven to be successful with continued weekly meetings on the outside; and where ex-offenders from the program are encouraged to volunteer and help serve in the community. These meetings are not just for ex-offenders – they are community meetings where members of the community come together to work with each other to improve the neighborhood. The expected outcome is greater when the transitional housing component is added.



Total Change Re-entry Program

*An **outcome** is a change in behavior after release from prison.*

Programs considered most effective have been found to reduce recidivism by about 10 to 15 percent; and on rare occasion, up to 20 percent. The Total Change Program is experiencing a higher success rate due to post release pieces; including consistent weekly meetings, transitional housing, support and continuing education components. We believe we can reduce recidivism of our participants by at least 50 percent.

The first housing facility will accommodate 14 men at a time. The expected time they will stay is from 6 months to a year. As one participant leaves another will fill the spot. This facility will take care of an average of 30 men per year. As the program grows and success is established, other locations will be added to house more men, women and juveniles. There is an initiative in place to take over closed school properties for this purpose. Forward thinking will allow expansion of this program quickly as results further prove the model. As proof of the success of this initiative, the courts are now releasing individuals into our custody as a court mandated program.

Financial Support

Our desire is to be completely self-funded through innovative ideas (work initiatives), donations from the community, program specific grants and Total Change Re-Entry Education Product sales (on-line courses, books, workbooks, videos, etc.). An example of community support is an IT individual who builds course websites is donating her time to build our course products.

NOTE

The Total Change Reentry Program uses a combination of the following evidence based techniques, methodologies and curriculums:

- [The Integrated Case Management Approach](#) (ICM)
- [T4C-Thinking for a Change](#)
- [The NIC Transition from Prison to the Community Model](#) (TPC)
- [Positive Youth Development](#) (PYD)
- [Triple P-Positive Parenting Program](#) - Level 5 Enhanced Triple P and Pathways Triple P
- [Cognitive Behavior Therapy](#) (CBT)



Pennsylvania Neighborhood Assistance Program Tax Benefits for Business Firms

Corporate Net Income Tax Benefit	NAP 55% Credit	Corporate Foundation	NAP 75% Credit	Corporate Foundation	NAP 80% Credit	Corporate Foundation
Contribution	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000
NAP Tax Credit	(110,000)	-	(150,000)	-	(160,000)	-
Net Cash Outlay before Tax Costs/(Benefits).....	90,000	200,000	50,000	200,000	40,000	200,000
Federal Tax Benefit of Contribution						
Contribution X Federal Rate.....	70,000	70,000	70,000	70,000	70,000	70,000
Reduction of State Tax Costs						
NAP Tax Credit X Federal Rate.....	(38,500)	-	(52,500)	-	(56,000)	-
Net Federal Tax Benefit of Contribution.....	31,500	70,000	17,500	70,000	14,000	70,000
State Tax Benefit of Contribution						
Contribution X State Rate	19,980	19,980	19,980	19,980	19,980	19,980
Reduction of Federal Tax Costs						
State Tax Benefit X Federal Rate	(6,993)	(6,993)	(6,993)	(6,993)	(6,993)	(6,993)
Net State Tax Benefit of Contribution	12,987	12,987	12,987	12,987	12,987	12,987
Net Cash Outlay after Tax Benefits	\$45,513	\$117,013	\$19,513	\$117,013	\$13,013	\$117,013
Cost Per \$100.....	\$23	\$59	\$10	\$59	\$7	\$59
NAP Tax Credit Additional Tax Benefit	\$71,500		\$97,500		\$104,000	

TAX ASSUMPTIONS
 Federal Corporate Income Tax Rate: 35%
 State Corporate Net Income Tax Rate: 9.99%

For more information, contact | Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development
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