

*RCM Maryland Edition ■ January 2023*

# Maryland ReEntry Services

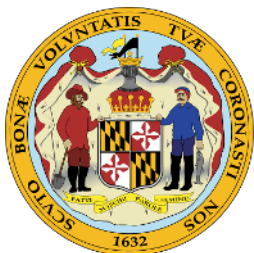
## Prince George's County



**Returning Citizens Magazine, Maryland Edition: 1st Edition**

**Featuring:**

- Angela Alsobrooks, County Executive
- Aisha Braveboy, State's Attorney Office
- Calvin Hawkins, County Councilman At-Large
- Robert Green, Secretary of the Maryland Dept of Public Correctional Services (DPSCS)
- The Bridge Center at Adam's House
- Local Reentry Partners



### Services

- Re-Entry Support Program
  - Case Management
  - Peer Support
- Employment Assistance
- Job Training
- Vital Records
- Mental Health

- Substance Abuse
- Veteran Affairs & Claims Assistance

### Workshops

- Expungement Clinics
- Computer Fundamentals
- Budgeting & Credit Repair





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# ABOUT RCM

Scalable Consulting LLC is proud to bring you Returning Citizen's Magazine (RCM) and Positude — the nation's only media dedicated solely to reduce recidivism. Our magazines are filled with relevant content for adult and juvenile justice involved individuals and affected families across the nation.

Through our media channels you'll find:

- Interviews with successful returning citizens
- Organizations that support the justice involved community and their families
- Relevant information for soon to be released inmates, Veterans, women, and juveniles.
- Current 2nd Chance Jobs, reentry job fairs, and profiles of friendly employers.
- Resources for housing, bankruptcy, divorce, dealing with child support and so much more.

Our magazines are available in digital formats as an annual subscription to individuals, organizations, churches, businesses, or institutions. Our digital magazine is also available to correctional facilities via inmate tablets.



*We LOVE hearing from our readers! Share your thoughts on an article you've read or a subject you would like for us to cover in future editions. Tell us about a touching, inspiring or life-changing experience in your life.*

*Month-after-month, you have spoken and we've shared your voice in every edition of RCM. Know that every letter we receive motivates us to work harder for the successful reentry of the justice-involved community.*

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

Annual Digital  
Subscription \$19.99

Single Digital Issues \$3.50

Print Subscription Available  
in Bulk. RCM is also  
available monthly on tablets  
used by the incarcerated  
community.

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# FROM THE EDITORS DESK

Happy New Year!

We are very excited to have partnered with the Bridge Center at Adam's House in Prince George's County, MD. The foundation of our partnership will be to provide a monthly custom digital edition of Returning Citizens Magazine for the Prince George's Justice Involved community. Our content will be featured on Community Supervision tablets used by individuals enrolled in the electronic monitoring program.

Each month we will provide articles and vital reentry resources targeted to justice involved individuals. We look forward to assisting the Bridge Center at Adam's House in its proactive approach to providing reentry resources and best practices as it relates to reentry in Prince George's County, MD.

To learn more about how we can partner with your state and/or county to provide monthly targeted resources exclusively for your Community Supervision program, contact us at [info@returningcitizensmag.com](mailto:info@returningcitizensmag.com) or 703/795-7968.

We look forward to assisting you in educating your justice involved clientele.

Until the next issue,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Todd". The signature is stylized with a large, looped 'T' and a cursive 'odd'.

# PARTNERS FOR REENTRY



Welcome to the *Returning Citizens Magazine, Maryland Edition (RCM Maryland)*, a new digital magazine for the reentry community of Prince George's County, Maryland. This monthly publication is an initiative of Returning Citizens Magazine and The Bridge Center at Adam's House.

*RCM Maryland*, is a dynamic tool that merges information for local and state government agencies, as well as local and nonprofit organizations that are champions for returning citizens. From cover to cover, you'll find resources that will assist returning citizens with a successful transition back into the community.

From housing to employment assistance, to mental health to legal assistance, each month this magazine makes important resources available at your fingertips.

Your first issue features state leaders and local organizations that administer programs that are crucial to successful reentry.

We are excited to be part of your transition and we look forward to your feedback so that we can meet and exceed your expectations in future editions. It is our sincere hope that you are inspired and enjoy this magazine created just for you.

Your transition partners,

**Team RCM**

**The Bridge Center at Adam's House**

# PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY BECOMING A LEADER IN REENTRY SERVICES



Prince George's County is excited to be at the forefront of reentry innovations in the State of Maryland. With the launch of our Returning Citizens Affairs Division (RCAD), we are developing an ecosystem of reentry services to ensure that County residents returning to our communities have every opportunity to succeed. This is being accomplished through various partners, both public and private, and with the input of formally incarcerated residents of the County.

Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks recognizes the importance of supporting and assisting residents who are reentering society and ensuring that they have the necessary resources

in place for a successful transition. That's why in 2019, at the start of her first term as County Executive, she made expanding reentry services one of her policy priority areas. One of her goals during her first term was to eventually stand up a division within government dedicated to serving returning citizens.

Also in 2019, the Prince George's County Council convened the Reentry Advisory Board (RAB) led by former County Council Chairman Calvin Hawkins. The RAB was comprised of both public and private stakeholders involved in various stages and capacities of reentry within the County. The RAB was created to address the needs of those

formerly incarcerated returning to Prince George's County. In 2021, the RAB released its final report which included 47 recommendations for the County to consider improving reentry services. These recommendations were divided into 5 specific areas which included: policy, housing, County-provided resources, community engagement/service delivery, and resource cultivation.

Among these recommendations was the creation of the Returning Citizens Advisory Division (RCAD). With the support of the County Executive and the County Council, the RCAD was officially launched in the spring of 2022 with a Director and a Reentry Liaison, and is a



division directly within the County Executive's Office. The RCAD's mission is to lead Prince George's County in being a regional and national model reentry ecosystem that provides County residents released from incarceration in state, local, and federal facilities with opportunities to transform their lives in such a way that they will become fully engaged and productive members of the community.

The RCAD is tasked with developing a countywide reentry strategy that aligns government, community, and private sector service providers in sourcing and leveraging resources and partnerships to improve the outcomes of returning citizens in Prince George's County. The RCAD is also Prince George's County Government's principal group communicating the County's reentry vision, identifying and developing best practices, and leading the County in meeting its reentry goals, which include:

- Enhancing operational efficiency of systems that serve citizens returning to the County from periods of incarceration in local, state, and federal facilities;
- Strengthening relationships with nonprofit and faith-based organizations who provide services to returning citizens;
- Building partnerships with county, state and federal agencies to ensure that returning citizens have access to public services; and
- Enhancing community engagement with the returning citizens community.

Since its inception, RCAD has been busy surveying the County's



landscape of services and building relationships with stakeholders including returned citizens. The Division has convened groups of service providers, government officials, and returned citizens to solicit their input on the needs of those returning to the community. We are committed to giving returned citizens a seat at the table so that we hear directly from those impacted by the judicial system and craft policies with their needs in mind.

One noteworthy partnership that has been formed is between Prince George's County and the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS). In fact, Prince George's is the first county in the State of Maryland to engage with the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services in a reentry partnership that provides a virtual connection for returning citizens to their jurisdiction of anticipated residence. DPSCS Secretary Robert Green applauded this innovative partnership, noting that it highlights the commitment of County Executive Angela Alsobrooks

and the Returning Citizens Affairs Division to ensure that those returning to the County receive the services needed to successfully transition back into the community.

Even before the launch of RCAD, Prince George's County has been committed to serving returning citizens. For example, the County's one-stop center for reentry services, the Bridge Center at Adams House, served over 3,700 returning citizens during the first term of County Executive Angela Alsobrooks (2019-2022). In addition, the County's Department of Corrections now provides a "Release Plan" for all inmates enrolled in reentry services, and implemented an updated Cosmetology Natural Haircare Program to help more female inmates obtain cosmetology certifications prior to release.

Prince George's County and its Returning Citizens Affairs Division is committed to continuing this important work to better serve our returning citizens. Through our relationships with local, state, and federal partners, we are working to establish the County as a national model for

ensuring that returning citizens have every opportunity to succeed and become positive, contributing members of the community.



**For more information about the  
Returning Citizens Affairs Division visit:**

**<https://princegeorgescountymd.gov/4561/Returning-Citizens-Affairs-Division>**

***Proud to serve Prince George's County's  
Reentry Community***



# LET'S BUILD A NEW BEGINNING

## COURSES OFFERED

### Business Start Up

learn how to start and maintain a profitable business

### Freelancing

learn the ends and outs of work-from-home freelance opportunities

### Life Coaching

get guidance on how to achieve the next chapter of your life

### Social Media

build step-by-step skills in social media for social and business use

**Many topics to choose from!**

## FEATURING



The ReEntry Toolkit is your ultimate reentry resource designed by reentry specialist! You'll get over 100 videos to assist with the transition back into society. Take courses at your convenience. Your ReEntry Toolkit includes resources for:

- government entitlement programs
- assistance with basic needs (housing, food, clothing, etc.)
- finding your local reentry center
- finding treatment centers
- help with family integration
- and so much more...



**VISIT US AT: [www.ReEntryInstitute.com](http://www.ReEntryInstitute.com)**



# STATE'S ATTORNEY BRAVEBOY:

## A JUSTICE REFORM CHAMPION FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

In 2018, Prince George's County State's Attorney Aisha Braveboy ran on a platform of criminal justice reform. This topic isn't new. In fact, we have been talking about it for decades. However, the need for criminal justice reform is more prevalent today than ever and Braveboy has been the champion for it in Prince George's County.

Our country faces a vicious cycle of poverty, criminality, and incarceration that traps too many Americans and weakens too many communities. There are 2.3 million people behind bars in America today—a 500% increase over the last 40 years. In Maryland alone, for every 100,000 residents, there are 585 people housed in prisons, jails, immigration detention, and juvenile justice facilities. (Prison Policy Institute.com). This is a much

higher percentage than the population of many wealthy democracies. The United States has less than five percent of the world's population but over 25 percent of the world's prisoners. Every year, we spend \$80 billion to keep people locked up.

Since taking office, the Braveboy Administration has worked to enhance fairness and efficiency at all phases of the criminal justice system to create meaningful reform that makes the system more cost-effective, fairer, and smarter, while enhancing the ability of law enforcement to keep our communities safe.

There are various programs in the state's attorney's office that have helped more than 100 Prince Georgians who are returning citizens, people who are transitioning out of prison and a diversion program that's

helping to keep people from being incarcerated.

### Back on Track

A large component of criminal justice reform includes restorative justice for deserving first time offenders and juveniles. Restorative justice, rather than rehabilitation, is the underpinning of the Back on Track – Prince George's County program.

Rehabilitation implies that something, or someone, is broken. It is grounded in therapy and takes a therapeutic approach to helping individuals. The concept of restorative justice is different. It is a way for perpetrators to publicly acknowledge harm done, which lends itself to a process of healing for both offenders and victims.





Restorative justice is often broadly defined as a process that involves those who have committed harm and those who have been harmed. It demands accountability from the accused, while protecting community safety and supporting victim autonomy.

Back on Track allows participants to acknowledge the wrong they have done and the harm their actions have had on the community. It is a Problem-Solving Court aimed at reducing the recidivism rate of first time, low-level gun possession and drug felony offenders. The program diverts defendants into a rigorous 12-18 month program that requires participants to plead guilty and participate in the program as a condition of probation.

There are two phases of the program: a six-week orientation phase and a 12-18 month enrollment phase. Program participants are

required to attend regular court proceedings, complete 280 hours of community service, check in with the program regularly by phone or in person and attend monthly group sessions on a variety of topics.

It provides participants with an opportunity to make amends with the community and self-improve through a strict accountability program which includes home and employment checks, a significant community service component, life skills development, workforce training and job placement.

This non-traditional method of prosecution is designed to leave the Back on Track graduate with increased life management skills. After successful completion of the program, participants' records are expunged which increases their opportunity for a better chance of success.

### Emerging Adults

The Prince George's County State's Attorney's Office in partnership with the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services and Listening is Key, LLC/Everfourward, LLC has developed a program to intervene with emerging adults. The program identifies young men and women between the ages of 18 and 26 to provide them with an opportunity to change their lives after becoming involved in the criminal justice system.

Individuals in this age group make up a substantial number of the felony cases prosecuted by the State's Attorney's Office. Many of these individuals are charged with violent crimes and/or felony handgun possession. They are facing lengthy or mandatory periods of incarceration. However, at some point they will be returning to our community without receiving

the benefit of any services to assist them with life after incarceration.

State's Attorney Braveboy recognizes that these young people have not fully developed emotionally and mentally. Young people in general tend to make mistakes and at times they need an opportunity to recover from those mistakes and deserve a second chance.

These young men and women will be held accountable for the crimes they have committed. The Emerging Adults Program will intervene with these individuals while they are incarcerated to provide them with the services they need to address the root of their involvement in the criminal justice system. They will be provided with skills to cope with life after incarceration. The program partners with employment providers such as Employ Prince George's, The Builder's Trade Union, and the Painter's Union who assist our emerging adults with job placement information and resources after returning to the community.

"Our goal is for these emerging adults to return to the community less likely to reoffend, and as productive gainfully employed members of our County," said State's Attorney Braveboy. "Giving these young people a second chance will help Prince George's County be safer and help young people get back on the path towards success."

## Juvenile Lifers

The Prince George's County State's Attorney's Office was the first in the state to create a Conviction and Sentencing Integrity Unit. The unit looks at cases where new evidence calls into question the validity of prior convictions, as well as cases where the sentence

imposed appears to be excessive.

The Unit has focused particularly on individuals who were convicted of serious crimes while a juvenile, was convicted and sentenced to life or a lengthy term of imprisonment, and who has now served a significant



period of time in jail. We look at each case individually, including the nature of the crime, the individual's role in it, any mitigating factors that might have influenced the person's behavior at the time, and their record while incarcerated. If the individual shows significant evidence of remorse and rehabilitation through service, employment, education, mentoring, or other activities while incarcerated, we consider initiating action to facilitate an earlier release.

These actions reflect the new understanding of the courts and society about how brains and character development in juveniles, including what is frequently a poorly developed sense of risk, consequence, and moral engagement. Based on the new evidence, the U.S. Supreme Court and the Maryland Courts have concluded that unless a convicted "juvenile" has demonstrated that they are hopelessly incorrigible, there should be a way to review their sentences to determine if they can be released safely and can become productive members of the community.

"Maryland is in need of criminal justice reform in many areas to address the inequity, irrationality and racial injustice in our legal system. Our treatment of juvenile offenders is an important part of that process. That's why I supported the Juvenile Restoration Act that was passed by the Maryland General Assembly in [YEAR]. This new law creates the

opportunity for judicial review for people sent to prison as children after they have served at least 20 years," Braveboy said.

The Juvenile Restoration Act is backed by strong scientific evidence that children are developmentally different than adults. Decision-making and impulse-control continue to develop well into a person's twenties, and studies demonstrate that the vast majority of children age-out of criminal behavior.

None of this is to say that children who commit harm should not be held accountable for their acts, or that they should be guaranteed automatic release from prison. Rather, the Juvenile Restoration Act provides a clear and transparent opportunity for a second look at long sentences being served by people who are decades removed from the teenagers they were when initially incarcerated.

Under the new law, sentence reductions are only possible after a court considers the nature of the crime and the individual's role in it, whether the individual has demonstrated rehabilitation, statements from victims or victim representatives, and whether behavioral evaluations show that the individual is not a danger to the public.

In Prince George's County, using a variety of approaches, our Conviction and Sentencing Integrity Unit has helped secure a change in

sentence or release for a number of individuals convicted as juveniles. These now-adult men and women are beginning to live meaningful and productive lives.

There are a number of significant legal obstacles to securing release for these individuals, but our Office has been pursuing a variety of ways to effect a change in a sentence. These include participation in Reentry Court, supervised release to other programs specializing in reentry, and changes to sentences that accelerate parole consideration, as well as sentence review by the original judge or their successor. Victims in all cases are notified and consulted.

Since Braveboy has been in office, the State's Attorney's Office in Prince George's County has actively worked on approximately 50 cases that have resulted in a secured release, awaiting court action or actively being pursued. Additionally, there are many more applications for the office to review.

### **To Contact State's Attorney Braveboy's Office:**

**Office of State's Attorney  
Courthouse, Room 349M,  
14735 Main St., Upper  
Marlboro, MD 20772**

**Phone:: (301) 952-3500/55**

**Fax: (301) 952-3775**



## For more information

### Read the law

Md. Rules 16-901, 20-106, and 20-109.

### Maryland Court Help Centers

Free legal advice on civil cases and expungements  
410-260-1392  
[mdcourts.gov/courthelp](https://mdcourts.gov/courthelp)

### Court forms

[mdcourts.gov/courtforms](https://mdcourts.gov/courtforms)

### People's Law Library of Maryland

[peoples-law.org](https://peoples-law.org)

### Public law libraries

410-260-1430  
[mdcourts.gov/lawlib](https://mdcourts.gov/lawlib)

### Clerk's offices

Visit or call the court that heard your case.  
[mdcourts.gov/courtsdirectory](https://mdcourts.gov/courtsdirectory)

[mdcourts.gov/accesstojustice](https://mdcourts.gov/accesstojustice)

410-260-1258

# What Can the Public See about Me in Court Records and on Case Search?




**Maryland Court Help**

Free. Online. In Person. By Phone.

**[mdcourts.gov](https://mdcourts.gov)**



 This brochure will help you understand how to access state court records in Maryland. It will also tell you when the court can limit or deny public access to records.

## What information is available online on Case Search?

Maryland Case Search provides public access to some case records. The Maryland Judiciary maintains this website. Anyone can search for these records at:

**[mdcourts.gov/casesearch](https://mdcourts.gov/casesearch)**

Case Search is not the official court record. It does not have all of the information that is in the court file.

Case Search should not include certain personal information about victims or non-party witnesses in:

- criminal cases;
- domestic violence cases; and
- peace order cases.

Some information about criminal cases is no longer available on Case Search but may still be accessed by the public. Visit the courthouse to view records of criminal cases where the outcome of all charges was nolle prosequi, dismissal, or acquittal/not guilty. District Court cases involving possession of marijuana must also be viewed at the courthouse.

If you find information on Case Search that you believe is inaccurate or should not be open to the public, please notify in writing the court where the original record was created or filed. You can submit your written request by mail or in person to the Clerk's Office.

## Maryland Electronic Courts System ("MDEC")

MDEC allows you to remotely view and file documents. Lawyers are required to use MDEC. Members of the public have limited access to MDEC. If you have an active case, you may request access to view and file documents through MDEC. The Clerk's Office in your courthouse may also have a kiosk where members of the public can view case files through MDEC. More information on MDEC can be found at: [mdcourts.gov/mdec](https://mdcourts.gov/mdec).



# CALVIN HAWKINS, II, COUNTY COUNCILMAN AT-LARGE

A top priority of my longstanding public service to Prince George's County remains ensuring, through policy and legislation, that Prince George's County is a government model for meeting the needs of its people.

Achieving this important objective includes a critical laser focus on supporting returning citizens as they come back home to the community. To support their successful return home and not back to prison, which benefits us all, we must commit to providing viable opportunities and available resources to aid their transition to becoming productive citizens, early in the process, before they are even released from incarceration.

Reentry initiatives seek to give people basic tools — such as housing and job placement; securing identification, a Social Security card and birth

certificate, and arranging transportation between a place to call home and work — to prevent the return to prison.

In January 2022, the Prince George's County Re-Entry Advisory Board, established by Council Resolution 49-2019 which I sponsored, presented its Final Report and Recommendations to the Prince George's County Council. I appreciate the diligence of this board to transform the County's re-entry process and reduce recidivism.

The board, which met for more than two years and included members of nonprofits, people who had been incarcerated and County Government agencies, worked to evaluate and assess resources, services, and institutional partnerships available, and identify ways to effectively implement a comprehensive re-entry employment program, and

their work extended to the review of services addressing additional employment, housing, mental health, and faith-based needs for the County's return citizens.

The report and recommendations now guide Prince George's County in its mission to help returning citizens build sustainable lives and access important community resources, and I look forward to its continued successful implementation.

Life experiences are a strong motivator for public service. Allow me to share what pushes me in this work. Recently, I had the opportunity to visit South Africa, and I have no hesitation in sharing that one of the most fulfilling, profound, and transformative moments occurred while I sat in the Robben Island Prison Courtyard where Nelson Mandela and his comrades - freedom fighters in the battle against apartheid - convened,

communicated, and committed to a better, brighter, and blessed South Africa.

Notwithstanding the hurdles, obstacles and challenges, anti-apartheid leader Nelson Mandela and the freedom fighters strategized to transform their confinement to a liberating conversation of the days to come, the 'yet to be', that would find them leading a post-apartheid nation through difficult days.

I wondered if Nelson Mandela, through 27 years of imprisonment for his activism, much of which was spent in a cell on Robben Island – one of the most brutal prisons in South Africa - ever envisioned becoming the President of South Africa or a Nobel Peace Prize winner.

A lawyer and political prisoner, Nelson Mandela, was listed among the world's most revered statesmen. He was South Africa's first Black head of state and the first to be elected in a fully representative democratic election. His government focused on dismantling the legacy of apartheid and inequality—economic inequality, social inequality, and political inequality.

I sat in the courtyard where Nelson Mandela sat with his comrades, pondering all they were able to accomplish, and in that instant, my thoughts turned to our beloved Prince George's County and our own potential for success when we join as one.

Nowhere is this more evident than in our efforts to support of formerly incarcerated persons, who face several hurdles as they return to the community. I have firsthand knowledge.

Growing up in the Oxon Hill community of Glassmanor as the product of a teenage single-parent household, and being a formerly incarcerated person myself, the odds were not in my favor. My faith is deeply rooted in my experience as God's Grace and Mercy has led me to becoming a public servant of the people and for the people. I wholeheartedly embrace being called "The People's Champ," and accept the charge to provide every Prince Georgian with the opportunities that allow them to reach their full potential and beyond.

Returning citizens are too often stigmatized or ostracized by the community

upon release. It bears repeating - the cooperation and acceptance of the community plays an important role in the successful reentry of our returning citizens who rely on such support.

For me, improving outcomes and prioritizing opportunities for people who were incarcerated is personal. A 'second-chance guy' myself, I am a living example of redemption and restoration, assisted by strong community support and the security of safety nets. My commitment to this work is an opportunity to give back to some of those who travel the way that I have traveled.

As a community, it is critically important that we don't just embrace our returning citizens, but as I have experienced, we must empower them to do the right thing and become responsible citizens. As we move forward, we want responsible citizens working, taking care of their families and being role models to their kids so that we can turn back the criminal justice recidivism rate.

This is what it means to serve and what continues to inspire me to build "The People's Movement."

***"Even behind the prison walls,  
I can see the heavy clouds and  
blue skies over the horizon."***

**-Nelson Mandela**





Council Member At-Large  
**CALVIN S. HAWKINS, II**



*Invites you to attend  
a screening of the documentary film*



# LORTON: PRISON OF TERROR

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 7, 2023**

**5:00 - 8:00 p.m.**



PRINCE GEORGE'S  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

The Center for Performing Arts, Proscenium Theater  
301 Largo Road, Largo, MD 20774

For more information:

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<https://www.instagram.com/CMALHawkins>

[facebook.com/CMALHawkins](https://facebook.com/CMALHawkins)



PRINCE GEORGE'S | COUNTY  
COUNCIL



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- Cell Chef 1 & 2
- Cellpreneur: The Millionaire Prisoner's Guidebook
- Chapter 7 Bankruptcy: Seven Steps to Financial Freedom
- Convicted Creations Cookbook
- Cooking With Hot Water
- DIY for Prisoners
- Federal Rules of Criminal Procedures Pocket Guide
- Federal Rules of Evidence Pocket Guide
- Fine Dining Cookbook 1 & 2
- Freebird Publisher's Gift Look Book
- Get Money: Self Educate, Get Rich, & Enjoy Life (book series)
- Habeas Corpus Manual
- Hobo Pete and the Ghost Train
- Hot Girl Safari: Non-Nude Photo Book
- Ineffective Assistance of Counsel
- Inmate Shopper
- Inmate Shopper Censored
- Introduction to Financial Success
- Kitty Kat: Adult Entertainment Resource Book
- Life With a Record
- Locked Down Cookin'
- Life With a Record
- Locked Down Cookin'
- Locked Up Love Letters: Becoming the Perfect Pen Pal
- Parent to Parent: Raising Children from Prison
- Pen Pal Success: The Ultimate Guide to Getting & Keeping Pen Pals
- Pen Pals: A Personal Guide for Prisoners
- Pillow Talk: Adult Non-Nude Photo Book
- Post-Conviction Relief Series
- Prison Health Handbook
- Prison Legal Guide
- Prison Picasso
- Prisoner's Communication Guidelines for Navigating in Prison
- Prisonsland Adult Coloring Book
- Pro Se Guide to Legal Research & Writing
- Pro Se Prisoner: How to Buy Stocks and Bitcoin
- Pro Se Section 1983 Manual
- Section 2254 Pro Se Guide to Winning Federal Relief
- Soft Shots: Adult Non-Nude Photo Book
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## finding **YOUR WAY**

How do you find your way in life? When you come to a fork in life's road, how do you choose the right path? Which way leads to a better life, and which to a worse life?

What about you? Each of us is on a journey—going where we have never been before. Each step of life adds new demands, new dangers and new decisions. How do you choose the better way? What is your road map?

## why consider **THE BIBLE?**

Consider the Bible as the Map for life. Its wisdom spans many thousands of years, yet millions today find its message as fresh and meaningful as ever. They find that its truths work in daily life—in every time of life. They discover purpose for living. That purpose gives them hope for now and for the future—even beyond this life. They believe in a home with God forever. In other words, they believe the Bible when it claims to speak for God.

In seeking a map for life, consider the Bible's claims. Again and again, it assures us that it is the pure word from our Maker. Yes, the Map for life.

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## SMOOTHING THE BUMPS ON THE ROAD TO REENTRY

*MD DPSCS and Prince George's County Host First Multiple-Location Virtual Reentry Fair*

It was a marvel of technology that reflected a commitment to reentry: 26 returning citizens, seated at screens located in seven different correctional facilities from one end of Maryland to the other, sat in rapt attention, learning how to make their transition home smoother.

All of the men and women were within three months of release, and all were set to go

home to Prince George's County Maryland, the large jurisdiction east of Washington, D.C.

The Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) and the Prince George's County Returning Citizens Affairs Division partnered with the Bridge Center at Adam's House to host what amounted to a truly groundbreaking reentry event in October: the first ever multiple-location virtual reentry services fair for

the incarcerated.

The landmark event allowed returning citizens to learn about, and sign up for, services in their home communities.

"We were so excited to partner with the State to host this incredible event," said Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks. "We recognize the importance of supporting and assisting our residents who are reentering society and ensuring that they have the necessary resources in place

for a successful transition.”

Prince George's County is the first jurisdiction in Maryland to work with DPSCS on a virtual connection for returning citizens to the jurisdiction where they plan to live upon release. It's an extension of the already strong DPSCS reentry commitment under Secretary Robert Green.

“This historic night demonstrates DPSCS' focus on helping individuals prepare for life ‘on the outside’ before they go home,” said DPSCS Secretary Green. “This is the first of its kind, and highlights the commitment of Prince George's County's Returning Citizens Affairs Division to ensure that those returning receive the services needed to successfully transition back into the community.”

The partnership with Prince George's County is a monumental step towards reinforcing the importance and impact of community engagement in the lives of DPSCS' returning citizens.

“This was a real showcase for other Maryland counties to join this important re-entry effort,” said Carolyn J. Scruggs, DPSCS Assistant Secretary, who oversees reentry.

“DPSCS will expand these efforts to other Maryland counties as we provide opportunities and transitional services to the 1,856 returning citizens scheduled to return to Maryland's communities in FY23. We want to ensure that each of them understands that their

justice-involved background does not have to be a barrier to new horizons.”

Soon-to-be-returning citizen “Jackson” attended the forum from Central Maryland Correctional Facility in Sykesville. He was set to go home to Prince George's County the very next week. “This program may help me get a job and earn a certificate to better myself when I'm home,” he said.

Established in June 2022, the Prince George's County Returning Citizen Affairs Division within the Office of the County Executive is responsible for assisting citizens who are returning to the county from jails and prisons.

“Through this partnership, it is anticipated that the men and women returning to Prince George's County from periods of incarceration are aware of the variety of services available to them to assist in their transition home, and that they know how to access these services once they return,” said Prince George's County Returning Citizens Affairs Division Director Michael Williams.

“This is the beginning of what RCAD has been tasked to do, which is to centralize the resources for Prince George's County residents who are coming home,” said Returning Citizens Liaison BJ Paige. “It's a great step forward in our effort to build the division with our State partners.”

The Bridge Center at Adam's

House is an inter-agency collaboration between the Prince George's County Health Department, the Department of Corrections, the Department of Social Services, the Department of Family Services, and other community-based partners to provide holistic assistance to any Prince George's County residents reentering the community.

“This partnership has been in the works for some time,” says Ronald Garrett, Director of the Bridge Center. “We're grateful for all of our partners and excited about the outcome of this event.”

DPSCS is committed to providing re-entry and transition services at its facilities, including hosting large in-person events with employers and service providers, and offering transition seminars to small groups of incarcerated individuals year-round.

“It's critically important that we connect incarcerated persons to public and private resources in the county they will be returning to,” says Richard Chambers, Executive Director for Social Work and Reentry Services for DPSCS. “If someone is finishing their sentence in a facility on the Eastern Shore, but intends to return to Western Maryland after release, DPSCS is committed to ensuring that they have a re-entry ‘road map’ home.”

Mr. Chambers also has another huge project in the works: the Reentry Passport.



Part of the MD THINK online initiative spearheaded by the Maryland Department of Human Services, the Passport allows individuals to safely and securely connect to an online portal after release where they can access critical documents like their social security card or their birth certificate. “One of the things we have noticed,” says Chambers, “is how often individuals leaving our facilities do not have critical personal documents. This is a way to help them have access to this information, thereby ensuring a more successful re-entry process.”

The Department is also rolling out an expansive tablet

program, which allows the incarcerated to access re-entry services and programs in a secure facility online setting.

Added to all of this is a burgeoning college program, featuring four colleges and universities, including Georgetown. And four more historically Black colleges and universities—including Bowie State— are poised to come “behind the wire” as well.

As for the virtual reentry event in Prince George’s County? Well, it won’t be the last.

“We know that making critical connections before an incarcerated individual gets out reduces recidivism,” says

DPSCS Secretary Green. “Prince George’s County set the bar high. Now, we’re excited to work with other jurisdictions on the same concept.”

#### **For More Information Contact:**

**Mark Vernarelli**  
**Manager of Media Relations**  
**Maryland Department of Public**  
**Safety and Correctional**  
**Services**  
**6852 4th St.**  
**Sykesville, MD**





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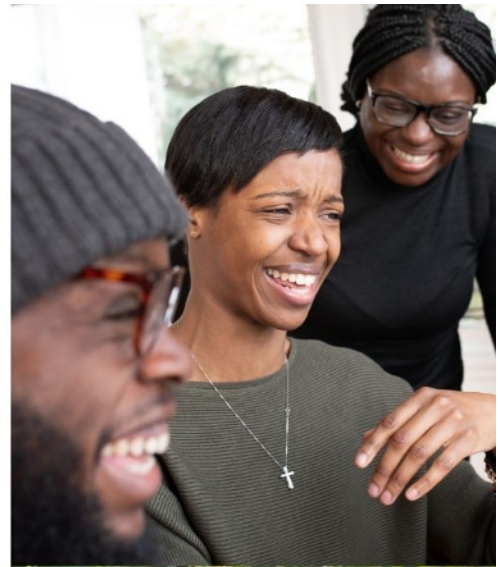
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For more information, please contact Sherry Garrett at  
240-493-9858 or [sgarrett@thedenneyhouse.org](mailto:sgarrett@thedenneyhouse.org).







## WHAT WE DO

### ReEntry Workforce Development Program

Pathways to Success is a workforce development program customized for returning citizens and job seekers with multiple barriers to employment. Pathways to Success provides customized training and connections to employment opportunities that provide a foundation for life long improvement.

#### Services Provided:

- Job Club
- U.S. Probation & Pretrial Services
- Federal Bonding
- Legal Aid & Expungement Assistance
- Occupational Skills Training
- Career Assessment & Planning
- Supportive Services
- Basic Skills Training
- Mentoring
- Career Exploration



#### General Eligibility Requirements:

- ☐ Proof of Prince George's County Residency
- ☐ Proof of Family Income (Income guidelines may apply)
- ☐ Proof of Citizenship or eligibility to work in the US
- ☐ Proof of Registration for Selective Service (males only born on or after January 1, 1960)

*If you are interested in enrolling in the Pathways to Success program or would like more information, visit us at [www.EmployPG.org](http://www.EmployPG.org) or call the American Job Center Largo at (301) 618-8445*



**[www.EmployPG.org](http://www.EmployPG.org)**

*The Pathways to Success program will provide eligible Prince George's County residents with the services and training they need to gain employment.*

# WE ARE METTLE WORKS



YOUR COMMUNITY  
AT WORK



*Reunification... Redemption...  
Supported Employment to include  
entrepreneurship opportunities...  
Rehabilitation Services to assist  
with a successful transition back  
into the community.*

These are the tenants of Mettle-works Behavioral Health that allows us to provide services to returning citizens and members of the community who strive to reach their full potential. We are a health and wellness organization accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF).



The term Mettle-works refers to a spirit of resiliency; the will for one to come back from adversity by drawing from a strength within. Within the Mettle-works brand, we have employed a staff of talented individuals who were once challenged with overcoming obstacles and adversities of their own hence personifying the true definition of Mettle-works. Most of the staff tasked with guiding our returning citizens are themselves returning citizens who have experienced and overcome the challenges of reintegration into the community.

Mettle-works provides a safe space for participants to develop skills necessary to establish and maintain independence, by becoming self-aware, which allows them to tap into their passion, drive, and hidden talents. We utilize various approaches, which includes person-centered planning to allow each person's individual needs to be met. Participants often decide to engage in our program because of our individualized approach that is both comprehensive and holistic. It is our goal to empower our participants with the tools and education needed to improve their lives and create a foundation of stability and independence.

We are on the cutting edge of technology in our approach to staying connected with and guiding participants through the re-entry process. We have a team of re-entry navigators whose sole purpose and focus is to assess the needs of each participant and connect them to services and resources that can meet each of their needs. Currently, we are using Pokket Application (Pokket App) technology to connect with citizens who are currently incarcerated, in home confinement, and returning citizens who are seeking services and support offered in the community. Mettle-works have embarked on an initiative utilizing neuro-feedback technology to support participants with unlocking untapped potential that can be used to achieve their goals.

The support of local and state governments, including elected officials, (Secretary of Public Safety and Corrections for the State of Maryland, Rob Green, County Executive, Angela Alsobroke, States Attorney, Aisha Braveboy), prison officials, and court officials have been essential. They are more aware of the challenges faced by returning citizens and have provided financial support to ensure the needs of this population are met. With support of these individuals, coupled by the passion of Dr. Ronald Garrett of the Bridge Center, his plan to ensure all support needed has created a perfect storm of opportunity for returning citizens.

The future of Mettle-works is to continue to support our participants by creating an ecosystem and community of giving back and paying it forward. Our hope is that our model will continue to positively impact the lives of our participants in a manner that can extend to other states and agencies who are also passionate about the future of returning citizens.



# ABOUT THE DENNEY HOUSE



YOUR COMMUNITY  
AT WORK



**Mission.** We wish to empower vulnerable populations in the state of Maryland to discover their unique purpose in life and equip them with the tools to unlock their full potential.

**Vision.** To see members of our community using their gifts and talents in service to others, and positively impacting their communities and the world.

## Core Values

Love ▶ Leadership ▶ Loyalty

Character ▶ Community ▶ Creativity

Education ▶ Environment ▶ Empower

## ABOUT TDH Transitional Housing Program

TDH Transitional Housing Program is a housing first model that was created to provide housing and support services to:

- Transitional Aged Youth 18-24 Justice-Involved Veterans
- Returning Citizens over 24
- Persons Fleeing Domestic Violence

They must also:

- Be a resident of Prince George's County OR
- Be willing to establish residency in Prince George's County



This is a 12 month transitional housing program that supports residents with long-term residency, case management, behavioral and mental health services, life skills, work readiness training, financial literacy, art therapy, spiritual development, and aftercare. This evidenced based program uses components of the 5 Pillars of Livability to guide our residents towards a life of self-sufficiency.

In partnership with our community organizations, we aim to provide the following services:

- Access to job training
- Support in locating and securing important documents
- Access to healthy food
- Transportation support
- Mentorship
- And more!

## About *TDHWorks*

TDHWorks Programming focuses on preparing participants to be successful in the workplace through development of essential soft and social skills necessary to gain and maintain employment, financial literacy, college and career exploration, trade certification, and job placement.

Participants have the opportunity to learn hands on training with regards to lawn care, landscaping, and urban farming. Participants can receive access to OSHA training and certifications via an online course.

## Programs

**TDHWorks Soft Skills Training:** Our proprietary curriculum is approached from an entrepreneurial mindset with lessons in goal setting, decision-making, life coaching, and

financial planning.

**ARISE Life Skills.** This curriculum is a nationally recognized program that uses evidence-based best practices to prepare participants in the areas of communication, decision-making, anger and conflict management, time management, and more.

**TDHWorks Certification Program:** The Denney House has developed the framework for providing customized learning experiences for participants to earn certification trades such as ServSafe Food Handler, Landscape Management, Heavy Equipment Operation and OSHA Safety

## Get Connected

### TDH Transitional Housing Program

We envision a world where it does not matter where you began but how you finish. If you meet the qualifications above, complete the application found at [www.thedenneyhouse.org/programs/intransition](http://www.thedenneyhouse.org/programs/intransition)

SCAN QR CODE  
TO APPLY NOW



## TDHWorks

Upcoming Sessions will be advertised through our website, social media and newsletter.

Stay up to date by signing up to be on our mailing list or check back on the website for registration information.

For information on custom services and pricing for your organizations needs, please contact Khalilah Denney directly at 301-899-0505, or [kdenney@thedenneyhouse.org](mailto:kdenney@thedenneyhouse.org).



# DAMASCUS HOUSE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (DHCDC)



YOUR COMMUNITY  
AT WORK



Damascus House Community Development Corporation (DHCDC) is a nonprofit organization in Prince George's County that offers transitional housing for returning citizens and other comprehensive reentry services including, case management, group and individual substance abuse and mental health counseling, psychosocial groups, financial literacy, and workforce development.

In 2013 Kevin Williams the founder and director of DHCDC opened the first transition house for men in Hyattsville, MD. From 2013-2015, DHCDC housed over twelve men, which seven of them went on to successfully transition and are active within our community. In 2016 DHCDC received its 501(c)(3) nonprofit status and actively began developing program RISTORE; Rehabilitating Individuals So They Overcome Recidivism. For three years, Mr. Williams a returning citizen himself with a background in Biblical Studies and a Licensed Professional Counselor worked as a two-man crew toward his vision of providing transitional housing for individuals returning home from incarceration.

In 2019, Mr. Williams expanded his team with a volunteer from Howard University, Mrs. Katina Burks-Pierce. Mrs. Burks-Pierce has a heart for the population and was working toward her M.S.W. with a focus on Community Administration and Policy Practice. Not only did Mrs. Burks-Pierce have the desire to assist individuals returning home from incarceration on the community level, but also wanted to make a difference on the legislative level. Mrs. Burks-Pierce has a passion to write legislation for criminal justice and prison reform. During her time as a volunteer at the RISTORE Program she also was a legislative intern at the Maryland State House along with various other reentry groups, ministries, and organizations. With her background in Human Development, Business Management and Social Work, Mrs. Burks-Pierce was brought on as RISTORE's assistant director with Mr. Williams serving as her mentor.



The RISTORe Program was recently awarded the Second Chance Act Community-based Reentry Program Grant from the DOJ to expand the impact of its reentry programming efforts. This is the most substantial award of its kind received by a transitional housing program in Prince George's County. Currently the RISTORe Program has four transitional homes; Miriam's House for women in Temple Hills, MD and three transitional homes for men; Paul's House & John's House are in Suitland, MD and Redeemer House in Washington, DC. The RISTORe Program was designed as a 12-month program; however, with the support of the community, faith-based organizations, and new program sustainability options being initiated, RISTORe is poised to expand its program to be able to provide a continued stay phase in 2023. This phase would allow program participants to step up to shared townhome living with the goal of making a final transition to home ownership.

RISTORe Program's goal has always been to train up and hire returning citizens to work with other returning citizens; that they may be an example and are able to lend a hand to those who come behind them.

Mark Harris a case manager for RISTORe was recently highlighted this year on ABC news 47 WMDT as a former inmate turned case manager who once was broken but healed and found his purpose. Mr. Harris an author of 360 Degrees and a board member of Great Commission Ministries plays an intricate part at RISTORe as a lead case manager who lends his advice, "have a plan, have a mindset, set goals, and just be grateful for each day. Learn that our freedom wouldn't be taken if freedom wasn't taken for granted".

RISTORe has had many to come and go successfully. There are two rising stars currently residing in the Suitland transitional homes and one in the DC house.

Mr. Jonnie Akinruli who came home from incarceration in 2022 after serving 8 years is making outstanding progress. Mr. Akinruli is currently enrolled in the Georgetown Pivot

Program with the aspirations of owning and operating a nonprofit assisting trouble youth, lending his insight on the criminal justice system, and providing tools with the goal of slowing down the vicious prison-to-pipeline cycle. A trouble youth himself, Mr. Akinruli works hard in his therapeutic process to prepare and equip himself for what he has found to be his passion and purpose.

Mr. Aaron Lynn came to the RISTORe Program in 2022 as well. After serving his 8-year sentence Mr. Lynn has finally found his niche' and has worked hard in accomplishing his goal of working in the field of IT. Mr. Lynn was given the opportunity to attend the ASM Educational Center, complete his course work and pass his certifications in Microsoft Technology Associate and CompTIA Security+. Throughout his time in the RISTORe Program, Mr. Lynn has been so gracious to volunteer his knowledge and time in helping other program participants with computer literacy. Just this month, Mr. Lynn was hired part-time by the RISTORe Program to teach computer literacy and cell phone training to all RISTORe Program participants.

Mr. D' Angelo Dunlap came from what he says a decent family. A high school graduate, going to college and the marine corps lost everything and became addicted to drugs which landed him in the prison system. After serving 23-years and being granted compassionate release by now Supreme Court Justice Ketanji Brown-Jackson, Mr. Dunlap also came to the RISTORe Program in 2022 and has made huge strides without looking back. After successfully completing project empowerment, in November 2022, Mr. Dunlap became a full-time permanent employee with the Government of District Columbia

Mr. Williams says, "I know they can, because I have".

**For More Information:**  
**Visit: [www.dh-ristore.org](http://www.dh-ristore.org)**

**Contact Us At: [info@dhf-ristore.org](mailto:info@dhf-ristore.org)  
or 240/946-0084**



# NEW MINDZ MINISTRIES, INC.



**YOUR COMMUNITY  
AT WORK**



I hated God! Yes, I am a pastor now, but I did not grow up in church. I may have gone to Sunday School a total of five times throughout my entire childhood and that was only for the cookies and juice they had for snack time. My life before Christ was a mess. I am the oldest of six children, raised in an impoverished neighborhood in Harrisburg, PA by a struggling single mother. My childhood consisted of welfare and food stamps, hand-me-down clothing, and eviction notices. We cooked Ramen Noodles with water heated up on a kerosene heater and I remember walking across town to my aunt's house with handwritten notes asking for food.

Both of my parents were addicts. Alcohol, marijuana, pills, cocaine, eventually crack and heroin. I grew up in an environment where drinking and drugs were expected and encouraged. I began drinking at the age of 11 and smoking marijuana at the age of 14. I started selling drugs at the age of 15. By the time I was 16, I had dropped out of school and drug dealing became my disillusioned career choice.

I was also a 'Playa' (playboy) and had a host of different girlfriends throughout my teenage years; sometimes two and three girlfriends at the same time. I fathered two children at the age of 16 who were born four months apart. At the age of 19, I had four children out of wedlock with two different women.

I was truly insane. I went to prison three times within a four-year span. I was doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results. I sold drugs - I was arrested - I went to jail. I got out... I sold drugs - I was arrested - I went to prison. I got out... I sold drugs - I was arrested... you get the picture. My third felony earned me the distinction of being labeled a career criminal and I was sentenced to 10 years in a federal prison. I was 23 years old, and I thought my life was over.

But God... had something else in store. It was in the fourth year of that federal sentence that I was truly broken to the point where I knew I could not survive on my own. It was December 12, 2001, and I was in the "hole" for a gambling investigation. I used my 'one phone call per



month' to call home and spoke with my eight-year-old daughter who was preparing to perform in a Christmas recital. She was excited about her solo and talked a-mile-a-minute about how great it was going to be. She was going to sing 'Joy to the World' and offered to sing it to me over the phone. And did she sing. Over and over. Every time she finished; I'd ask her to sing it again. She spent 10 minutes of that 15-minute call singing 'Joy to the World' to her absent father who felt no joy at all. And that was my breaking point.

In the cold cell of solitary confinement, I surrendered my life completely to God. I was *redeemed* and right away, God began to *restore* the broken pieces of my life. Two months later, I was reunited with Lenia, my teenage love who would become my wife. I was reconnected with two of my children who I had lost contact with while in prison. I began teaching GED in prison. I wrote books and plays. I went to church faithfully and even though I didn't get released right away, I was free. God used that time to mold me and help me see how I had spent so much of my life using the gifts He had given me to serve the enemy instead of the Kingdom.

I share all of that with you so that you understand that today, I am a husband, father, youth Pastor, award-winning author of 6 books, motivational speaker, parenting specialist, At-Risk youth counselor, facilitator, and expert in the fields of mentoring and Re-entry. All glory to God.

On October 30th, 2021, exactly 15 years from the day I was released from Federal Prison, my wife and I launched New Mindz Ministries, Inc. a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that provides education, mentoring, life skills training and resources for at risk youth/adults and returning citizens. One of our signature programs is the 'Redeemed and Restored' (R&R) Reentry Group for Returning Citizens. R&R meets weekly and is led by successful returned citizens. The 12-week curriculum is from my book *Are You S.A.N.E. (Setting A New Example)* and addresses areas of struggle that returning citizens often face, such as: family reunification, effective parenting, job readiness, effective communication, conflict resolution, anger management and pro social living skills, to name a few. Participants are also trained to become mentors after their graduation. New Mindz Ministries, Inc. also offers services and resources for recovering addicts, domestic violence survivors, children of incarcerated parents, transitional age youth and all at-risk individuals.

My wife and partner, Minister Lenia Queen experienced the other side of incarceration supporting me as I completed my federal sentence. She not only created the blueprint for me to come home and be successful but has also taught others to do the same. Lenia is a licensed mental health clinician with a wealth of HR and organizational leadership experience and a heart for women and girls. We both have a passion for seeing at-risk, marginalized, men, women, and youth become Transformed, Renewed, Redeemed and Restored.

*Reverend Jonathan Queen and Minister Lenia Queen live in Upper Marlboro, MD. They have been married for over 16 years and have 6 adult children and 8 grandchildren. You can learn more about New Mindz Ministries, Inc. at [www.newmindz.org](http://www.newmindz.org).*



# HER STORY OF LIFE AFTER RELEASE



The founder was released from Maryland Correctional Institution for Women, in August of 2017 and started a Resume Clinic in a public library located in Temple Hills, Maryland, a marginalized area of Prince George's County Maryland. These humble beginnings were the blueprint for the formation of Life After Release (LAR).

In 2018 LAR led two Menstrual Hygiene policies. This was a Reproductive Justice issue, that required correctional facilities across the state to provide menstrual hygiene products to inmates upon request, free of charge. The second bill required correctional facilities to have specific policies for inmates who are pregnant, on topics like the use of restraints, prenatal and postpartum care, and pregnancy testing.

In 2019, LAR partnered with Georgetown (GW) Law to host the first ever Post Conviction Forum, "A Conviction with Options", GW's campus in Washington, DC. In partnership, LAR brought awareness to the unfair and unjust prosecution that exists within our criminal legal system. We explained the systemic design, that Black people, people of color, undocumented people, those living with disabilities or addiction, and those without sufficient income are over-policed and prosecuted. We, along with partners: Black Lives Matter D.C, Color of Change, and The Mass Liberation Project organized over 200 directly impacted people across the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia (DMV). From these organized efforts, LAR created monthly Post Conviction & Reentry Clinics to engage the community.

YOUR COMMUNITY  
AT WORK





LAR partnered with Out For Justice, the Maryland Justice Project, and ACLU to create a Women's Pre Release coalition. The legislative effort focused on requiring the state to re-establish a women's pre-release center. After the only Women's Pre-Release center in Maryland shut down in 2009, this legislation mandated that the state of Maryland could never close a Pre-Release center ever again.

In 2020 we, like the rest of the world, were impacted by the pandemic and were forced to navigate the world differently. What we identified was that our (directly impacted) community was being left behind by the use of technology. Subsequently, our approach shifted to ensuring our community had access to the virtual world.

2021, while facing grief from organizational loss, community deaths from COVID-19, and the murder of George Floyd, our budget increased by 300%. Only because of the philanthropic direction of funding from foundations to receive "Direct Services" funds to be used as "Mutual Aid" support in 2021.

## Economic Justice

We employed one of our Black mamas, who was bailed out in 2019, (Troia) giving her a salary with benefits, something that she has never had.

We employed (Boom) a member leader that came to us from our Participatory Defense work after her 17-year-old son was charged with armed robbery. She was a dedicated member leader that became homeless during the two years of fighting his case.

We employed Dr. Carmen Johnson, a woman that had recently been released from federal prison (a cage) and struggled to navigate life after release. She is now an author of "The Pretense of Justice" and founder of Helping Ourselves Transform.

## Identified "The Work"

We established our 4 foundational pillars and began touching the community as a coordinated funded organization.

Developed the Decarceration Cycle: An organizing model that that if implemented will decarceration-to-political-empowerment cycle as a model for structured abolitionist organizing.

### Cycle

Court watching → jail support → legal empowerment → life supports/housing → politicization → organizing.

## Present Day 2022

As the fiscal year 2022 closes, we are seeking to continue the vision of the founder into a sustainable community organization. While the revolution cannot be funded, the vision of Directly Impacted Black Woman-Led leadership must be funded. In order for us to be sustainable in the future, it is the duty of everyone to ensure that we all win!

### To Learn More Contact:

4710 Auth Place 2nd floor Camp  
Springs Md 20744  
240/200-4472



# MISO MEDICAL CENTER: A PATHWAY TO RETURNING CITIZENS



**YOUR COMMUNITY  
AT WORK**



MISO Medical Center home team prides itself in delivering person-centered, whole-person care that is evidence-based and utilizes data to continuously improve the services we deliver. Using a recovery-focused model of care, we treat the whole-person, integrating and coordinating primary care, behavioral health, and community and social support services in our behavioral/mental health approach.

Our Health Home allows for individual choice and is capable of assessing the various physical and behavioral health needs of the persons served. The program demonstrates the capacity to address, either directly or through linkage with or referral to external resources, behavioral health conditions, such as mental illness and substance use disorders, a physical health conditions, ensuring the highest level of quality health care available. Care for our clients is coordinated over time, across providers, functions, activities, and sites to maximize the value and effectiveness of services delivered to the person served.

MISO continues to work with our returning citizens to ensure that they adapt to their 'new normal'. Here's a story from Mr. Rodney, a success story.



*I am Rodney Brown, a returning citizen, free after serving almost 30 years. There is a stigma attached to returning citizens; society still deems us unworthy (in most cases). We have to fight for equal rights insofar as housing, the right to vote and most of employment opportunities.*

*As I began to reintegrate into society, I wanted to ensure a successful release plan. I knew with certainty that stable employment was a key ingredient to that success. After an extensive search, I was afforded an opportunity to work for MISO Medical Center.*

*MISO Medical prides itself on providing community resources to individuals with mental health or other societal challenges. My role as a Peer Counselor is to act as a liaison between the client-consumer and MISO. Clients rely on me to ensure their services (SNAP benefits, housing recertification, etc.) are continual and effective.*

*MISO was a seamless transition from incarceration. There, I served as a mentor to vulnerable inmates. MISO provides me the same opportunity in a sense.*

*I encourage more employers to adopt MISO's philosophy by extending gainful employment to the returning citizen population. Indeed, MISO positions us for wholistic success because not only is it income, we utilize ties to the communities to effect change among those in need. MISO is a leader in extinguishing biases against us, and moving forward with a fresh mindset that society is best served when returning citizens are able to rejoin without strings attached.*

*I am proud of the work I do on behalf of MISO. I am doubly proud to be part of the MISO family and look forward to continuing the working relationship. I hope MISO will be the start of many more organizations who give returning citizens a chance.*



**For More Information Contact:**

**301/747-0003**

**301/547-7399 (Fax)**

**240/729-0200 (24/7)**

**info@misomedicalcenter.com**

**14440 Cherry Lane Ct.**

**Suite 218**

**Laurel, MD 20707**

**Visit:**

**www.misomedicalcenter.com**



# Insurance Producer License Exam Reimbursement and CDL Skills Test Fee Waiver

## Insurance Producer License Exam Reimbursement For Eligible Veterans

In 2017, The Maryland Insurance Administration was approved for participation in the GI Bill Reimbursement Program. The innovative program, spearheaded by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, reimburses veterans for the costs of approved licensing and certification tests required to become a Maryland insurance producer. In order to qualify for the reimbursement, veterans must be eligible for benefits, have remaining entitlement to benefits, and their delimiting date must not have passed. The Department of Veteran Affairs is able to pay the cost of tests that are not passed, those that are retaken after not being passed, and those that are required to be recertified or to renew a license. To apply for test fee reimbursement and learn more about the program visit the Maryland Insurance Administration. Veterans should attach a copy of the test results to the application. If test results are not available, then a copy of the payment receipt must be attached.

## Commercial Driver's License Skills Test Waiver

Effective January 1, 2013, the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) can now waive the driver skills test required in order to obtain a Class A or B Commercial Driver's License (CDL) for recently discharged service members who meet the following criteria:

- Individuals must have 2 years of experience driving vehicles as part of their job function immediately preceding their discharge from the military and have a good driving record
- The Commanding Officer will certify the service member's years of operating the vehicle as well as the type of vehicle operated to determine appropriate license classification
- The applicant must pass the CDL knowledge test

The waiver only applies to CDL License Classes A and B.

For additional information please visit The Motor Vehicle Administration website.

# TAKE ACTION TO STAY SAFE

## DOMESTIC ABUSE & COVID-19

Staying safe when living with an abusive partner is always difficult. But with COVID-19 stay-at-home orders, intimate partner abuse may intensify as vulnerable victims are confined with their abuser for extended periods of time. According to the National Domestic Violence Hotline, abusive partners may use the COVID-19 pandemic to:

- Prevent partners from seeking treatment, working or communicating.
- Withhold important items such as hand sanitizer or medical insurance cards.
- Share misinformation about COVID-19.
- Escalate their isolation tactics.

## GET HELP

Prince George's County has emergency shelter and counseling services available during COVID-19.

- If you are in immediate danger, please call 911.
- **Community Crisis Services, Inc.:** Call 24/7 helpline 211 or 301-731-1203 to get immediate assistance or visit [communitycrisis.org](http://communitycrisis.org).
- **Community Advocates for Family and Youth (CAFY):** Call 24/7 helpline 301-882-2002, text NOMORE to 71441 or visit [cafyonline.org](http://cafyonline.org).
- **The National Domestic Violence Hotline:** Call 24/7 1-800-799-7233, text LOVEIS to 22522 or visit [thehotline.org](http://thehotline.org).
- **Prince George's County Family Justice Center:** Services are available Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Call 301-780-8008 and an intake specialist will follow up with you.
- **House of Ruth Maryland 24/7 Hotline:** Call 410-889-7884 or visit [hruth.org](http://hruth.org). Emergency shelter, legal clinic and counseling available.

## MAKE A SAFETY PLAN NOW

- Tell a friend or family member about the abusive relationship.
- Have a code word or phrase ready to use in a phone call or text. A friend or family member should recognize this code and call for assistance.
- To leave in an emergency, pick a safe public place to go unknown to the abuser.
- Gather these important items for a quick exit: identification, insurance card, keys, ATM card, cell phone and charger, medication, clothes, baby supplies, birth certificates, comforting stuffed animal or photograph.

📞 📧 📱 @pgchealth



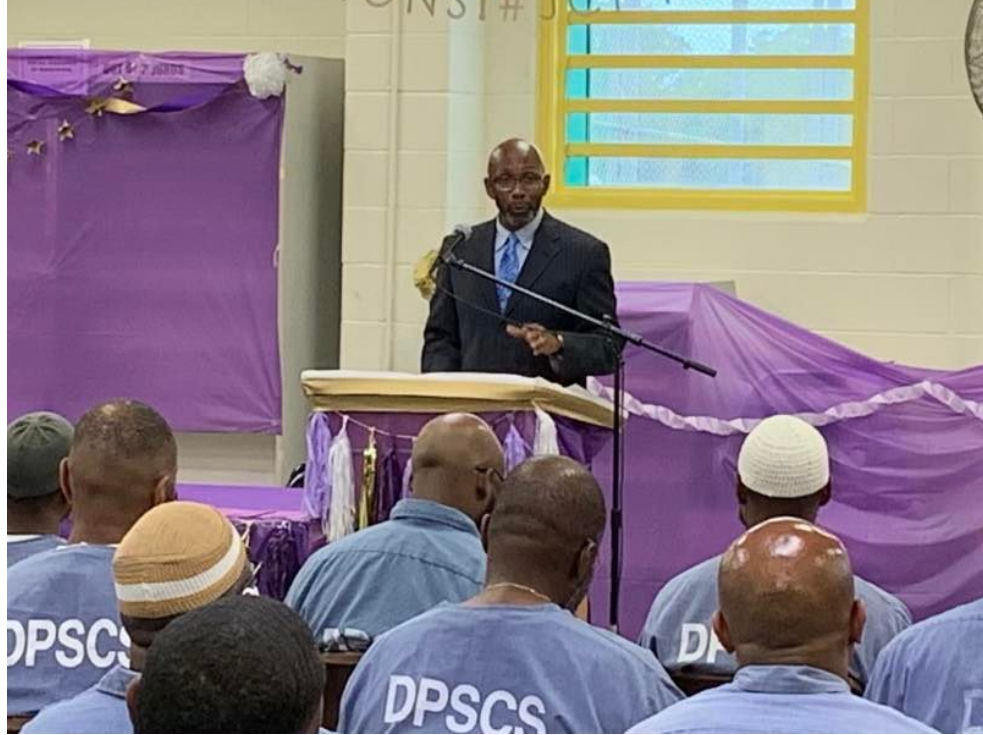
For additional information about domestic violence programs, services and resources, please visit: <https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/1671/Domestic-Violence>





## THE BRIDGE CENTER AT ADAM'S HOUSE:

### BRIDGING THE GAP FOR RETURNING CITIZENS



The Bridge Center at Adam's House (BCAH) is an inter-agency collaboration between the Health Department, the Department of Corrections, the Department of Social Services, the Department of Family Services, Employ Prince George's (EPG), and 30 community-based partners. The program provides holistic assistance to any Prince George's County resident reentering the community, specifically individuals who are returning citizens, veterans, or transitional aged youth (18-24 years old), and trying to attain stability in the community. The BCAH is an accessible location for residents in need to receive services that support a positive community reintegration and promote productive community life that reduces recidivism rates and improves health outcomes. Four core Health Department Behavioral

Health Services programs operate out of the BCAH: Re-entry Support (Peer-to-Peer), Offender Re-entry Program (Clinical Case Management), Bridge Center Re-entry (Clinical Case Management), and Child Support Court Ambassadors.

The BCAH utilizes the Collective Impact Model (CIM) to guide its collaborative efforts in partnering with community-based agencies and organizations. During the last five years, this new approach to creating systemic change has been on the rise. This framework calls upon different actors in the impact ecosystem including government, businesses, nonprofits, philanthropy, etc., to collaborate in a structured way towards shared outcomes. Programs generally align by regional impact or the area of focus, and common goals should follow five core principles of collective impact:

a common agenda, shared measurement, mutually reinforcing activities, continuous communication, and the support of a backbone organization.

Over the past two years despite the many challenges faced due to the unprecedented pandemic and healthcare crisis, the BCAH team has continued to prioritize service with excellence to returning citizens. Key program objectives have been to establish transitional housing resources, transportation assistance, a virtual re-entry program, a process to assist returning citizens with obtaining vital documents, bridging the gap for returning citizens who do not have access to technology, a mentoring initiative, and a comprehensive job training/job placement referral process. Due to collaborative efforts with the Office of the County

Executive's Returning Citizens Affairs Division (RCAD) and EPG, the BCAH was equipped to support 41 returning citizens with transitional housing. These individuals would have otherwise experienced homelessness. Our core community-based partners in this initiative were the Damascus House and the Denney House. Currently, they have 40 beds for men and 10 beds for women with additional sites opening in the first quarter of 2023. The focus on transitional housing is vital because there will be a significant number of Prince George's County residents eligible for release under the "*Juvenile Lifers Act*" in coming months, and a component of their reintegration process requires a six-month stay in a transitional housing program. Resources that allow the County to provide transitional housing are vital to the successful reintegration of these residents, and we must make best efforts to ensure that no returning citizen will be homeless in Prince George's County following release from incarceration. Ultimately, providing transitional housing for 100 returning citizens for 12 months at no cost to the returning citizen is the ideal support needed.

In order to address the barrier of transportation, the BCAH has been able to implement UpLift, a

transportation service in collaboration with Uber and Lyft. Within six months, this initiative provided 541 rides for returning citizens to places including job interviews, job training programs, parole and probation appointments, as well as health care appointments. This initiative allowed returning citizens to access services throughout the County without the burden of attempting to get from one end of the County to the other for a vital appointment without a vehicle or resources to utilize public transportation. The initiative also included the distribution of more than 200 Metro access cards to assist with transportation needs.

The BCAH, in collaboration with Mettle-Works and Ristore', implemented the Prince George's County Virtual Re-entry Program. In addition to maintaining social distancing and good public health practices, the program is an effort to provide returning citizens on home confinement with access to re-entry programming. Based on the SAMSHA evidence-based model, "*8 Dimensions of Wellness*", this program has been able to offer Anger Management, Men's Trauma Recovery Empowerment (M-TREM), Financial Literacy, Intensive Outpatient (IOP) services, Decision Points, and a virtual reentry information





session for residents of Prince George's County in a safe and secure environment.

The BCAH and its partners use evidence-based programming that has proven to be effective such as the Level of Service/Case Management Inventory (LS/CMI), an evidence-based assessment tool for determining the level of risk and risk factors that may cause recidivism. The LS/CMI is among the most comprehensive assessment tools in the area of re-entry. The goal is to establish a countywide ecosystem and re-entry strategy that assures all returning citizens receive best-practice support and interventions at any access point. To accomplish this objective, 41 BCAH staff and community-based partners have been trained to use LS/CMI and over 275 LS/CMIs have been completed. As a result, returning citizens are being connected to the appropriate services to successfully

reintegrate into the community. By the end of 2022, we expect to have provided training to 50 staff members who are employed by the Health Department, problem-solving courts, the Department of Corrections, or a community-based nonprofit organization in the re-entry/reintegration ecosystem.

The BCAH is also excited for the opportunity to partner with Sheppard Pratt to bring their Creating Healthy Bonds Program to the County. This program provides treatment services for children of incarcerated parents, the children's caregivers, and their incarcerated or recently released parents.

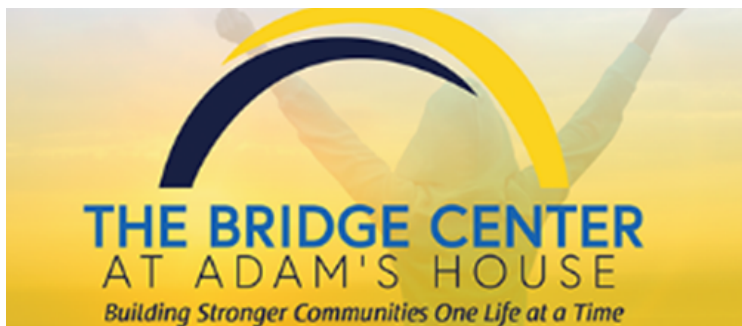
Overall, approximately 1,600 clients have engaged in outreach initiatives in 2022 and returning citizens were connected to a multitude of services. In 2023, the BCAH plans to once again host events to recognize April as National Second Chance

Awareness Month. These plans include re-entry resource fairs in collaboration with the US Attorney's Office, RCAD, Community of Re-Entry Services (CORES), Prince George's Community College, Bowie State University, and EPG.

The BCAH was able to facilitate a media marketing campaign for its 2022 re-entry outreach initiatives. The marketing initiatives successfully created community awareness and directed clients to re-entry resources like the Bridge Center at Adam's House. Moving forward, the BCAH hopes to continue to create a greater awareness of resources and services available to returning citizens at the Bridge Center at Adam's House in collaboration with RCAD, CORES, County agencies and its community-based partners.







The **Bridge Center at Adam's House** is an inter-agency collaboration between the Health Department, the Department of Corrections, the Department of Social Services, the Department of Family Services and other community based partners to provide holistic assistance to any Prince George's County resident reentering the community, especially people that are **formerly incarcerated, Veterans, and youth (18-24 years old)** who are trying to attain stability in the community.

The Bridge Center at Adam's House is a central and accessible location for residents to receive services that support a positive community reintegration and that promote productive community life that reduces recidivism rates and improves health outcomes.

## Services

The Bridge Center at Adam's House offers the following services:

- Employment Assistance
- Job Training
- Veterans Affairs & Claims Assistance
- Court Ambassadors
  - Child Support Assistance
- Food Assistance
- Medical Insurance Assistance
- GED/College Enrollment Assistance
- Youth & Teens Services
- Mental Health Services
- Family Reunification Services
- Substance Abuse Treatment
- Transportation Assistance
- Legal Assistance
- ID's
- Birth Certifications
- Re-entry Support Program
  - Case Management
  - Peer Support
- Anger Management Courses

## Workshops

The Bridge Center at Adam's House provides **free workshops and orientations** for clients interested in obtaining assistance. Workshops include:

- Anger Management
- Employment Assistance
- Computer Fundamentals
- Expungement Clinics
- Budgeting and Credit Repair

To register for workshops, call (301) 817-1900 or send an email [BridgeCenter@co.pg.md.us](mailto:BridgeCenter@co.pg.md.us).

## Orientation

Learn about the various resources, services, and programs the Bridge Center has to offer. Orientations are held **every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm**. Call or visit us to register.

## Client Eligibility

Must be a Prince George's County resident

No minors (at least 18 years old)

5001 Silver Hill Road, Suite 300, Suitland, MD 20746

Phone: 301/817-1900 TTY/STS Dial: 711

Hours: (Excluding Holidays) Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.



## Nutritious, fresh, prepared meals delivered to your home. Eat better with Meals on Wheels!



- Nutritious meals delivered to your door each week.
- Regular contact with a friendly Meals on Wheels volunteer.
- Meals are low in sodium, fat and concentrated sugars. Protein, fruits, vegetables, and whole grains.
- Texture-modified upon request.
- Long-term or temporary service, regardless of age or economic status.
- Service fee assessed on sliding scale. SNAP benefits accepted.

For those unable to cook or grocery shop for themselves - due to age, disability or illness, look to Meals on Wheels for dependable, friendly service.

### *More than a meal™* services may include:

- Grocery shopping assistance
- Daily wellness calls & check-ins
- SNAP screening & enrollment
- Kibble Connection Pet Food

To learn more, call (410) 558-0827  
Apply online at [mealsonwheelsmd.org/client-application](https://mealsonwheelsmd.org/client-application)

## TRANSITIONING HOME TO MARYLAND

You've got **OPTIONS**: The Maryland Reentry Navigator program is here to provide you assistance before, during, and after your return home.

A Reentry Navigator will connect you with the employment opportunities, skills and credentials, and other local resources you might need in order to become independent and successful.



Reentry Navigators in five regions of the State provide a connection to American Job Center (AJC) services and programs such as:

- Career counseling;
- Résumé assistance;
- Referrals for training programs;
- Hiring events;
- Professional skills workshops;
- Referrals for food, clothing, and housing;
- Federal bonding;
- Vocational training and college programs;
- Maryland Registered Apprenticeships;
- Vehicles for Change; and
- Expungement workshops and legal assistance referrals.

An additional focus of the program is to engage employers and identify job opportunities for returning citizens.

Five Reentry Navigators:

Baltimore City	(410) 396-9030
Anne Arundel County	(410) 590-9288
Prince George's County	(301) 883-3191
Lower Eastern Shore	(410) 341-8533, ext. 1216
Western Maryland	(301) 393-8222

What if you return to another county? All of the services listed above are available at every AJC in the State of Maryland. You can contact one of the Navigators at any time, before, during, or after release, to learn more about the services available to you, and where to go.





# Maryland Court Help

Free. Online. In Person. By Phone.

## Talk with a lawyer at a Maryland Court Help Center.

Get help with civil matters if you do not have a lawyer. Locations are listed on the back.

### Get help with:

- Understanding court documents
- Preparing for court hearings
- Completing court forms
- Preparing for mediation
- Deciding what to do next
- Finding a lawyer



### Get help by phone or online.

[mdcourts.gov/helpcenter](https://mdcourts.gov/helpcenter)  
410-260-1392

**8:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.**

### Who can we help?

An individual with a civil legal problem.  
This service is provided to help you represent yourself.



## Get help in-person. Visit a walk-in court help center.

LOCATION	ADDRESS	DAYS	TIMES	CASE TYPES
Baltimore City	501 E. Fayette Street	Monday to Friday	8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	District Court Civil
Cambridge	310 Gay Street	Friday only	8:30 a.m. - noon; 1:00 - 4:30 p.m.	District Court Civil
Catonsville	1 Rolling Cross Road	Monday to Friday	8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	District Court Civil
Frederick	100 W. Patrick Street	Monday to Friday	8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	All Civil Matters
Glen Burnie	7500 Gov. Ritchie Highway	Monday to Friday	8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	District Court Civil
Hagerstown	36 West Antietam Street	Monday only	8:30 - 11:30 a.m.; 12:30 - 4:30 p.m.	District Court Civil
La Plata	200 Charles Street	Monday to Friday	8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	All Civil Matters
Rockville	191 E. Jefferson Street	Monday to Friday	8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	District Court Civil
Salisbury	201 Baptist Street	Monday to Friday	8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	District Court Civil
Upper Marlboro	14735 Main Street	Monday to Friday	8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	District Court Civil
Family Law Help Centers are in every circuit court. Visit <a href="https://mdcourts.gov/family/familyselfhelp">mdcourts.gov/family/familyselfhelp</a> for location and hour information.				Family Law

### District Court Civil

Landlord and Tenant  
Small Claims  
Peace and Protective Orders  
Return of Property  
Debt Collection

### Circuit Court Family Law

Divorce  
Child Custody  
Child Support  
Peace and Protective Orders  
Guardianship



## Maryland Court Help

Free. Online. In Person. By Phone.





**The Denney House Inc.**  
DISCOVER | EQUIP | EMPOWER

**FOR MORE  
INFORMATION  
CONTACT US:**



[info@thedenneyhouse.org](mailto:info@thedenneyhouse.org)



301-899-0505



Ft. Washington, MD



[www.thedenneyhouse.org](http://www.thedenneyhouse.org)



## THE DENNEY HOUSE TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROGRAM

**TDH Transitional Housing Program** is a housing first model that was created to provide housing and support services to:

- **Transitional Aged Youth 18-24**
- **Justice-Involved Veterans**
- **Returning Citizens over 24**
- **Persons Fleeing Domestic Violence**

*They must also:*

- **Be a resident of Prince George's County OR**
- **Be willing to establish residency in Prince George's County**

This is a 12 month transitional housing program that supports residents with long-term residency, case management, behavioral and mental health services, life skills, work readiness training, financial literacy, art therapy, spiritual development, and aftercare. This evidenced based program uses components of the 5 Pillars of Livability to guide our residents towards a life of self-sufficiency.

We envision a world where it does not matter where you began but how you finish. If you meet the qualifications above, **complete the application found at [www.thedenneyhouse.org/programs/intransition](http://www.thedenneyhouse.org/programs/intransition)**

SCAN QR CODE  
TO APPLY NOW



[www.thedenneyhouse.org/programs/intransition](http://www.thedenneyhouse.org/programs/intransition)

