

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Public Safety & Security  
Office of Grants & Research**



**Fiscal Year 2022  
Emerging Adults Reentry Initiative Grant  
Emerging Adults Reentry Initiative - Technical Assistance Provider  
Grant**

**Report to the Massachusetts General Court**  
*Senate and House Committees on Ways and Means*

**March 2022**

**Charles D. Baker  
Governor**

**Karyn E. Polito  
Lieutenant Governor**

**Terrence M. Reidy  
Secretary**

**Kevin J. Stanton  
Executive Director**

## **Table of Contents**

<b>I.</b>	<b>Introduction .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>II.</b>	<b>Program Narrative .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>III.</b>	<b>Documents and Materials Required by Applicants.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>IV.</b>	<b>Criteria Used to Evaluate Applicants.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>V.</b>	<b>Applicants/Awarded Funds.....</b>	<b>7</b>

## **I. Introduction**

Pursuant to Line Item 8000-0650 of the FY22 Budget, the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS) submits this report on the FY22 Emerging Adults Reentry Initiative Grant to the House and Senate Committees on Ways and Means. .

EOPSS is responsible for the policy development and budget oversight of the secretariat's agencies, independent programs, and several boards which aid in crime prevention, homeland security preparedness, and ensuring the safety of residents and visitors in the Commonwealth. The agencies that fall under EOPSS are:

- Massachusetts State Police
- Massachusetts Emergency management Agency
- Sex Offender Registry Board
- Department of Fire Services
- Department of Criminal Justice Information Services
- Department of Correction
- Parole Board
- Office of the Chief Medical Examiner
- State 911 Department
- Massachusetts State Police Crime Lab
- Municipal Police Training Committee
- Massachusetts National Guard
- Office of Grants and Research
- Massachusetts Public Safety Broadband Office

The Office of Grants and Research (OGR) is the arm of EOPSS that serves as the State Administering Agency (SAA) for federal criminal justice, homeland security, and highway safety funds. Additionally, OGR manages the Research and Policy Analysis Division (RPAD), which utilizes research and evaluation to promote public safety in the Commonwealth by informing criminal justice and public safety policy. In line with the Bureau of Justice Assistance's (BJA) priorities for evidence-based programming and strategic planning, OGR continually evaluates its current planning process as it relates to the allocation of Justice Assistance Grants (JAG) funding. The goals of the OGR include:

- Improving community safety and local preparedness by providing resources to communities based on need;
- Investing in evidenced based innovative programs;
- Granting awards based on national and state priorities;
- Fostering collaboration across jurisdictions by delivering grant dollars with a regional approach;
- Making funding decisions based upon research, empirical data, and best practices; and
- Ensuring the grant awarding process is transparent and in compliance with federal and state guidelines.

This document serves as the report authored by OGR regarding the FY2022 Emerging Adults Reentry Initiative Grant. In this report, OGR outlines the:

- Successful grant applications and the services they provide;
- Amount of funds awarded to each grantee;
- Criteria used to evaluate grant applications;
- Number of participants served by each program and the communities they are returning to; and
- The outcomes and recidivism rates of the participants in each of the programs.

## II. Program Narrative

With the goal of reducing recidivism and increasing public safety, OGR allocated \$3.8 million in state funds for reentry programming for both pre-release, and post-release offenders currently within or outside the prison walls. This initiative was supported by state funds authorized by the Fiscal Year 2022 General Appropriation Act, Chapter 24 of the Acts of 2021 which is quoted below:

***State Legislation governing these funds-Fiscal Year 2022 General Appropriation Act, Chapter 24 of the Acts of 2021 .....***

*8000-0655 For a grant program to be administered by the executive office of public safety and security for emerging adults re-entry programs to reduce recidivism among individuals between the ages of 18 and 25, inclusive, who are returning to the community from state prisons and county correctional facilities; provided, that the secretary of public safety and security shall distribute funds through a competitive grant program; provided further, that grants shall be awarded to applicants that: (i) are community-based nonprofit programs; (ii) have a demonstrated commitment from the department of correction or a sheriff's office to work collaboratively to deliver services in their respective facilities; (iii) provide both pre-release and post-release services to individuals between the ages of 18 and 25, inclusive, who are returning to the community from state prisons and county correctional facilities including, but not limited to, probationers and parolees; (iv) provide a continuum of programming from state prisons or county correctional facilities into the community; (v) provide pre-release services for all participating individuals that include transition plans, education programs, workforce readiness and life skills programs and counseling; (vi) provide post-release services that include case management for not less than 12 months after participating individuals have been released; and (vii) provide a plan for ensuring that proposed programs shall be implemented with adherence to a research-based or evidence-based program design; provided further, that not more than 6 grants shall be awarded; provided further, that not more than 5 per cent of the total appropriation in this item shall be used to provide administrative support to grantees, including program design, technical assistance and program evaluation; and provided further, that not later than March 1, 2022, the executive office shall provide a report to the house and senate committees on ways and means that shall include, but not be limited to, the: (a) successful grant applications and the services they provide; (b) amount of funds awarded to each grantee; (c) criteria used to evaluate grant applications; (d) number of participants served by each program*

*and the communities they are returning to; and (e) outcomes and recidivism rates of the participants in each of the programs.*

Funding was provided to nonprofit organizations with the proven experience of providing reentry services shown to reduce recidivism amongst the 18-25 years of age cohort and demonstrated history of working collaboratively with the MA Department of Correction (DOC) and/or sheriffs' Offices serving that population.

OGR awarded funds to six (6) community reentry programs to provide pre-release and post-release services while working closely with a correctional partner to identify, serve, and monitor program participants. OGR selected a Technical Assistance Provider was selected through this competitive process to assist the funded community reentry sites by providing strategic, analytical, technical, and research support.

### III. Documents and Materials Required by Applicants

OGR awarded appropriated funds through a competitive grant process, according to the following timeline:

Availability of Grant Funds (AGF) Posted	October 15, 2021
Deadline for Questions	October 22, 2021
Application Due	Friday, November 12, 2021, 4:00 p.m.
Award Notification	December 2021
Performance Period	~ January 1, 2022-December 31, 2022

OGR required each applicant to submit:

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the applicant and the DOC or local sheriff's department validating the applicant's previous collaborative relationship and attesting to such future collaboration as it relates to the submitted application;
- Within the application itself, OGR required the following:
  - ***Program Narrative*** – Statement of the Problem/Needs Assessment;
  - ***Program Description*** – Scope and intent of the program and how it will address the problem or need;
  - ***Program Goals and Objectives, Activities, Timeline, and Performance Measures*** –
    - Goals are broad statements that describe the program's intentions and desired outcomes;
    - Objectives describe the activities that support the program's goal(s);
    - Activities and timeline represent the programmatic

activities to be carried out within the proposed program period; and

- Performance Measures are the means by which the applicant plans on collecting data and measuring their program's progress. (The purpose of developing performance measures is to determine the extent to which the program's funded activities have achieved the program's goals.) Budget – The funds necessary to implement the proposed program and achieve its goals and objectives over a 12-month period.

#### **IV. Criteria Used to Evaluate Applicants**

OGR determined award amounts based on total amount requested, availability of funds, applicants' compliance with the application process, and satisfactory review and approval of proposed projects and requested budgets.

OGR subjected applications to a competitive review process in tandem with the respective Emerging Adults Reentry Initiative Technical Assistance Provider applications. Each application was evaluated based on the following:

- **Relevancy of applicant qualifications and experience.**  
The applicant's demonstrated knowledge and past professional experience providing strategic, analytic, technical and research support relevant to providing reentry services shown to reduce recidivism amongst the 18-25 years of age population to determine the applicant's capacity to support the Emerging Adults Reentry Initiative.
- **Quality of action research.**  
The applicant's demonstrated ability to present qualitative and quantitative data was used to determine the applicant's ability to inform the Emerging Adults Reentry Initiative stakeholders of the emerging trends and program effectiveness.
- **Justification of the partnership and collaboration.**  
Evidence of existing or proposed partnerships between the applicant and community reentry programs was used to determine if the proposed partnership will result in productive and effective efforts that help reduce the recidivism amongst the 18-25 years of age population. Additionally, the applicant's ability to adequately allocate resources for reporting assistance was taken into consideration.
- **Consistency between the proposed budget and strategy.**  
The proposed budget was evaluated to ensure that the approved cost categories would ensure proper implementation and maximum effectiveness of the proposed strategy.

OGR numerically assessed and scored the applications according to the point system below.

- Project Narrative including statement of the problem, needs assessment, applicant experience/capability, strength of partnership with DOC and/or selected Sheriff's office, and program description: 30 points
- Realistic, thorough, and achievable goals, objectives, timelines, and activities: 15 points
- Description of proposed performance measures and data collection methods used for quarterly reporting of progress and performance metrics: 15 points
- Reasonable and cost-effective budget demonstrating allowable costs, compliance with state rules, and direct support of proposed strategy/activities: 30 points
- Ability to follow Submission Procedures (adherence to rules and guidelines for submitting this grant such as blue ink signatures, submitting required attachments, not exceeding page limits, completed Applicant Information and Program Information sections, etc.): 10 points

## V. Applicants Awarded Funds

OGR selected six(6) applicants from the eight(8) submitted applications to receive funds from the Emerging Adults Reentry Initiative Grant Program. The eight (8) applicants are listed in the table below, along with the amounts allocated:

Title	Applicant	Award
FY22 Emerging Adult Reentry Initiative Grant	Roca-Hampden County	\$616,000.00
FY22 Emerging Adult Reentry Initiative Grant	Roca-Suffolk County	\$616,000.00
FY22 Emerging Adult Reentry Initiative Grant	Roca-Middlesex County	\$617,000.00
FY22 Emerging Adult Reentry Initiative Grant	UTEC-Essex County	\$617,000.00
FY22 Emerging Adult Reentry Initiative Grant	UTEC-Middlesex County	\$617,000.00
FY22 Emerging Adult Reentry Initiative Grant	UTEC-Department of Correction	\$617,000.00
FY22 Emerging Adult Reentry Initiative Grant	Asian American Civic Association	Not Funded
FY22 Emerging Adult Reentry Initiative Grant	College Bound Dorchester (Boston Uncornered)	Not Funded

OGR chose one applicant to receive funds from the Emerging Adults Reentry Initiative Grant Program to serve as a Technical Assistance Provider. OGR received one (1) application for the Technical Assistance Provider funding. The awardee is listed in the table below, along with the amount allocated:

Title	Applicant Name	Award
FY 2022 Emerging Adults Reentry Initiative Grant TA Provider	UTEC, Inc. Training Center for Excellence	\$ 100,000.00

Below is a list of each grant recipient with a brief description of their proposed project, anticipated number of participants served by each program, and the communities to which participants are returning.

Award Recipient: **Roca – Hampden County**

- **Brief Project Description:** The Hampden County Emerging Adult Reentry Initiative (HC-EARI) is designed to serve the highest-risk emerging adults, those who engage in violence and substance use and those most likely to recidivate.
- **Number of participants:**
  - 75-100 men per month over the course of the grant period for pre-release services
  - 50-60 men “at any given time” for post-release services
- **Community returning to:** Hampden County (Springfield and Holyoke)
- **Award Amount:** \$616,000

Award Recipient: **Roca – Suffolk County**

- **Brief Project Description:** The Suffolk County Emerging Adult Reentry Initiative (SC-EARI) is designed to serve the highest-risk emerging adults, those who engage in violence and substance use and those most likely to recidivate.
- **Number of participants:**
  - 75-100 men per month over the course of the grant period for pre-release services
  - 50-60 men for post-release services
- **Community returning to:** Suffolk County (Boston and Chelsea)
- **Award Amount:** \$616,000

Award Recipient: **Roca – Middlesex County**

- **Brief Project Description:** The Middlesex County Emerging Adult Reentry Initiative (MC-EARI) is designed to serve the highest-risk emerging adults, those who engage in violence and substance use and those most likely to recidivate.
- **Number of participants:**
  - 75-100 men per month over the course of the grant period for pre-release services
  - 50-60 men “at any given time” for post-release services
- **Community returning to:** Middlesex County (Malden, Everett, Medford, Cambridge and Somerville)
- **Award Amount:** \$617,000



Award Recipient: **UTEC – Department of Correction**

- **Brief Project Description:** This project is designed to align programming that creates a bridge from confinement into the community, including counseling, educational, life skills and workforce development activities within a developmentally appropriate setting. The target population will be high-risk, emerging adults who have been incarcerated at the Department of Correction and returning to the Merrimack Valley area.
- **Number of participants:**
  - 30-40 young adults over the course of the year who are incarcerated in DOC facilities or recently released (based on numbers served over past year)
- **Community returning to:** Merrimack Valley (Lowell, Lawrence, and Haverhill)
- **Award Amount:** \$617,000

Award Recipient: **UTEC – Essex County**

- **Brief Project Description:** This project is designed to align programming that creates a bridge from confinement into the community, including counseling, educational, life skills and workforce development activities within a developmentally appropriate setting. The target population will be high-risk, emerging adults who have been incarcerated at the Essex Sheriff's Office and returning to the Merrimack Valley area (specifically, Lawrence and Haverhill).
- **Number of participants:**
  - 30-40 young adults over the course of the year who are incarcerated in Essex County Sheriff's Department (ECSD) facilities or recently released (based on numbers served over past year)
- **Community returning to:** Merrimack Valley (Lawrence and Haverhill)
- **Award Amount:** \$617,000

Award Recipient: **UTEC – Middlesex County**

- **Brief Project Description:** This project is designed to align programming that creates a bridge from confinement into the community, including counseling, educational, life skills and workforce development activities within a developmentally appropriate setting. The target population will be high-risk, emerging adults who have been incarcerated at the Middlesex Sheriff's Office and returning to the Merrimack Valley area (specifically, Lowell).
- **Number of participants:**
  - 30-40 young adults over the course of the year who are incarcerated in Middlesex Sheriff Office (MSO) facilities or recently released (based on numbers served over past year)
- **Community returning to:** Merrimack Valley (Lowell)
- **Award Amount:** \$617,000

Award Recipient - **Technical Assistance Provider: UTEC – Training Center for Excellence (TC4E)**

- Brief Project Description: UTEC's TC4E will serve as the single point of contact for the management of the reentry grant for all six of the Emerging Adults Reentry Initiative grantees. UTEC, in partnership with Health Resources in Action and others, will provide evaluation tools, including support for data entry, collection, and analysis.
- Award Amount: \$100,000

See Appendices for more detailed information as compiled by the TA Provider UTEC's TC4E regarding the number of participants served, the communities that participants are returning to, and the outcomes/recidivism rates of the participants as a result of the FY21 Emerging Adult Reentry Initiative.

*Appendix A: FY21 Emerging Adult Reentry Report*

*Appendix B: FY2021 Emerging Adult Reentry Program Outcomes*

Appendix A

# UTEC Training Center for Excellence

*The Emerging Adult Reentry Grant Program*



**2021 Final Report**



## Summary of Grant Period

The Emerging Adult Reentry Initiative is focused on furthering policy initiatives for emerging adult justice best practices while providing support to develop and sustain specified emerging adult units within the Massachusetts correctional system, focusing on successful re-entry. The project aims to develop a continuum of services for emerging adults (18-25) returning from incarceration through re-entry by partnering with programs providing support to young adults using evidence-based models. The project is funded by the MA Executive Office of Public Safety and Security and in partnership with Health Resources in Action (HRIA) and the Columbia Justice Lab. The goal of the initiative is to address the high recidivism rates of emerging adults through the creation of a learning lab to strengthen relationships with key partners and get buy-in from stakeholders providing services to young adults ages 18-25 in pre and post-release settings.

The TC4E EAJ initiative provides stakeholders an opportunity for training and technical support using best practices and innovations with the ultimate goal of decreased recidivism and better outcomes for emerging adults in Massachusetts. With support from HRIA, a comprehensive needs assessment was conducted in 2020 to best assess interest areas from all key stakeholders in the project. In 2021, TC4E worked closely with partners to address the key findings from the needs assessment by providing training to partners in “Positive Youth Development” and racial equity.

With guidance from the Columbia Justice Lab and stakeholder participation, TC4E also developed and implemented a Learning Lab to convene leadership of institutions charged with overseeing emerging adult justice, while providing training in partnership with HRIA to outreach workers, corrections officers and other professionals working on the ground with this specialized population. Additionally, the Columbia Justice Lab in partnership with TC4E, designed a performance evaluation metrics tool for program providers. (*See Appendix B*).

TC4E met with Re-entry Programs (UTEC, ROCA and South Shore WIB) on a monthly basis to update, support and advise programs on best practices for remote engagement with young adults and community partners. TC4E met with grant partners HRIA and Columbia Justice Lab on a monthly basis (often more) to plan activities in addition to coordinating training and convening for stakeholder partners. In 2021, TC4E along with EARI program providers, training partners, stakeholders, with support from EOPSS was able to transition initial planning sessions from telephone calls and Zoom meetings to in-person meetings and activities.

By spring 2021, EARI program providers and partners began the grant period with tremendous enthusiasm and optimism. It seemed as though the impacts of the Covid pandemic were starting to stabilize. Programs and partners began planning to transition back to in-person

activities. All partners including TC4E were engaged in multiple activities ranging from direct service work in the community; work behind the walls in partnership with correctional facilities; strategy meetings with potential employees; training and onboarding staff and mentors; and convenings with key partners. The project added a third program partner, the South Shore Workforce Board, charged with supporting emerging adults and re-entry partners in the Southeast region of Massachusetts. The project also expanded its training capacity by establishing a formal partnership with Suffolk University Center for Restorative Justice. The partnership serves as a resource to address racial equity through restorative justice circle practice and certification.

### **Key TC4E highlights include**

- Design of a new performance measurement tool
- Convening with MA Department of Corrections leadership team and program partners
- Launch of MCI Concord BRAVE Unit
- Training and development of BRAVE Unit staff and mentors
- Credible Messenger program onboarding and training

## **Summary of Activities**

After several weeks of planning and coordination, TC4E hosted a “Kick-off” session with program partners and EOPSS in late June of 2020. The purpose of this session was to begin to build relationships with program leadership; review the expectations for delivery of services; and to review the expectations for programmatic and financial reporting. Furthermore, TC4E prepared a strategy for the development and implementation of a needs assessment in collaboration with Health Resources in Action (HRIA) and with consultation from Columbia Justice Lab for non-correctional partners and stakeholders providing pre- and post-release services to emerging adults in Massachusetts. Lastly, the session provided additional context for how programs could shift their models to serve pre- and post-release young adults safely while adhering to the state’s COVID 19 guidelines.

### **Meetings/Convenings**

In July 2021, DOC leadership, including Commissioner Carol Mici, attended a Kickoff event at the MA Department of Corrections training center in Milford, Massachusetts. Subject matter experts Lael Chester and Selen Siringil Perker of the Columbia University Justice Lab, shared research in the fields of neurobiology, developmental psychology and sociology that are driving

changes in practices and policies for system-involved emerging adults around the country. They were joined by Michael Lawlor, Professor at the University of New Haven who spearheaded the development of specialized correctional units for emerging adults in Connecticut for Governor Malloy's administration. Lawlor and the Justice Lab presented the key findings of a recent Report written by the Justice Lab and national experts, including Lawlor, describing the key ingredients needed for the successful design and implementation of specialized correctional units for this distinct age group. This was followed by a presentation by Scott Chaput, of the Connecticut TRUE Unit, and Crystal Swinimer of the Middlesex PACT Unit, who gave insight into operational strategies learned through their experience launching and sustaining Emerging Adult units. This event was intended to generate buy-in among the DOC's top leadership and to showcase the potential benefits of Emerging Adult units to all DOC operations. Program staff from UTEC, ROCA, and the South Shore Workforce Investment Board were in attendance.

## **Training**

### **Youth Development Training: Engaging Emerging Adults**

*Emerging Adult Re-Entry Initiative*

*DOC Concord*

*August 2021*

The C4E team led two trainings for BRAVE Unit Correctional Officers and unit mentors in advance of the BRAVE Unit opening. The Health Resources in Action team, led by two senior trainers, completed a two-day training for the Concord Department of Corrections BRAVE unit. The interactive training focused on engaging emerging adults, including the basics of a youth development approach and working toward youth participation. The UTEC-Suffolk University Center for Restorative Justice team led a two-day Restorative Justice Circle Practices training. Participants were encouraged to engage in activities and role plays to prepare them for working with emerging adults.

## **Audience and Reach:**

The training was delivered to an audience of approximately 30 correctional officers and seven unit mentors slated to staff the Concord Department of Corrections BRAVE Unit. As suggested by the Needs Assessment, unit leadership participated in the training. DOC leadership was present for the first day of the training.

## **Training Description**

In this intensive two-day training, participants explored elements of youth and emerging adult culture and developed skills to build relationships with young adults. Participants learned how to articulate positive outcomes for emerging adults and name factors to promote resilience in

emerging adults. Participants also learned the fundamentals of adolescent and emerging adult brain development, including the impact of trauma on the brain. Finally, participants developed a working understanding of adultism and youth participation, and brainstormed strategies to increase youth participation in programming.

#### Introduction to Restorative Justice Practices and Circle Training Certification Program

These two-day experiential training prepared participants to design and facilitate restorative circles. Participants gained direct experience with circles and an understanding of the elements, philosophy, and rituals of the circles. Opportunities to practice both planning and facilitation of circles is built in. These trainings focused on using circles regularly to maintain healthy and open relational spaces where everyone feels they are heard and belong, enhancing the culture, climate and community environment. These trainings introduced the fundamental principles of restorative justice and prepared staff to use circles within their own work and living contexts.

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#### **Credible Messenger Orientation**

*Boston Re-Entry Initiative*

*Suffolk County*

*September 2021*

The C4E team led two trainings as part of an intensive orientation for newly hired Credible messengers. The Health Resources in Action team completed a full-day training focused on the basics of trauma and trauma-informed practices, Motivational Interviewing strategies, and De-Escalation techniques. The UTEC-Suffolk University Center for Restorative Justice team led a two-day Restorative Justice Circle Practices training. Opportunities for practice were built into each training, and trainers drew on participants' prior experience in the field to enhance understanding of the material.

#### **Audience and Reach**

Training was delivered to seven newly-hired credible messengers as part of an intensive two-week orientation program. Credible messengers had diverse professional backgrounds as well as lived experience.

#### **Training Descriptions**

##### Trauma-informed Communication Strategies for Credible Messengers: Motivational Interviewing Skills and De-Escalation in Times of Crisis

Through this training, participants learned to define the public health approach to violence and the approach to addressing it. Participants gained frameworks and skills to better work with



clients, including introduction to the brain science around trauma response, the basics of a trauma-informed approach, and how to recognize secondary trauma. Participants also learned and practiced new skills, including motivational interviewing techniques and the fundamentals of De-Escalation.

#### Introduction to Restorative Justice Practices and Circle Training Certification Program

These two-day experiential training prepared participants to design and facilitate restorative circles. Participants gained direct experience with circles and an understanding of the elements, philosophy, and rituals of the circles. Opportunities to practice both planning and facilitation of circles is built in. These trainings focused on using circles regularly to maintain healthy and open relational spaces where everyone feels they are heard and belong, enhancing the culture, climate and community environment. These trainings introduced the fundamental principles of restorative justice and prepared staff to use circles within their own work and living contexts.

### **Key Programmatic Highlights**

- EARI provided services 513 Emerging Adults in 2021
- Maintained partnerships with all key Justice stakeholders, including Probation, Parole, Courts, District Attorneys, Health and Human Services, Department of Youth Services, Department of Corrections, Sheriffs, Committee for Public Counsel Services, ROCA and UTEC.
- Increased capacity for mental health services behind the wall through individual counseling, CBT, and restorative justice healing circles
- Program staff and correctional staff relationship building
- Increased opportunities for peer sharing



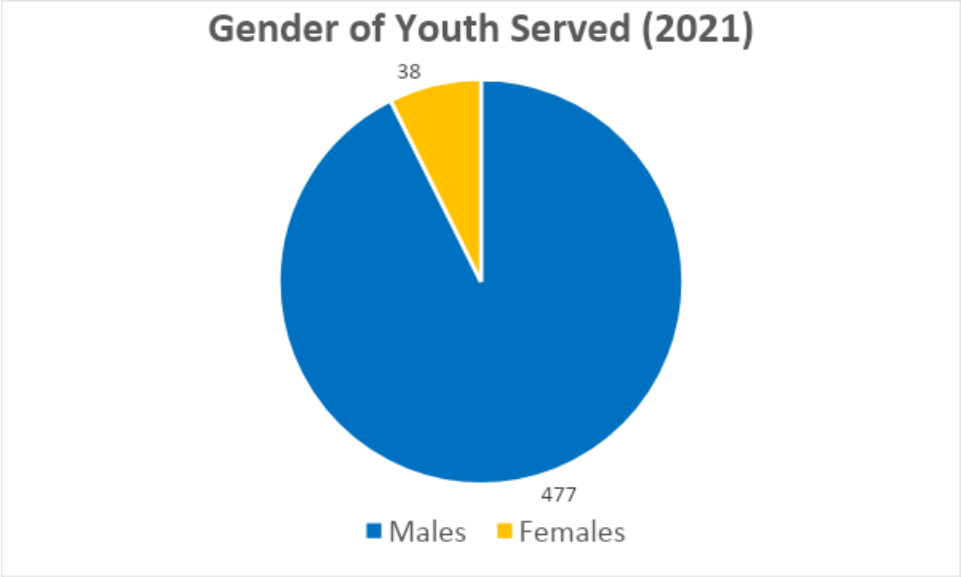
## Data Narrative

The Emerging Adult Justice Project at Columbia University Justice Lab, in partnership with UTEC and Roca, undertook an evaluation of the performance and outcome measurements of this project and developed an updated template (see Appendix A). The goals were to:

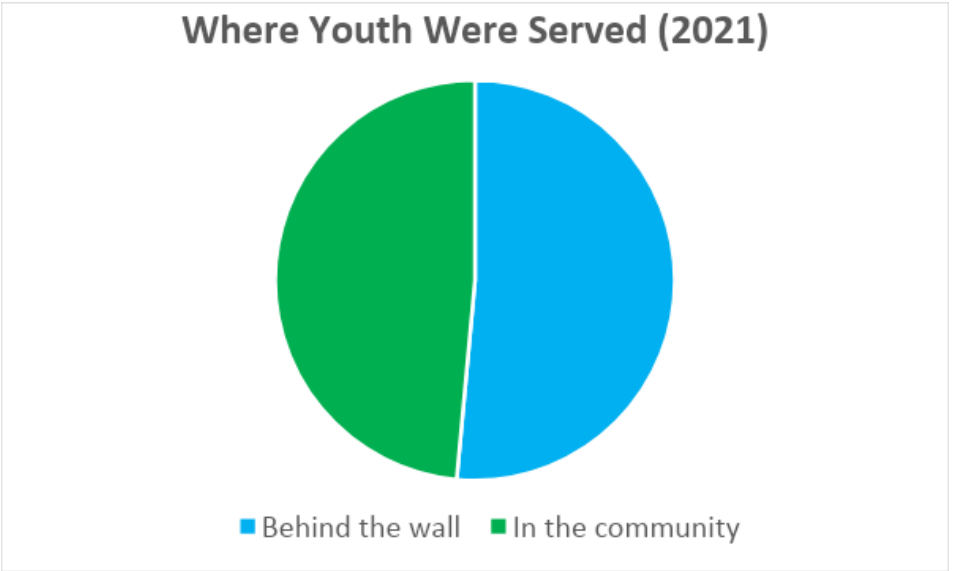
- *Get a clearer understanding of the youth being served*, including their gender, race/ethnicity and age (and also to allow Massachusetts to track any changes or trends in the future);
- *Capture the types and breadth of services provided* to young people by the community service providers, with a particular focus on those that have been identified by research to be particularly effective at supporting their development into mature and healthy adulthood and assisting them in achieving key developmental milestones that lead to desistance from criminal-behavior; and
- *Assess recidivism* in a way that provides a more detailed and accurate picture of any continued justice system-involvement (e.g., distinguishing between new conviction and technical violations)

This new template was used to collect data in 2021 and is reflected in this report. But because the development of this template occurred over the course of the year, state agencies could not provide all the data requested by the due date of this report. Any missing data is noted in this year's report but, now that the categories have been established, the data can be collected and reported going forward.

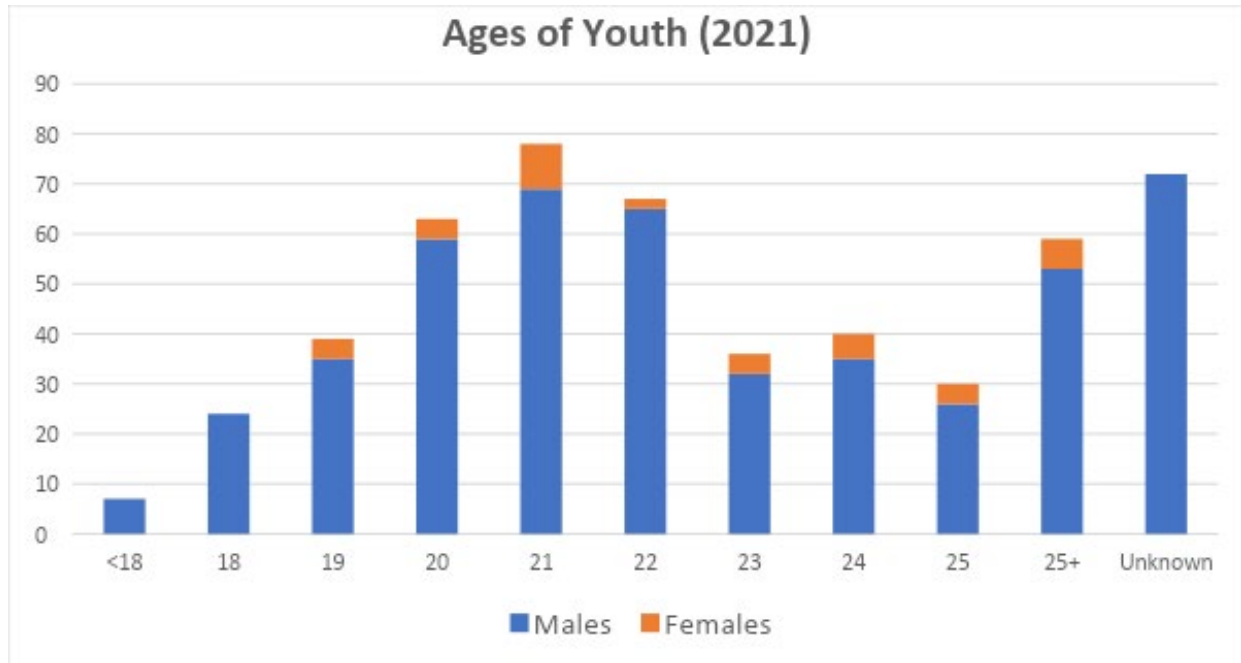
A total of **513 youths were served in 2021** and the vast majority were males. This is partly due to the fact that the Massachusetts specialized correctional units currently serve males only. But the gender breakdown also reflects the national incarceration data. In the future, the goal is to capture more detailed data regarding gender identification, including youth who identify as non-binary.



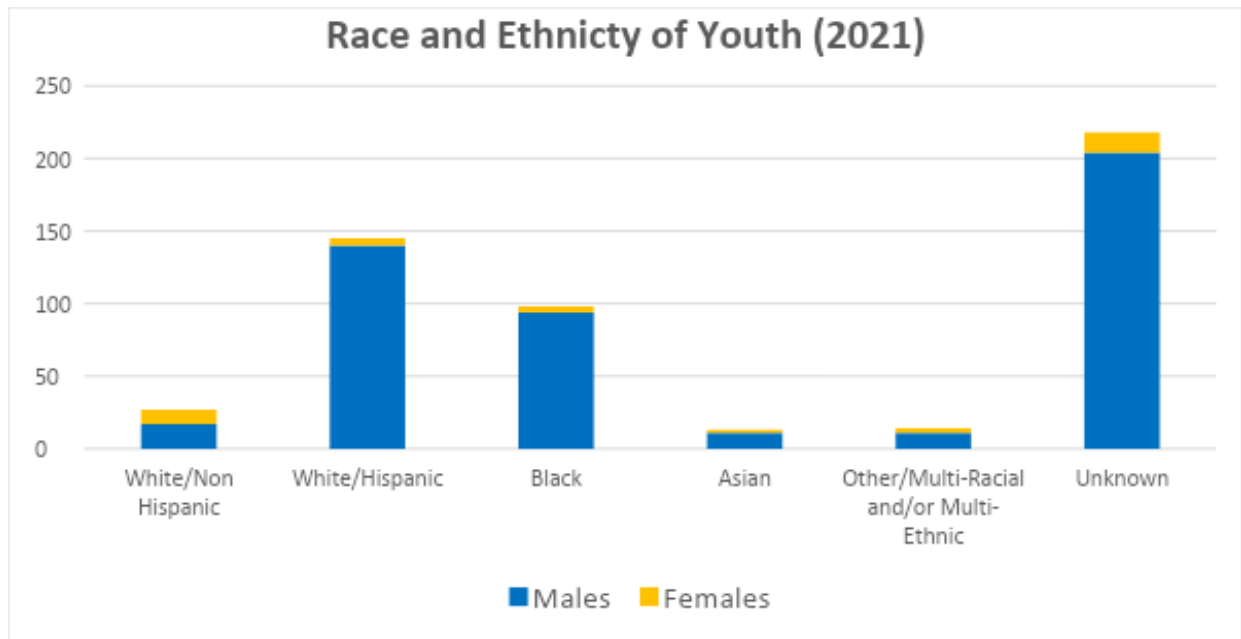
There was a an almost even split between the number of youths served behind the walls in Massachusetts Houses of Correction as in the community. It should be noted that UTEC has started to serve emerging adults in the Department of Corrections new B.R.A.V.E. Unit at MCI Concord as well.



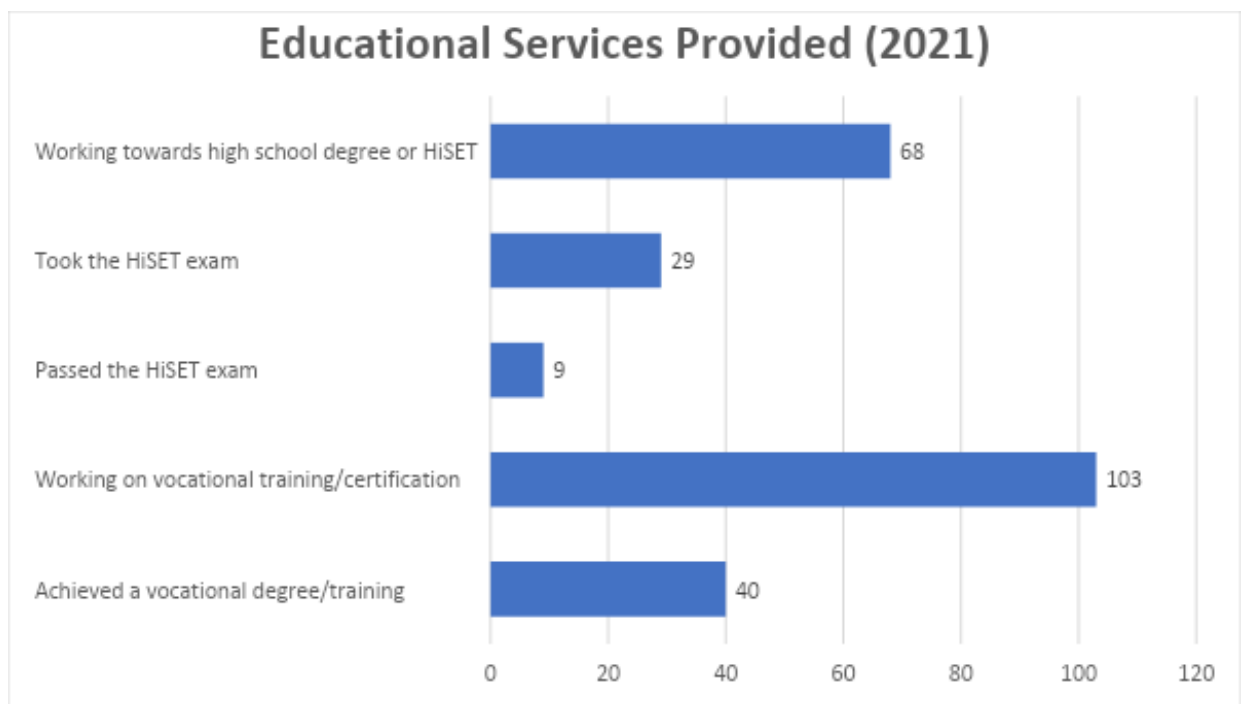
The ages of the youth served cover the full spectrum of emerging adulthood, with 21-year-olds being served most frequently and **emerging adults ages 21 and over making up the majority of the caseloads.**



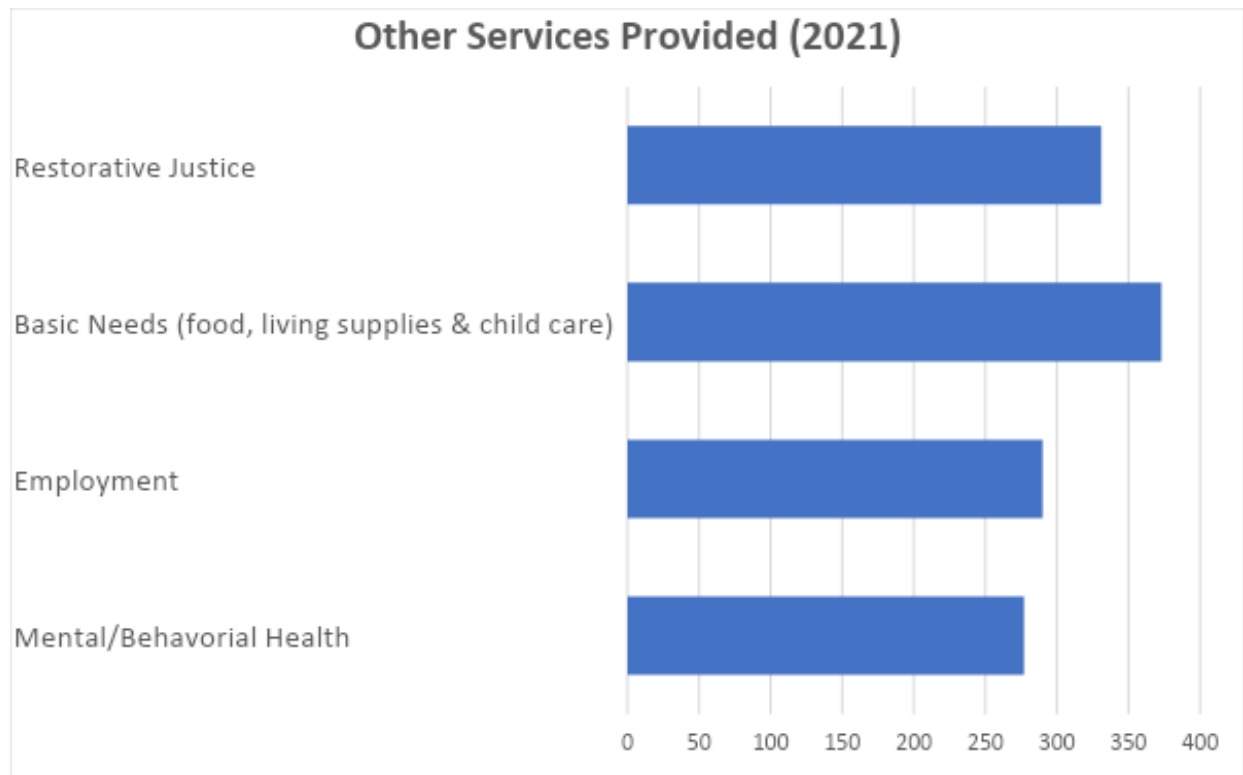
The racial and ethnic breakdowns of the data that is currently available show that **White/Non-Hispanics are under-represented compared to the general population, while youth of color are over-represented.** The largest group represented are Hispanic youth, which reflects both the neighborhoods served and expertise of the community service providers. Finally, it should be noted that racial disparities are a national problem and that the age group with the highest rates of racial disparities in the U.S. are emerging adults. By providing developmentally appropriate responses to this age group, Massachusetts has the potential to help alleviate the stark and troubling racial disparities.



Educational services were one of the most prominent type of service provided to emerging adults in 2021. This included efforts to take and pass the HiSET exam as well as vocational training that led to certifications.



In addition, youth were provided with mental and behavioral health. Considering the high rates of trauma experienced by system-involved young people, this has always been important. But during the pandemic, when rates of anxiety and depression are particularly high for this age group, these services have become even more important. The fuller list of services can be found in the chart below:



It is worth noting that food became a greater-than-expected need during the course of the pandemic. Not only did the community providers serve young people food, but the emerging adults also served food to members of the greater community. This sharing of food was significant; for example, UTEC estimates that approximately 1,550 meals were served by young people to community members in the Merrimack Valley.

The data on recidivism for this report focused on measuring the number of new convictions after one year of being released from an adult correctional facility. This is considered the “gold” standard, as it is more robust than measuring re-arrest (where a disproportionate number of system-involved youth live in heavily policed neighborhoods and are much more likely to be in contact with police than youth from better resourced neighborhoods). Because of limits to the current data collection system, UTEC examined the outcomes of the 103 youth who they have been working with for at least a year and who are now living in the community (rather than measuring the time from one-year post release).

The combined data (from both UTEC and Roca) show that of the 136 young people being tracked, only 5 male emerging adults were re-convicted of a criminal offense one-year after release (2 White/Hispanic, 2 Black and 1 Multi-racial/other). **As measured, the recidivism rate is less than 4%.**

## UTEC in the News

# THE SUN

\$2.00

FACEBOOK.COM/LOWELLSUN

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lowellsun.com



COURTESY UTEC

Celebrating at Gillette Stadium on Sept. 8 were, from left, Desiree Thornton, UTEC young adult; Carlos Collazo, UTEC streetworker; Filix Nieves, UTEC young adult; Armando Melo, UTEC young adult; Francellis Quinones, organizing program manager; Will Vilas-Novas, director of workforce development; and Gregg Croteau, chief executive officer.

## Patriots Foundation picks UTEC as 'Community Captain'

### Staff Report

**LOWELL** • A well-known and respected Lowell nonprofit features prominently in a new initiative created by the New England Patriots Foundation and Bank of America designed to build deeper relationships with the agencies and the populations they serve.

The new program is called

"Community Captains." It was launched last week at Gillette Stadium and includes Lowell's own UTEC.

The Patriots Foundation and Bank of America hand-selected each of the nonprofit organizations, which, besides UTEC, includes Abby's House in Worcester; La Colaborativa in Chelsea; The Food Bank of Western Mass in Hatfield;

Girls Inc. of the Valley in Holyoke; and Sojourner House in Providence, R.I.

Over the next two years, the Patriots Foundation and Bank of America will work closely with the six nonprofit organizations. The goal of the program is to establish a deeper understanding of the community efforts of each and to help each charity serve their con-

stituents more effectively.

A total of \$300,000 in donations will be granted to the Community Captains — \$50,000 for each organization. In addition to financial support, each of the nonprofits will receive in-kind donations, visits from the Patriots Foundation and Bank of America, access to additional support,

UTEC » 4A

# The Eagle-Tribune

## UTEC receives \$50K boost for community outreach efforts

FOXBOROUGH — UTEC, the anti-violence group aimed at reaching at-risk



youth through programming and education in Haverhill, Lawrence and Lowell, recently received a \$50,000 boost from the Patriots Foundation and Bank of America when UTEC became a Community Captain during a new program launched by the Patriots Foundation.

Over the next two years, the group will work with UTEC to offer in-kind donations, visits from the Patriots Foundation and Bank of America and access to Bank of America's Better Money

Habits program, among other benefits.

"The nonprofit organizations supported by this new initiative are doing vital work in the community. The positive impact they have on the people and families they serve is extraordinary," said Bank of America President Miceal Chamberlain in a statement. "Together with the Patriots Foundation, our goal is to provide them with the tools and resources they need to succeed at a time when the demand placed on nonprofits throughout the region has greatly increased."

UTEC was the only Merrimack Valley nonprofit selected for the honor.



LOWELL

# Health official joins chat on gun violence

## Hosted by UTEC leaders

Submitted Article

LOWELL » Rep. Lori Trahan and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra joined with UTEC leaders as well as state and local

UTEC » 7A

### UTEC

FROM PAGE 3A

partners to highlight federally supported programs with a proven track record of reducing youth recidivism and addressing gun violence in Lowell, Lawrence and Haverhill.

"I'm grateful for the opportunity to show Secretary Becerra the incredible work being done at UTEC each day to improve the lives of children and young adults across the region," Trahan said. "It's thanks to their ongoing efforts that have persisted through the pandemic, as well as robust federal investments, that hundreds of at-risk young adults remain on track to achieving employment or graduating with their degree. It's heartening to know that we have a champion for organizations like UTEC in Secretary Becerra leading the Department largely responsible for those investments, and I look forward to partnering with him on a number of initiatives in the future."

"I applaud organizations like UTEC that bring communities together and help nurture tomorrow's leaders," Becerra said. "They're fighting poverty and prejudice with hope and opportunity. We will continue to support such programs that enrich the lives of young people and help our nation build back better. There is no greater invest-



JULIA MALAKIE PHOTOS / LOWELL SUN

Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra visits UTEC to discuss reducing recidivism and supporting youth with local leaders on Tuesday.

our public health, and our economic prosperity."

Originally founded by young people in 1999 as the "United Teen Equality Center" to address gang violence in Lowell, UTEC has expanded dramatically to break a number of barriers young adults and their children face throughout the Merrimack Valley.

In addition to offering child care and special en-

ganization has prioritized reducing young adult recidivism rates in the communities they serve through a number of programs and initiatives, including streetworker outreach, correctional facility outreach, transitional coaching, workforce development, mental health services, gun violence prevention training, and more.

"We are thrilled to wel-



Health and Human Services secretary Xavier Becerra visits UTEC with U.S. Rep. Lori Trahan, to discuss reducing recidivism and supporting youth with local leaders. From left, streetworker Paul Chaleunphong, Armando Melo, Trahan, Becerra, Jovi Cruz, Felix Nieves and Miguel Jackson pose for a photo.

UTEC alongside Congresswoman Trahan, Secretary Sudders, and other city and state leaders," said Gregg Croteau, UTEC CEO. "We couldn't be more proud of the work our young adults do on a daily basis. As we firmly believe in the importance of centering young adults in conversations regarding the policies impacting their success, it is an honor to have the highest human services official in the country join us. And we are beyond appreciative for the many partnerships that have solidified this region as a true innovator in best serving young adults as they pursue social and economic success."

Last year, UTEC served 168 young adults through its intensive enrollment

individuals through its streetworker and community outreach and violence intervention efforts.

All of those served were from low-income families and an overwhelming majority met high risk factors that include a previous criminal record, gang involvement, lack of a high school credential, and expecting or already parenting children.

Despite those challenges, more than four out of every five participants had no new arrests and maintained employment or enrolled in postsecondary education.

Additionally, since July 2020, UTEC repurposed its catering and events social enterprise to deliver free, nutritious meals to indi-

nians facing food insecurity across the region. To date, UTEC has partnered with local partners across the Merrimack Valley to deliver more than 100,000 meals.

UTEC has been the recipient of multiple federal grants to support the many programs offered at its sites, including \$156,000 in funding last fiscal year for its child care facility from the HHS's Office of Head Start through a partnership with Community Teamwork Inc., a \$700,000 HHS economic development grant to create employment and business opportunities for low-income families and individuals, and a \$750,000 Department of Justice grant to bolster their recidivism re-

<https://www.lowellsun.com/2021/08/18/utec-welcomes-hhs-secretary-becerra-to-discussion-on-gun-violence-recidivism>

# Roca in the News

## GBH NEWS

LOCAL

### ▶ Young adults facing prison get a second chance through first-in-the-nation court program



ROCA Court Coordinator Kiki Thorne (r) leads a short cognitive behavioral therapy lesson with EACH participants Joel (l) and Marc (c) on September 23, 2021 at the ROCA office in Springfield, Massachusetts.

Sarah Betancourt / GBH News

By **Sarah Betancourt**  
November 16, 2021

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▶ LISTEN 4:24  
Young adults facing prison get a second chance through first-in-the-nation court program

Updated at 11:21 a.m. Nov. 16

After a high-speed car chase landed Joel in jail awaiting trial on an extensive list of charges — including carrying a loaded firearm without a license — the 22-year-old is working toward a new life.

He was facing a minimum of ten years in prison when his lawyer presented him with an opportunity: plead guilty to the charges and join the Emerging Adult Court of Hope. It will take Joel about two years to complete the laundry list of tasks required through the program, but success means he gets to stay in the free world and rebuild his life.

"I'm doing well, judge," he told Judge Kevin Maltby during a recent check-in. Maltby leaned over. "Let's keep up with the no write-ups," he said. "Is there anything else you want to talk about?" They chat about Joel getting his driver's license.

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## *Court of Hope*

Part 3

# Disrupting the cycle of incarceration

It all starts with the right role models; And for Roca participants, most of the right role models have criminal backgrounds

Published on Aug 15, 2021



Antonio works on the landscaping team with his Roca supervisor Mike Roper. He joined the program in September 2019 and will have to complete 45 days of work with Roca as part of the EACH program. (Douglas Hook / MassLive)



By Douglas Hook | [dhook@masslive.com](mailto:dhook@masslive.com)



At the crack of dawn, Mike Roper starts his daily routine with the energy of a man half his age. He motivates himself to show the young adults that he works with what it could be like for them if they make the right choices.

Roper, a crew supervisor and team leader at Roca told MassLive that crime can be addictive. Fast money and the notoriety one gets as a gangster is appealing for many young people as it was for him in his youth, he admits.



Social Enterprise

## A Better Way to Keep People From Going Back to Prison

Most programs that try to help formerly imprisoned people re-enter society and avoid reincarceration have been far from successful. Cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) may help turn the tide.

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By [Amy Barch](#) | Jul. 7, 2021



A class on cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) in 2017 at Turning Leaf, a nonprofit in Charleston, South Carolina, that helps former prisoners avoid reincarceration. (Photo via Rob Byko Photography)

Criminal justice in the United States is in desperate need of reform. The nation has the [highest incarceration rate in the world](#). Twenty percent of all of the world's prisoners are [found in this country](#). And despite the US spending [\\$80 billion a year](#) on incarcerating people, it fails at rehabilitation: Of the 600,000 people released from prisons each year, 67 percent of them are re-arrested within three years. Within nine years, [it's 83 percent](#).

If the US is going to end mass incarceration, we must do more to keep people from returning to prison. There are hundreds of organizations across the country working on the problem, but they have yet to make meaningful progress. Reentry programs—efforts to integrate former prisoners with society outside of bars— are often [found to be ineffective](#).

**Re-Entry Performance and Outcome Measurements**  
**Calendar Year 1/1/21 – 12/31/21**  
**Emerging/Young Adults**

**I. DEMOGRAPHICS**

<b>Total # of youths served</b>			<b>513</b>
	# behind the walls		<b>264</b>
	# living in the community		<b>249</b>
<b>Total # of females</b>			<b>38</b>
	<i>Race/Ethnicity Categories</i>	White/Non-Hispanic	<b>10</b>
		White/Hispanic	<b>5</b>
		Black	<b>4</b>
		Asian	<b>2</b>
		Other/Multi-Racial and/or	<b>3</b>
		Unknown	<b>14</b>
	<i>Ages</i>	# of 18-year-olds	<b>0</b>
		19-year-olds	<b>4</b>
		20-year-olds	<b>4</b>
		21-year-olds	<b>9</b>
		22-year-olds	<b>2</b>
		23-year-olds	<b>4</b>
		24-year-olds	<b>5</b>
		25-year-olds	<b>4</b>

		25+-year-olds	6
	# held/released from a HOC facility		11
<b>Total # of males</b>			<b>477</b>
	<i>Race/Ethnicity Categories</i>	White/Non-Hispanic	17
		White/Hispanic	140
		Black	94
		Asian	11
		Other/Multi-Racial and/or Multi-Ethnic	11
		Unknown	204
	<i>Ages</i>	# of 17-year-olds	7
		# of 18-year-olds	24
		19-year-olds	35
		20-year-olds	59
		21-year-olds	69
		22-year-olds	65
		23-year-olds	32
		24-year-olds	35
		25-year-olds	26
		25+-year-olds	53
		Age unknown	72

	# held/released from a HOC facility		<b>327</b>
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## II. SERVICES PROVIDED

<b># of people who received educational services</b>			<b>249</b>
	# of people working towards high school degree or HiSET		<b>68</b>
	# of people who achieved a high school degree		<b>0</b>
	# of people who took the HiSET exam		<b>29</b>
	# of people who passed the HiSET exam		<b>9</b>
	# of people working on vocational training/certification		<b>103</b>
	# of people who achieved a vocational degree/training		<b>40</b>
	# of people working on higher ed (college level)		<b>0</b>
<b># of people who received mental/behavioral health</b>			<b>277</b>
	Total # of people engaged in one-on-one counseling with licensed		<b>117</b>
	Total # of people engaged in group therapy		<b>160</b>
<b>Total # of people who received employment</b>			<b>290</b>
	# employed directly by the community provider		<b>90</b>
	# receiving workforce readiness services and support finding a job		<b>200</b>
<b>Total # of people receiving support for basic needs</b>			<b>373</b>
	# receiving food		<b>193</b>
	# receiving basic living supplies (e.g., diapers)		<b>152</b>
	# receiving child care for their child or children		<b>28</b>
<b>Total # of people engaged in restorative justice</b>			<b>331</b>
	# being served behind the walls		<b>199</b>
	# being served in the community		<b>132</b>



### III. RECIDIVISM – 1-year post release

Total # of youth tracked			136
# males			115
	<i>Race/ethnicity</i>	White/Non-Hispanic	6
		White/Hispanic	36
		Black	22
		Asian	8
		Other/Multi-Racial and/or	3
		Unknown	40
	<i>Ages</i>	18-years-old	4
		19	7
		20	14
		21	22
		22	14
		23	12
		24	13
		25	9
		25+	20
# females			21
	<i>Race/ethnicity</i>	White/Non-Hispanic	N/A

		White/Hispanic	N/A
		Black	N/A
		Asian	N/A
		Other/Multi-Racial and/or	N/A
	<i>Ages</i>	18-years-old	N/A
		19	N/A
		20	N/A
		21	N/A
		22	N/A
		23	N/A
		24	N/A
		24	N/A
		25	N/A
		25+	N/A
<b>Total # convicted of a new charge</b>			<b>5</b>
<b># males</b>			<b>5</b>
	<i>Race/ethnicity</i>	White/Non-Hispanic	<b>0</b>
		White/Hispanic	<b>2</b>
		Black	<b>2</b>
		Asian	<b>0</b>
		Other/Multi-Racial and/or	<b>1</b>
	<i>Ages</i>	18-years-old	<b>0</b>

		19	0
		20	2
		21	0
		22	0
		23	0
		24	0
		24	0
		25	0
		25+	3
<b># Females</b>			0
	<i>Race/ethnicity</i>	White/Non-Hispanic	0
		White/Hispanic	0
		Black	0
		Asian	0
		Other/Multi-Racial and/or	0
	<i>Ages</i>	18-years-old	0
		19	0
		20	0
		21	0
		22	0
		23	0
		24	0

		24	0
		25+	0
# convicted in District Court			4
# convicted in Superior Court			1
<b>Total # of probation violations <u>not</u> related to new charges (technical violations)</b> <b>* DATA INCOMPLETE (Missing for 1 provider)</b>			2
# males			2
	<i>Race/ethnicity</i>	White/Non-Hispanic	0
		White/Hispanic	1
		Black	1
		Asian	0
		Other/Multi-Racial and/or	0
	<i>Ages</i>	18-years-old	0
		19	0
		20	0
		21	0
		22	1
		23	0
		24	0
		24	0
		25	0

		25+	1
# females			N/A
	<i>Race/ethnicity</i>	White/Non-Hispanic	N/A
		White/Hispanic	N/A
		Black	N/A
		Asian	N/A
		Other/Multi-Racial and/or	N/A
	<i>Ages</i>	18-years-old	N/A
		19	N/A
		20	N/A
		21	N/A
		22	N/A
		23	N/A
		24	N/A
		24	N/A
		25	N/A
		25+	N/A
Total # of parole violations <u>not</u> related to new charges (technical violations) * DATA INCOMPLETE (Missing for 1 provider)			1
# males			1
	<i>Race/ethnicity</i>	White/Non-Hispanic	0

		White/Hispanic	1
		Black	0
		Asian	0
		Other/Multi-Racial and/or	0
	<i>Ages</i>	18-years-old	0
		19	0
		20	0
		21	0
		22	0
		23	0
		24	1
		25	0
		25+	0
<b># females</b>			<b>N/A</b>
	<i>Race/ethnicity</i>	White/Non-Hispanic	<b>N/A</b>
		White/Hispanic	<b>N/A</b>
		Black	<b>N/A</b>
		Asian	<b>N/A</b>
		Other/Multi-Racial and/or	<b>N/A</b>
	<i>Ages</i>	18-years-old	<b>N/A</b>
		19	<b>N/A</b>
		20	<b>N/A</b>

		21	N/A
		22	N/A
		23	N/A
		24	N/A
		25	N/A
		25+	N/A