

The John Howard Association does not provide any in-house support services. However, we have compiled a list of resources around the Chicago area for people re-entering their communities and for family members of currently incarcerated people.

EDUCATIONAL AND VOCATIONAL SUPPORT

The below organizations help individuals who are transitioning back into their communities find jobs, learn new skills, and prepare for the financial burdens that come after life in prison.



Cara Chicago conducts vocational training and directly employs formerly incarcerated people through two programs: Cleanslate, which focuses on maintenance and landscaping and Cara Connects, a contract staffing firm that fills short-term, entry level positions in industries such as food service, healthcare, and warehousing.

237 S Desplaines St,
Chicago, IL 60661
(312) 798-3300

<https://carachicago.org/>



The Howard Area Community Center has a number of training programs for returning citizens. The HACC's employment and Recourse Center offers general training programs that include resume writing, interview practice, and networking with employers. Everyone who participates in the training program is paired with a case manager.

7637 N Paulina St,
Chicago, IL (Howard)
(773) 262-3515

<https://howardarea.org/>



The Lutheran Social Services of Illinois provides formerly incarcerated people with a variety of services including employment training, job opportunities, and referral for needs ranging from education to housing. The LSSI also runs a 23-day program for general employment skills such as resume writing and interviewing.

1001 E Touhy Ave, Suite #50
Des Plaines, IL 60018
(847) 635-4600

<https://www.lssi.org/>



The Safer Foundation offers career training and transitional jobs for people exiting prison. The Foundation also runs a clothing assistance program for returning citizens who need business attire for interviews or jobs. Furthermore, they provide financial assistance for issues such as tax preparation, debt reduction and medical bills.

571 W Jackson Blvd,
Chicago, IL 60661 (West Loop)

(312) 922-2200

<https://saferfoundation.org/>

SUPPORT GROUPS FOR THE RECENTLY INCARCERATED

Below we have listed a series of churches and nonprofits that offer support to people re-entering their communities in the form of peer-led conversations and spiritual guidance.



First Followers has partnered with the Housing Authority of Champaign County to open up FirstSteps Community House, transitional housing for people returning from men's prisons. Everyone who lives in the FirstSteps house is partnered with a peer mentor, who has also gone through the justice system, and will aid the resident in their transition back into the community. For those who are admitted to the program, living in the house is rent free.

P.O Box 8923

Champaign, IL 61826

firstfollowerscu@gmail.com

<https://www.firstfollowersreentry.com/about>



The National Alliance for the Empowerment of The Formerly Incarcerated (NAEFI) offers self help support groups. Called "reentry circles" these support groups are designed to provide support to formerly incarcerated men and women that are motivated to complete parole and have a desire for transformation.

Sankofa Cultural Arts and Business Center

5820 W. Chicago Ave.

Chicago, IL 60651

(773) 593-2540

<https://naefimmentor.wixsite.com/naefi>



Winners' Circles are peer-led support groups for individuals who are committed to recovery from their struggles with addiction and past involvement with the criminal justice system. The Winners' Circles are hosted by TASC (Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities) and take place at multiple locations across Chicago and the surrounding areas.

(855) 827-2444

700 S. Clinton St.

Chicago, IL 60607

<https://www.tasc.org/tascweb/home.aspx>



Inside Out Connections Ministry provides bible studies and support groups designed for formerly incarcerated men. In the "Inside Out Connection Groups" participants engage in conversation surrounding forgiveness, money, work, prayer, sobriety, identity, relationships and the Bible.

(224) 392-1834

6740 W. North Ave

Chicago, IL 60707

<https://weraise.org/portfolio-posts/inside-out-network-connects-returning-citizens-with-essential-resources/>

SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES OF THE INCARCERATED

At JHA, we understand that the prison system can be tough on loved ones. Below are a list of non-profits in the Chicago area that provide programming and support for people who have loved ones in prison.



7-70 Re-Entry services offers family mediation to those who have recently been incarcerated. The family mediation services are designed to enable a person to return to their family and begin to repair damaged relationships.

9146 Lincoln Ave,
Brookfield IL 60513
(708) 680-7075

<https://www.770reentryservices.org>



The Chicago Children's Museum's "Beyond Incarceration" program supports children with incarcerated parents through three projects: Field trips for extended families and support networks who often reside in communities disproportionately affected by incarceration, Arts-focused programs for children and caregivers, and Museum-based visitation for children and their incarcerated parents.

700 E Grand Ave,
Chicago, IL 60611
(312) 527-1000

<https://www.chicagochildrensmuseum.org/beyond-incarceration>



Lutheran Social Services of Illinois offers a series of programs for family members of incarcerated people including "Visits to Mom" which provides free transportation for kids to visit their moms in prison and "The Storybook Project" which connects kids to their parent in prison through reading.

1001 E Touhy Ave, Suite #50
Des Plaines, IL 60018
(847) 635-4600

<https://www.lssi.org/>



Family Focus Lawndale provides opportunities for parents who wish to reconnect with their children in a meaningful way. Their "Power of Fathers" program is open to fathers trying to reconnect with their families. In this program, fathers learn positive parenting skills and build relationships with their children in a safe, welcoming setting. Family Focus also offers after school programming for children that teaches them about literacy through creative writing, drama, and social-emotional growth.

3517 W. Arthington St.
Chicago, IL 60624
(773) 722-5057

<http://www.family-focus.org/centers/lawndale/>



The Illinois Prison Project provides a variety of resources for people re-entering communities and their families. A lot of their outreach takes the form of Facebook community group pages and legal workshops for incarcerated people and their loved ones.

53 W. Jackson, Suite 1056
Chicago, IL 60604
(312) 324-4463

<http://www.illinoisprisonproject.org/>



Restore Justice Illinois aims to educate incarcerated people and their families on the legal rights that should be afforded to prisoners across Illinois. They offer a variety of webinars on the ins and outs of the criminal justice system.

PO Box 6160

Evanston, IL 60204

(312) 222-1282

<https://restorejusticeillinois.org/>

