

St. Vincent de Paul Des Moines Reentry Programming

SVdP Des Moines is a trusted community reentry point that focuses on encouraging returning citizens to think, act, and behave more positively and productively by providing wraparound support focused on mental wellbeing, socioeconomic stability, employability, and healthy relationships. Reentry programming is delivered through a meld of two evidence-based community models—both developed by SVdP—called IMMERSION and Back2Work. IMMERSION is a supportive reentry program which focuses on providing returning citizens and their families with wraparound case management services on their journey to a more stable life, while Back2Work is an evidenced based practice model of supported employment that is particularly appropriate for individuals with co-occurring mental health and substance abuse disorders that includes access to community-based treatment.

SVdP staff regularly communicate with the Polk County Sheriff regarding which returning citizens will be released from the Polk County Jail and when. Currently, each Friday, SVdP hosts a two-hour visit at the jail to meet with potential program participants. SVdP Des Moines is the only reentry services provider with this level of pre-release access to returning citizens, which allows much needed time to build trust prior to release and facilitates a smoother transition back into the community.

Compared to the State of Iowa and Polk County as a whole, SVdP's service population has especially high rates of unemployment, low educational attainment, substance use disorders, and unstable home environments—all factors that can contribute to an individual becoming involved in the justice system.

At SVdP Des Moines, approximately 30 percent of the individuals served are returning citizens or are directly impacted by incarceration. Among returning citizens served to date, 21 percent identify as African American or Black and 74 percent are white. Other self-reported information shows that 20 percent experienced foster care, 31 percent experienced incarceration of a family member or loved one, and 34 percent did not have a father figure growing up. Poverty rates in SVdP Des Moines' primary service area span from 20 to 35 percent, with an average rate for all neighborhoods sitting at 25.04 percent. SVdP Des Moines serves over 30,000 unique individuals annually. Of this population, nearly 65 percent are unemployed, 65 percent report living with a substance abuse, over 99 percent are experiencing poverty, and nearly 68 percent identify as members of historically excluded groups. In addition to returning citizens living in urban areas of Des Moines, SVdP Des Moines also provides reentry programming to returning citizens released from Polk County Jail, but who live in rural areas surrounding the city.

Through this project, SVdP anticipates serving a total of 225 citizens being released from incarceration—bringing the total number of returning citizens served annually to nearly 200.

With questions, please check our website at www.svdpsm.org or email us at info@svdpsm.org