

# Elm City Reentry Pilot

March 2023 - February 2024

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## Summary

4-CT, the City of New Haven, and the Project M.O.R.E. Reentry Welcome Center worked with Usio and Mastercard's Global Cities team to launch the first ID + payment card of its kind for the reentry population in North America. The pilot is being used to determine the effectiveness of an ID + monthly cash transfer program while promoting positive outcomes for individuals returning from incarceration.

## Pilot Overview

Twenty New Haven area residents will receive \$500/month for one year on an Elm City Resident Card + prepaid Mastercard. Participants were selected by Project M.O.R.E. Reentry Welcome Center and are currently receiving services related to their transition back to the community. Participants will take part in quarterly surveys and interviews with 4-CT to help evaluate the impact of the pilot.

## Aims

The aims of this pilot are twofold: (1) to demonstrate the benefits of a guaranteed income for the formerly incarcerated and (2) to improve systems for delivering support to individuals transitioning back into society.

## Background

More than 95% of those currently in prison will eventually be released<sup>1</sup> but 26%-32% of those will be reincarcerated within one year.<sup>2</sup>

Correctional institutions send around 900-1,000 individuals back home to New Haven every year, according to the DOC. Prior to their release, individuals have access to the Transition Services Program which helps them prepare for a successful reintegration into society. In addition, up to \$50 in "gate money" is given upon release.

However, with no photo ID, few employment prospects and often uncertain or unstable housing, the transition after incarceration is challenging. Although services exist, outcomes are often poor because of unmet proximate needs.

That's why 4-CT is supporting the City of New Haven's commitment to reducing social and economic barriers for formerly incarcerated individuals.

Guaranteed income is a powerful tool to relieve economic pressures while giving recipients the dignity and autonomy to decide for themselves how to improve their lives. Providing targeted, recurring, no-strings-attached income makes it possible for individuals to meet their immediate needs and stay on track to reach longer-term financial goals.

## Pilot Administrator

4-CT partners with community-based organizations across Connecticut to provide direct cash assistance to residents in need, giving them the agency to make their own decisions and the resources to improve their lives. Established at the onset of the Covid-19 crisis to provide emergency funding statewide, we have expanded our mission beyond the pandemic to use cash assistance to address immediate crises while also exploring the efficacy of recurring payments as a means for addressing systemic injustices.

Please contact Sarah Blanton, CEO, at [sarah@4-ct.org](mailto:sarah@4-ct.org) with any questions.

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<sup>1</sup> U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Reentry Trends in the United State," <https://bjs.ojp.gov/content/pub/pdf/reentry.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> State of Connecticut Office of Policy and Management Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division Research Unit. (2023). Brief: 2023 Recidivism Study. Connecticut Office of Policy and Management. [https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/OPM/CJPPD/CJResearch/RecidivismStudy/2023/2023\\_OPM\\_RECIDIVISM\\_BRIEF.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/OPM/CJPPD/CJResearch/RecidivismStudy/2023/2023_OPM_RECIDIVISM_BRIEF.pdf)

## Highlights

**Total Cost:** \$120,000

**Number of Participants:** 20

**\$500 monthly cash payments**  
(\$6,000 over length of pilot)

**Population Focus:** Individuals returning from prison to a New Haven City or County address

## Performance Indicators:

Employment Status

Housing Security

Family Relationships

Community Engagement

Mental Health

Recidivism Rate

## Timeline

<b>Jan-Feb 2023</b> Recruitment of Participants	<b>Mar 2023</b> Pilot Launch Participant Payments Begin	<b>Feb 2024</b> Pilot Ends	<b>Mar 2024</b> Release of Findings
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4-CT



City of New Haven [ add boilerplate?]



Project M.O.R.E.



Mastercard



Usio

