

Need Assistance?

In order to participate in our program you must:

Have a felony conviction

-and-

Be legally required to stay in Walla Walla County

-or-

Have an existing support network in Walla Walla County

Further, If you are seeking housing services you need:

To have been released in the past 365 days

-and-

Have served 60 or more consecutive days in jail or prison

We see clients by appointment only. Please call ahead.

509.525.3612

We see clients:
Monday-Thursday 10AM-4PM

Networking

Our primary community partners include:

- Washington Department of Corrections
- Community Corrections Officers
- Blue Mountain Action Council
- Serenity Point
- Comprehensive Healthcare
- Veterans Affairs Center
- Walla Walla Community College
- Legal Foundation of Washington
- Northwest Justice Project

In addition, we are a member of the Homeless Alliance, Rapid Rehousing Task Force, and other community based groups dealing with issues pertaining to homelessness.

Want to be Involved?

Donations are welcomed from individuals as well as organizations. If you would like to contribute, see our website donation button at www.thestarproject.us.

Some program areas most underfunded include:

Employment Placement Services
WSP Education Transition
Community Outreach/Administration

Volunteer Mentors

Our primary need for volunteers is for community members to be mentors to our clients. Mentors provide one-on-one guidance and encouragement to clients. The client-mentor relationship is one of mutual respect that meets the needs of the clients while utilizing the mentors skills and knowledge. Each relationship is unique and defined by the individuals involved.



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Mission

STAR's mission is to provide persons being released from incarceration with the essential tools to successfully re-integrate into the community as productive, contributing members.

We have been in operation since 2004 and serve approximately 120 clients every year.

Why Transition & Reentry?

Typically, people with felony convictions are released from prison with \$40 and the clothes on their backs. They are usually required to remain in the county of their first conviction, often without a support network, until their probation period has been completed.

After having their lives so tightly controlled, many people exiting prison find making even simple decisions daunting. In this context, people who are genuinely trying to make better choices and succeed end up returning to prison/jail.

Data from Washington State Corrections shows that the average cost of incarceration for one individual at Washington State prisons is \$92 per day. Based on an average sentence length of 40 months, every person who does not return to prison saves the state approximately \$111,933.

Programs & Services

Pre-Release Transition Services

The STAR Reentry Specialist provides assistance in completing academic applications, enrollment and financial aid paperwork for people incarcerated at the Washington State Penitentiary and Walla Walla County Jail. These STAR clients are working to plan their transition into one of the many colleges/universities around the state upon release.

Intensive Case Management

We help clients walk through tasks, including: finding housing, acquiring valid ID, signing up for health insurance, addressing defaulted student loans, and the reduction of court fees. STAR also offers weekly Moral Reconciliation Therapy and other group services to clients. This focused support has been proven effective; the average recidivism rate for Washington State is 32.2%, but the average recidivism rate among STAR clients is 14.9%.

Most people leaving correctional institutions are unaware that reentry assistance is available, and they often do not know how to navigate through service systems. STAR maintains strong relationships with all of the organizations offering support services in the Walla Walla valley, allowing us to help our clients overcome this barrier.



Housing

Finding landlords who will rent to people with felony convictions is extremely difficult. To this end, we develop relationships with area landlords who have agreed to work with our clients. Though limited, we have the ability to help people get into apartments with those landlords. Depending on eligibility criteria, STAR can provide financial support for housing. This housing stability offers clients time to develop more permanent arrangements as they become increasingly self-

supporting.

As an entrance site for Walla Walla's coordinated entry system for homelessness management, STAR often partners with other agencies for transitional and permanent housing. For example, we can help clients who are in recovery arrange to live in one of three independent local Oxford Houses (a drug free housing option for individuals who are clean and sober).

Employment

Clients seeking employment are provided with resume and interview training and assistance, as well as employer referral for jobs and mentorship.

For employers, we provide information on tax credits and bonding. These incentives increase employment opportunities, allowing clients to become stable and self sustaining.

Education

The majority of our clients are undereducated and have difficulty finding employment. Even those with some education and employment history find themselves unable to go back to their previous careers. This makes education and job training essential.

We work closely with Walla Walla Community College to connect clients with continuing education courses, including GED and vocational degree programs. STAR has had clients in the culinary arts, HS21+ programs, CDL, welding, small engine repair, and HVAC programs.