

Vera

**Midwestern Higher
Education Compact**

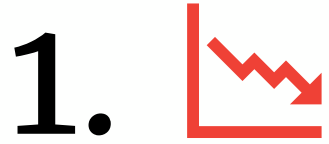
**Postsecondary Education
for Incarcerated People**

Vera Institute of Justice

Collaborating to build safe,
healthy, empowered
communities with just
government institutions

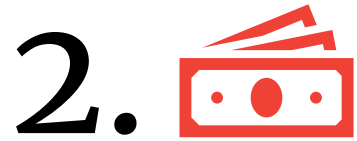


Benefits of postsecondary education in prison



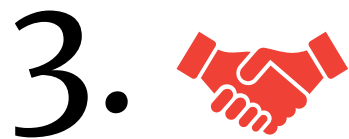
Reduced Recidivism

As incarcerated people achieve higher levels of education, their odds of recidivism decreases. Incarcerated people who participate in postsecondary education programs have *48 percent lower odds of returning to prison* than those who do not.



Taxpayer Savings

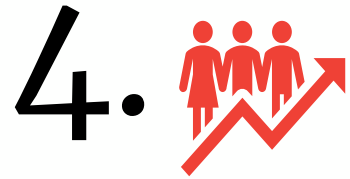
Reducing incarceration benefits taxpayers— *every dollar invested in prison-based education yields more than four dollars in taxpayer savings* from reduced incarceration costs.



Untapped Talent

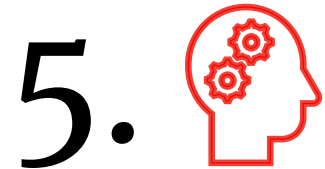
An aging workforce and declining birth rates suggest employers may struggle to find skilled workers. Equipping incarcerated people with education and training can help *meet the demands of the labor market and strengthen local economies.*

Benefits of postsecondary education in prison



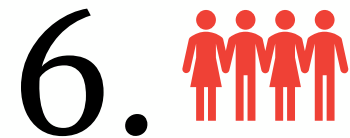
Improved Reentry Outcomes

Unemployment in reentry (27%) exceeds that during the Great Depression and more than 60% of people leaving prison *are jobless in the first four years of release*. Seventy percent of all jobs in 2030 will require postsecondary education and training beyond high school. People who participate in postsecondary education in prison see *employment rates and wages increase*.



Facility Safety

Prisons with postsecondary education programs have *fewer violent incidents* than prisons without them, creating safer working conditions for staff and safer living environments for incarcerated people.



Transformation

People who participate in postsecondary education in prison describe the experience as *transformative*, pushing them to develop new identities, perspectives, and goals, and to focus on self-reflection and improvement. They also gain knowledge, skills, and connections they can use to *benefit their children and families, multiplying the impact of a single college degree*.

History of Pell Grants for people incarcerated in state and federal prisons

