REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE
Pursuant to Public Act 121 of 2024
Article 2, Section 803
Nation Outside
Annual Report

Section 803. (1) Funds appropriated in part 1 for Nation Outside must be used by the department to support a contract with the goal of supporting statewide peer-led reentry programming. The contract must include peer-led group mentoring, along with 1-on-1 peer mentoring for referred parolees to improve housing, civic engagement, transportation, education, employment, and access to healthcare and insurance.
(2) From funds from the appropriated in part 1 for Nation Outside, the program must enlist Wayne State University to perform an independent program evaluation of the pilot program.
(3) By July 1, Nation Outside must submit a report that includes all the following information, as applicable:

a. A list of program expenditures.
b. The number of enrollees.
c. The number of job placements.
d. The rate of 30-day, 90-day, and 2-year employment retention post release.
e. The number of individuals who successfully complete a court-ordered sentence.
f. The 1-, 2-, and 3-year return to prison rates, if available.
g. Outcomes and performance measures.

Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC) entered a contract with Nation Outside on March 1, 2024, using $2,000,000 in funds appropriated in that Fiscal Year (FY). In FY25, the legislature added an additional $1,000,000, which was added to their contract for a total of $3,000,000, expiring February 28, 2026. The contract includes peer led group and individual mentoring, as well as efforts to improve civic engagement, transportation, education, employment, housing, and access to healthcare and insurance for those leaving prison.

(a) Program Expenditures: As of April 2025, Nation Outside has spent $1,561,582 of their $3,000,000 allocation. This includes the following breakdown:

- $690,550 on Trauma Informed Peer Led Reentry (TIPLR)
- $101,900 on In-Reach services
- $416,500 on Transportation Services
- $49,600 Promoting Civic Engagement
- $112,550 Attending meetings to plan and coordinate services to clients
- $0 on Program Evaluation
- $12,470 on Staff Travel
- $65,250 on Staff and Volunteer Training
- $72,735 on Office Space and Supplies
- $40,027 on General Administration

(b) Number of Enrollees: As of May 2025, Nation Outside served 2,292 individuals as follows:

- Intake Sessions for TIPLR: 690
- Transportation Home from Prison for anyone releasing in from an MDOC facility: 476
- In Reaches 1,126

(c) Number of Job Placements: Nation Outside has had 442 TIPLR participants begin work. Participants find work through a combination of individual efforts, work with MDOC's contracted Reentry Services Administrative Agencies, assistance of parole agents, assistance from Michigan Works centers, and more.

(d) Employment Retention: Due to the staggered nature of enrollment, with new participants joining the program daily, calculating standard 30-, 90-, and 180-day retention rates is complex at this stage. Nation Outside is working to onboard a data analyst who will be responsible for tracking employment outcomes.

(e) Court-Ordered Sentence Completions: As of May 2025, 93 TIPLR participants have successfully completed parole or other forms of court-ordered supervision.

(f) Return to Prison Rates: 97% of the people that have received release day transportation or TIPLR mentorship through Nation Outside have avoided reincarceration.

(g) Outcomes and Performance Measures: Nation Outside is seeking permission to secure independent program evaluation services through Michigan Public Health Institute (MPHI).