Jobs & Hope WV

Social Return on Investment (SROI) 2026.

A briefing for West Virginia legislators.



Weisenborn Ready

Every $1 invested returned $9.61 to West Virginia

$9.61 : $1

Social, economic and public-safety value for every dollar invested in one program year

$5.7M

Annual program investment

$54.8M

Net social value generated

591 participants placed in jobs

182 credentials completed

2,751 participants given transit access

244 reincarcerations avoided (gross)

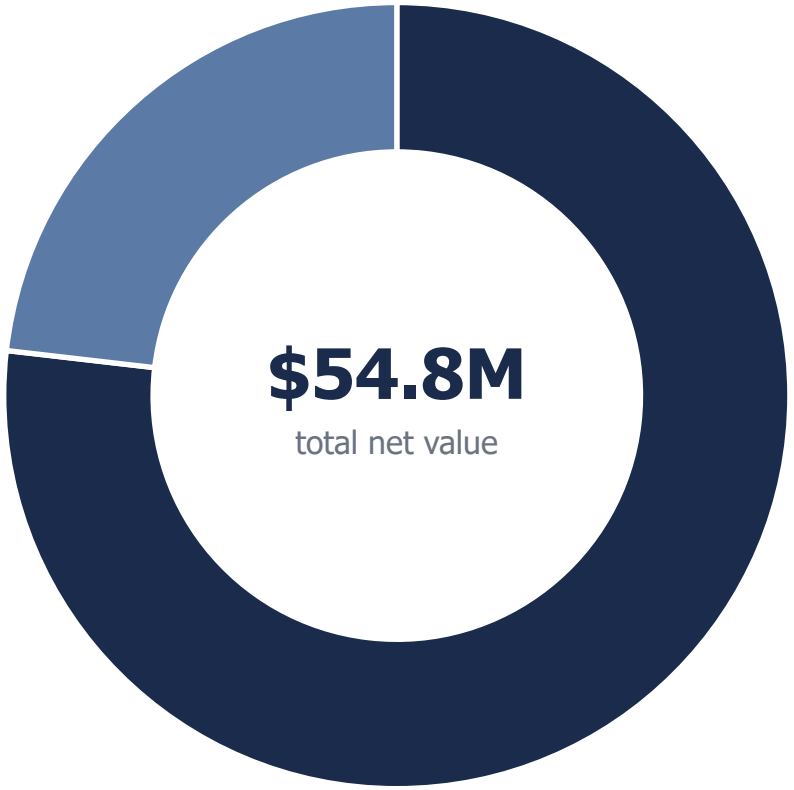
Source: Jobs & Hope WV SROI Assessment Report (Weisenborn Ready, 2026).

Where the $54.8 million comes from

Fiscal proxy	Outcome area	Type	Net value	Share of total
Local economic output from participant wages (1.5× multiplier)	Employment & earnings	**Economic**	**$32.16M**	58.7%
Lifetime earnings premium: degrees, certificates, vocational	Education & credentials	**Economic**	**$4.84M**	8.8%
Avoided high-school dropout cost (GED / HSE)	Education & credentials	**Economic**	**$2.71M**	4.9%
New payroll and income tax revenue	Employment & earnings	**Economic**	**$2.14M**	3.9%
Taxpayer savings from SNAP / Medicaid exits	Public assistance	**Economic**	**$0.26M**	0.5%
Transit ride access (social inclusion)	Transportation	**Social**	**$5.37M**	9.8%
Avoided incarceration cost	Reduced recidivism	**Social**	**$4.29M**	7.8%
Food and health security (SNAP / Medicaid access)	Public assistance	**Social**	**$1.08M**	2.0%
Avoided foster care, medical, court and admin cost	Children & family	**Social**	**$0.85M**	1.5%
Avoided victim cost	Reduced recidivism	**Social**	**$0.55M**	1.0%
Donated vehicles and driver's license mobility	Transportation	**Social**	**$0.29M**	0.5%
Avoided judicial and legal cost	Reduced recidivism	**Social**	**$0.22M**	0.4%
Neighborhood safety and social cohesion	Community trust	**Social**	**$0.06M**	0.1%
Total social value generated			**$54.80M**	**100%**

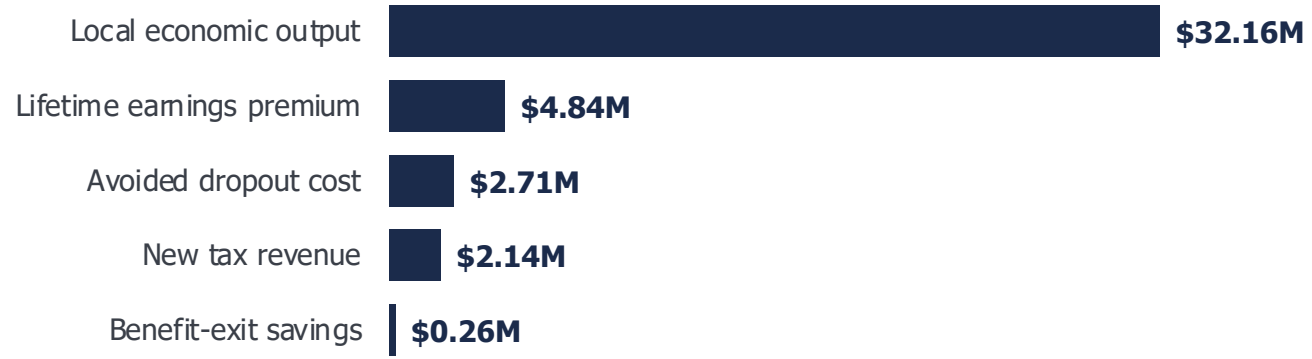
Net values after attribution, deadweight and drop-off; sub-proxies split each outcome's net value by gross share. Source: Jobs & Hope WV SROI Report (2026).

Two engines of value: economic and social

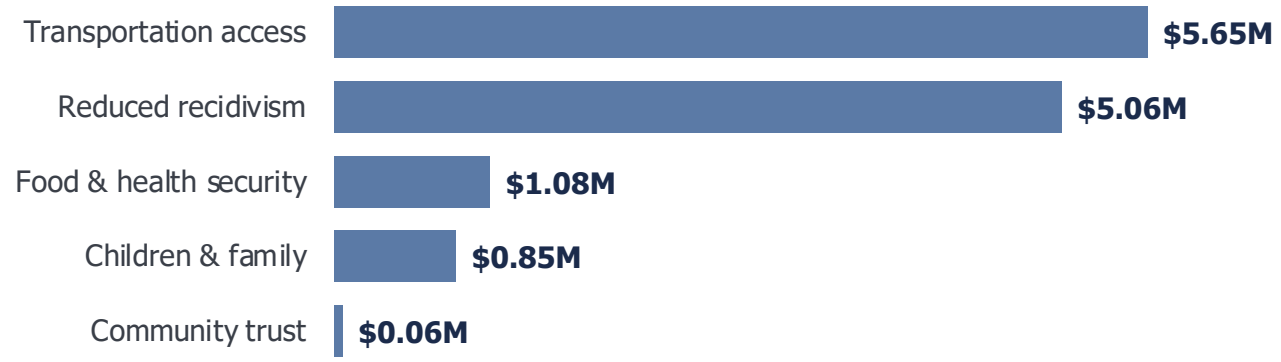


■ **Economic $42.11M**
■ **Social $12.70M**

Economic · $42.11M · 76.8% of value



Social · $12.70M · 23.2% of value



Reduced recidivism combines avoided incarceration, judicial and victim costs. Source: Jobs & Hope WV SROI Report (2026).

Employment: From public support to tax base

591
participants placed in jobs

$47,736
average annual wage

$42.3M
local economic output from $28.2M in wages (1.5× multiplier)

$2.8M
new payroll and income tax revenue

Off benefits, into the workforce

58 participants left SNAP and 52 left Medicaid because of new jobs, saving taxpayers $447,648 a year (gross).

People who once drew on public budgets now earn, spend locally and pay taxes.

Why it matters in West Virginia

~55% labor force participation, among the lowest in the nation.

27% unemployment among formerly incarcerated people nationally, higher than any U.S. rate since the Great Depression.

Sources: Jobs & Hope WV SROI Report (2026); WVVA (2025) citing state LFPR; Prison Policy Initiative, Out of Prison & Out of Work (2018).

Transportation: The bridge to work and family

A deliberately conservative count

Only participants who reported Jobs & Hope WV as their only source of transportation were valued.

Many more rely on the program alongside other options, so its true contribution to mobility is larger than shown here.

32

donated vehicles

Fair-market value of $3,800 each, a one-time asset that makes daily commuting possible

25

driver's licenses reinstated or obtained

Valued at $12,700 a year in mobility for each recipient

2,751

participants given transit access

Valued conservatively at $3,000 per person per year in social inclusion

$5.65M

net transportation value

10.3% of total value, the third-largest outcome area

Source: Jobs & Hope WV SROI Report (2026). Adjustments: 85% attribution, 10% deadweight, 15% drop-off.

No ride, no job: Why transport access matters

1 in 5 jobless residents who could work named transportation as a barrier to employment (South Carolina, 2022)

30% of metro jobs a typical resident can reach by transit within 90 minutes; rural options are far thinner

<3% of workers use transit in most small-town and rural counties in the region, making a car or a subsidized ride essential



What does this mean for reentry?

People leaving prison or treatment often have no car, a suspended license, and no transit line near home.

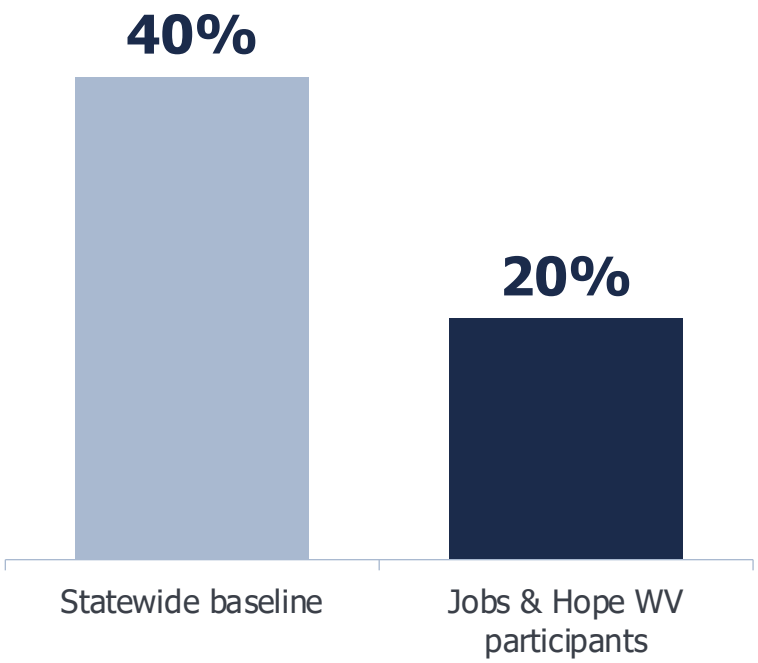
A ride connects them to a job interview, a training class, a treatment appointment and their children.

Removing that barrier is often the cheapest way to protect every other dollar invested in the person.

Sources: Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond, Econ Focus Q4 2023 (SC DEW survey; Census PUMS and ACS); Brookings, Missed Opportunity: Transit and Jobs (2011).

Recidivism cut in half, saving millions

Recidivism rate



1,223
justice-involved participants served

244
reincarcerations avoided (gross)

109
avoided after conservative adjustments

$40,362
WV cost per prison inmate per year

$5.06M net value
9.2% of total: incarceration $4.29M, victim $0.55M, judicial $0.22M

Very conservative, limited data

One reporting year and a single program-wide rate.

70% attribution, 25% deadweight and 15% drop-off applied to the headcount.

Not counted: lifetime crime costs, earnings lost while incarcerated, or effects on the next generation.

The true public-safety value is likely higher.

Source: Jobs & Hope WV SROI Report (2026); WV Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation, FY2025 incarceration cost.

Parents at home keep kids out of foster care

Jobs & Hope WV results

~115 parent–child relationships preserved

About 47% of people in state prison are parents of minor children. Applied to avoided reincarcerations, roughly 115 children kept a parent at home.

$32,711 avoided foster care, medical, court and admin cost per child, per year

$846K net value, valued with 50% attribution and 50% deadweight, the most conservative assumptions in the study

Why it matters for West Virginia

8× West Virginia's rate of children removed into foster care compared with the national average, the highest in the US

37% vs 7% child poverty in single-mother families versus married-couple families nationally

65% of families with a member in prison cannot meet basic needs such as food and housing

A parent in work instead of prison means a stable home, lower child-welfare costs and a stronger next generation.

Sources: Jobs & Hope WV SROI Report (2026); AFCARS FY2023–24 via WVVA (2026); ChildStats.gov (2022); Annie E. Casey Foundation, A Shared Sentence (2016).

Recommendation 1: A statewide partner network

Workforce boards & WorkForce WV
Shared job pipelines and employer contacts

Recovery & treatment providers
Coordinated case plans, one intake

Corrections & parole (DCR)
Pre-release referrals and outcome data



Transit agencies & vehicle donors
Pooled fleets, rides and license clinics

Community colleges & trainers
Credential pathways and tuition support

Employers & chambers
Hiring pledges and retention support

Shared intake, data, fleets, & employer pipelines lower the $ / participant, so each $ reaches more West Virginians.

Evidence: shared back-office collaboratives have cut costs such as member benefits by about 30% (Chronicle of Philanthropy, 2009).

Recommendation 2: Real-time outcome data

Today

One annual snapshot of program records:

- Published proxies fill gaps in participant data
- Transit counted only for sole-source users
- Family and community outcomes inferred from recidivism

Result: value is understated

With real-time data

- Job retention and wage growth at 6 and 12 months
- Recidivism tracked with DCR records over 3 years
- Credential completions linked to earnings
- Child-welfare and family outcomes for parents served

Result: a fuller, real-time return each year

Better data will not inflate the return. It will show the value that conservative assumptions leave out today.

Source: Jobs & Hope WV SROI Report (2026), Sections 6 and 8.

Overall Recommendations

1 Sustain multi-year funding tied to results

Require an annual SROI in budget submissions so funding follows measured return.

2 Expand rural transportation supports

Fund vehicles, license reinstatement and rides in counties with no transit.

3 Target the highest-need counties

Use county recidivism and unemployment data to place new case-management capacity.

4 Focus on Reduced Recidivism

More reentry, more employment, better child care, and increased trust in community

If returns hold at scale, each additional $1M could generate about $9.6M in value for West Virginia (indicative).

Source: Jobs & Hope WV SROI Report (2026), Recommendations; IRS Work Opportunity Tax Credit; U.S. DOL Federal Bonding Program.

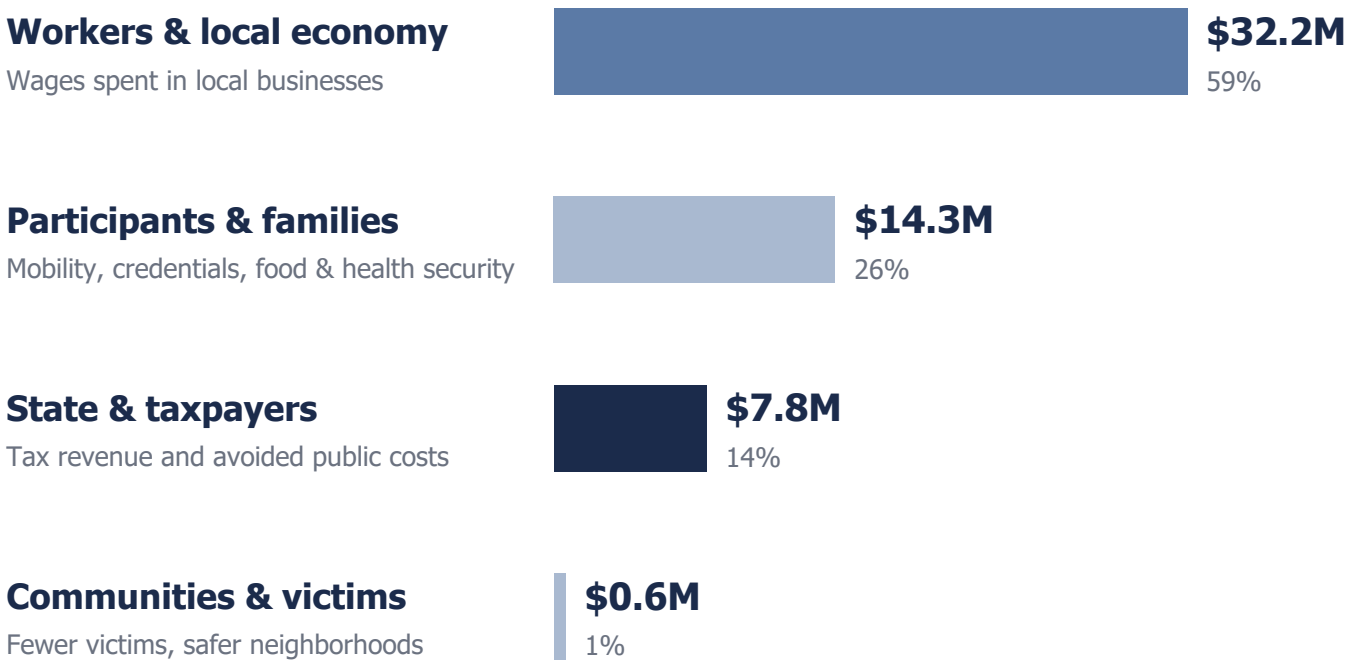
Who benefits: Value lands across West Virginia

$1.36

returned to public budgets for every $1 invested

$7.8M a year in new tax revenue and avoided incarceration, court, foster care and benefit costs, against a $5.7M investment.

Net value by who benefits



Public savings alone more than repay the investment; the other $47M is value created for West Virginians.

State & taxpayers = new tax revenue, benefit-exit savings, avoided incarceration, judicial and foster-care costs (net). Source: Jobs & Hope WV SROI Report (2026).

Every $1 in Jobs & Hope WV returns $9.61 to West Virginia

Jobs. Mobility. Safer communities. Stronger families.



Sources

Program results

- Weisenborn Ready (2026). Jobs & Hope WV Social Return on Investment Assessment Report.

Employment

- WVVA (Nov. 2025). Labor force participation in 2025: what Virginians and West Virginians need to know.
- Prison Policy Initiative (2018). Out of Prison & Out of Work: Unemployment among formerly incarcerated people.

Transportation

- Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond (2023). Econ Focus Q4, District Digest: car access and employment.
- Brookings Institution (2011). Missed Opportunity: Transit and Jobs in Metropolitan America.

Children and families

- WVVA / WTAP (Feb. 2026). West Virginia's foster care rate is 8 times the national average (AFCARS FY2023–24).
- ChildStats.gov (2022). America's Children, Table ECON1.A: child poverty by family structure.
- Annie E. Casey Foundation (2016). A Shared Sentence: The devastating toll of parental incarceration.

Partnerships and policy

- Chronicle of Philanthropy (2009). Joining forces in the back office.
- IRS, Work Opportunity Tax Credit; U.S. Department of Labor, Federal Bonding Program.