



## Creating a Prisoner Re-entry Program for Fathers, Inside and Outside Prison

### Organization profile

The mission of the Kentucky Department of Corrections is to protect the citizens of the Commonwealth and to provide a safe, secure, and humane environment for staff and offenders in carrying out the mandates of the legislative and judicial processes; and to provide opportunities for offenders to acquire skills that facilitate non-criminal behavior.

### The Challenge

89% of Kentucky's inmate population is male and many are fathers, some even grandfathers. Almost all of these incarcerated dads will be returning to their communities and getting involved in some form of parenting. Moreover, visitation from children is very common, and often the children are left confused and upset by the situations their dads are in.

Moved by these realities, the state decided it needed to do something to help these dads and their families. However, they were required to use an evidence-based program. Moreover, the DOC wanted to implement a program in which the fathers could continue to receive help while on parole or after they served out their sentences.

### The Solution

Through their research, they found National Fatherhood Initiative's InsideOut Dad® program. The DOC was required by statute to choose an evidence-based program, which led to their decision to implement InsideOut Dad®, the nation's only evidence-based program designed specifically for incarcerated fathers. Furthermore, the state required that the curriculum have had fidelity studies conducted, and that it provided a cognitive behavioral therapeutic approach. InsideOut Dad® fit the bill on all these prerequisites.

InsideOut Dad® is now being offered in all 10 of the state's male facilities.

Furthermore, to ensure they are serving dads even after they leave prison, the DOC is working in conjunction with community-based organizations, via the state's Probations and Parole Division, to deliver NFI's 24/7 Dad® program to fathers in transitional facilities and other community-based organizations in the re-entry field.

### Benefits

The Kentucky DOC is especially pleased with the InsideOut Dad® curriculum in that it addresses the top 4 criminogenic needs of their inmate population – criminal history; family/marital; education/employment; leisure/recreation. Additionally it is focused on both the inmate and his children, not just the inmate. Finally, based on its specifications and design, it

is a program that can be offered at majority of their institutions.

Since the state has started tracking the use of the program in its offender management system in June of 2012, there have been 381 graduates from program, 306 of those in 2013 alone.

What changes has the state seen in its inmate population? They have seen a shift in the inmates from an egocentric attitude to a focus on child development, even from inside prison. Fathers going through the program are also able to have their sentences reduced by 90 days through the credit they earn.

In addition to the individuals benefiting from the program, the DOC is meeting their statute requirement by offering both the program inside prison and 24/7 Dad® outside prison while the inmates make their transition.

### **Products and services they used**

- [InsideOut Dad®](#)
- [InsideOut Dad® Training Institute](#)
- [24/7 Dad®](#)
- [24/7 Dad® Training Institute](#)

### **Services provided by other groups or companies**

- Two of the ten male institutions also offer Malachi Dads.
- Kentucky River Foothills Development Council, Inc. offers responsible fatherhood programs