



# WINNEBAGO COUNTY

— ILLINOIS —

## PRESS RELEASE

Date: 07/08/2021

Topic: **Focused Deterrence Reentry Program**

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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#### Winnebago County, Illinois

The Winnebago County Board approved an Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Rockford for a Focused Deterrence Re-Entry Program. The \$800,000 cost of the four-year program will be split equally between Winnebago County and the City of Rockford.

The Focused Deterrence Re-Entry Program will be modeled after a 2018 pilot, which worked to identify and deter individuals returning to the community who were at heightened risk of committing future acts of crime and gun violence, or becoming victims themselves. The County will be implementing agency, hiring a Navigator to assist those who accept the offer of help. The Winnebago County State's Attorney's Office will hire an Assistant State's Attorney, who will be responsible for providing swift, certain and fair sanctions to offenses.

In the previous iteration, engagement with the Navigator was high (89% of participants completed an intake) and recidivism rates were relatively low. According to Navigator case records and booking data from the Winnebago County Jail, 64% (47 out of 74) of the participants who either attended a call-in meeting or who were custom notified were *not* booked in jail while part of the intervention for new offenses other than non-serious traffic violations such as driving on a revoked license or failure to report an incident. Of the 66 participants who availed themselves of the Navigator's services, 64% (42 out of 66) were not booked in jail while part of the intervention. Additionally, only five (5) participants were arrested for gun-related charges and only three (3) participants were charged for using a gun in the commission of a violent crime.

Given participants were selected because they represented the highest risk to public safety, the relative lack of violent crime amongst participants, particularly violent crime involving firearms, was promising. Partners are encouraged by this and anticipate similar, or better outcomes.

The full evaluation can be read here: [Focused Deterrence - Final Research Report](#)

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