

# Need Assistance?

In order to participate in our program you must:

Have a felony conviction

And

Be legally required to stay in Walla Walla County

Or

Have an existing support network in Walla Walla County

Further, If you are seeking housing services you need:

To have been released in the past 365 days

And

Have served 60 or more consecutive days

We see clients by appointment only. Please call ahead.

509.525.3612

We see clients:  
Tuesday-Thursday 10AM-4PM

## Networking

Our primary community partners include:

- Department of Corrections
- Community Corrections officers
- Drug and alcohol treatment centers
- Mental health providers
- Blue Mountain Action Council
- Veterans Affairs Center
- Walla Walla Community College
- Legal Foundation of Washington
- Northwest Justice Project

In addition we are a member of the Homeless Alliance, Rapid Rehousing Task Force and other community based groups dealing with issues pertaining to homelessness.

## Want to be Involved?

**Donations** are welcomed from individuals as well as organizations. If you would like to contribute see our website donation button at: [www.thestarproject.us](http://www.thestarproject.us) Some program areas most underfunded include:

Employment Placement Services  
WSP Education Transition  
Community Outreach/Administration

### Volunteer Mentors

Our primary need for volunteers is for community members to be mentors to our clients. Mentors provide one-on-one guidance and encouragement to clients. The client-mentor relationship is one of mutual respect that meets the needs of the clients while utilizing the mentors skills and knowledge. Each relationship is unique and defined by the individuals involved.



321 Wellington Avenue  
Walla Walla, WA 99362

Office: 509.525.3612

Fax: 509.524.8152

[info@thestarproject.us](mailto:info@thestarproject.us)

Glenna R. Awbrey  
Executive Director

[www.thestarproject.us](http://www.thestarproject.us)



## Mission

STAR's mission is to provide persons being released from incarceration with the essential tools to successfully re-integrate into the community as productive, contributing members.

We have been in operation since 2004 and serve around 85 new clients every year.

## Why Transition & Reentry?

Typically, convicted felons are released from prison with \$40 and the clothes on their backs. They are usually required to remain in the county of their first conviction, often without a support network, until their probation period has been completed.

After having their lives so tightly controlled many people exiting prison find making even simple decisions daunting. In this context people who are genuinely trying to make better choices and succeed end up returning to prison/jail.

Data from Washington State Corrections shows that the average cost of incarceration for one individual at Washington State prisons is \$90 per day. Based on an average sentence length of 23 months every person who does not return to prison saves the state approximately \$76,700.

## Programs & Services

Our program begins with the concept of **Intensive Case Management**. We are the only agency in the region that offers dedicated case management to people with convictions. We help clients walk through tasks like: finding housing, acquiring valid ID, signing up for health insurance, making payments on defaulted student loans or reducing court fees. This focused support has proven effective. We have found that STAR clients as a group have a five year recidivism rate that is half the state average.

Most people leaving correctional institutions are unaware of help that is available or how to navigate through systems. STAR maintains strong relationships with all of the organizations offering support services in the area allowing us to help our clients overcome this barrier.

### Education

The majority of our clients are undereducated and have difficulty finding employment. Even those with some education and employment history find themselves unable to go back to their previous careers. This makes education and job training essential.

We work closely with Walla Walla Community College to connect clients with continuing education courses including GED and vocational degree programs. STAR has had clients in the culinary arts, CDL, welding and HVAC programs.

### Employment

Clients seeking employment are eligible for on the job training assistance and are provided with resume and interview training and assistance as

well as employer referral for jobs and mentorship.

For employers we provide information on tax credits, and bonding. These incentives increase employment opportunities, allowing clients to become stable and self sustaining.

### Rapid Rehousing & Transitional Shelter

Finding landlords who will rent to people with felonies is extremely difficult. To this end we develop relationships with area landlords who have agreed to work with our clients. Though limited, we have some ability to help people get into apartments with those landlords and potentially provide financial support. This support can last up to 60 days for those exiting prison/jail in the past year. This housing stability offers clients time to develop more permanent arrangements as they become increasingly self-supporting.

Also, as part of the Homeless Alliance, we often partner with other agencies for transitional and permanent housing. For example, we help clients who are in recovery arrange to live in one of three local Oxford Houses (a drug free housing option for individuals who are clean and sober.)

### WSP Education Transition Planning

Finally, we provide application, enrollment and financial aid paperwork support for people incarcerated at the Washington State Penitentiary who are working to plan their transition into one of the many colleges/universities around the state upon release.

