

2nd Opportunity Program- Facilitated DVD Version

Frequently Asked Questions- Jails & Prisons

What is the 2nd Opportunity Program?

An employment readiness, financial literacy, life skills, and reentry program consisting of five courses, in both English and Spanish, designed for currently and formerly incarcerated individuals, those that have struggled with substance abuse issues, and anyone seeking to get their life on a more positive track.

What are the courses?

- **A Path Forward©**
- **A Path to Financial Freedom©**
- **Values-Aligned Goal Setting©**
- **A Path to Advanced Skills©**
- **A Path to Higher Education©**

We believe it is the most authentic & comprehensive re-entry program available. It is based on a combination of lived experience and evidence-informed research; sharing stories about challenges and successes brings hope and helps individuals to create their own paths. Each course provides a Certificate of Completion to demonstrate progress to judges, probation/parole, and family.

What is the Facilitated Model?

The model uses DVDs for professionally led instruction of all five courses in a classroom setting, maintaining an environment for interaction by participants. The facilitator has the vital role of encouraging the thoughts and opinions of the participants concerning the material. The facilitator does not instruct the material, the DVDs provide the actual teaching. Activities, Quick Checks, and Organize Your Thoughts journal questions guide the conversations. This method of instruction is especially useful for those that struggle with reading and comprehension. Group discussions promote engagement, which is an excellent way to absorb knowledge.

Who Can Serve as a Facilitator?

Staff members serve as facilitators in many institutions. A group of staff members can share the responsibility of facilitating the 2nd Opportunity Program, providing flexibility in scheduling and continuity of the classes. Some facilities use responsible and interested individuals from their population to facilitate the program. 2nd Opportunity can also provide a trained facilitator from the local community.

What Training and Support are Provided?

We train the selected facilitator(s), providing an extremely detailed Facilitator's Guide, which contains a blueprint for conducting an interesting and dynamic class. We will help the facility design and implement the program in a way that suits their specific needs, security concerns, physical facilities, and population

resulting in a popular and meaningful learning experience for all participants. We will support the facilitator in every reasonable way.

What are the benefits of workbooks, workshops, and walkthroughs?

Prison-compliant *Companion Workbooks* provide the text that is the backbone of the video presentations. It also provides the forms and space for completing the activities, such as creating a budget and journaling thought-provoking questions.

Workshops are not designed to re-teach what is on the videos. They bring in a voice from 2nd Opportunity to share experiences, inspire and answer questions. Our experience is clear that the combination of a facilitator, workbooks, and workshops produces the best outcomes.

If possible, we like to *walk through* the pods (virtual or in person) to explain to potential participants the origin, value, and benefits of the 2nd Opportunity Program. Experience shows it makes an enormous difference in the number of enthusiastic participants.

How long has 2nd Opportunity been in existence and can you provide references?

The origin of the program goes back to 2012 when it was first developed and instructed in Federal Prison. Today it is used in jails, prisons, halfway houses, substance abuse treatment facilities, probation/parole/pretrial, juvenile justice programs, accountability (drug) courts, and has been used in court-ordered diversion program. We are glad to provide references.

Can the program be used in conjunction with a drug program?

Absolutely. The initial programs were done in the Federal Prison Drug Program (RDAP). We actively work with substance abuse treatment programs both inside and outside of jails and prisons. We are a coalition member of Project Opioid.

How much does the program cost?

The 2nd Opportunity Program is offered on an annual license basis. The cost will depend upon the number of participants being served over a one-year time frame and other products and services provided. We are glad to provide a proposal and discuss implementation your consideration.

What types of support do you offer to program participants including those released from jail or prison?

We offer a referral network to our program participants and their families for employment, housing, education, training, social services, substance abuse treatment facilities, and veteran services. Individuals who start but don't complete the 2nd Opportunity Program will be eligible to continue the program on the outside and be eligible for our services.