

SCALE: FINANCIAL SECURITY ACHIEVED

Over **18 months**, advocates at **20 programs** set over **2500 goals** with participants including:

- ▶ Move into first apartment
- ▶ Purchase interview clothes
- ▶ Start a business
- ▶ Reunite with family members and children

CUSTOMERS SERVED



SPENDING PLANS DEVELOPED



Because of New Ground, I have gained a network of practitioners with different perspectives and experiences. I can go to them if I ever need advice or opinion.

—Participating Advocate

New Ground helped [our organization] move from financial literacy to financial security and to systematize its efforts. Targeted financial data is being gathered for each [customer], and discussions are taking place informed by that data. Theory has become practice. —Participating Director

CREDIT REPORTS PULLED



IMPACT: JUSTICE ADVOCACY UNDERWAY

ISSUE #1

Financial security services are not incorporated into the discharge process

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) New procedures for discharge plans to incorporate financial security strategies as part of the re-entry process as it begins in prison.
- (2) Re-entry organizations expand their range of services to include basic financial management supports and screen for financial distress such as identity theft and large outstanding debts.

ISSUE #2

For-profit educational institutions target incarcerated individuals

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) Ban the practice of for-profit education institutions visiting prisons.
- (2) Encourage and broaden educational access to public universities through greater advertising campaigns in prison.

ISSUE #3

High risk of identity theft and difficulty obtaining police reports required by credit reporting bureaus

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) Enact rules or regulations permitting ID Theft victims to use complaints filed with local, state, and federal administrative agencies instead of police reports to absolve themselves of responsibility for criminally incurred charges.
- (2) Create public awareness campaign reminding New Yorkers how to recognize and report ID Theft.

ISSUE #4

Child support arrears accrue while an individual is incarcerated

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) Stop arrears and interest from accruing while individuals are in prison.
- (2) Create an Office of Child Support Enforcement administrative process without requiring a court petition to modify child support orders while individuals are in prison.

ISSUE #5

Fully repaying government debts is a pre-requisite for obtaining a New York State identification card

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) Offer an alternate payment system for repaying government debts.
- (2) idNYC may resolve the issue for NYC residents.



NEW GROUND: A FOUNDATION TO BUILD WEALTH



College and Community Fellowship

College & Community Fellowship “CCF” guides formerly incarcerated women seeking to reclaim their lives through the stages of higher education while promoting their leadership, self-advocacy, artistic expression, and long-term success. CCF restructured their intake and service delivery flow to embed financial security work including pulling credit reports, addressing student loan issues, and setting goals.



The Doe Fund

The Doe Fund aims to break the cycles of homelessness, addiction, and criminal recidivism, and achieve permanent self-sufficiency. Through the New Ground Initiative, the Doe Fund has implemented financial security strategies into their programs’ daily work flow, data collection system, and professional and personal staff development.



FECS

FECS provides a variety of social services and employment services to support New Yorkers to achieve greater success, independence and dignity—at work, at school, at home and in the community. FECS committed to incorporating financial security into one of their highest volume sites in the Bronx through their intake, orientation, and pre-employment and post-employment services.



The Fortune Society

The Fortune Society’s mission is to support successful re-entry from prison and promote alternatives to incarcerations, thus strengthening the fabric of communities. The Fortune Society has tailored their service delivery to support their clients to address child support arrears, open bank accounts, and start saving.



Greenhope Services for Women

Greenhope Services for Women serves formerly incarcerated women through its residential, day, and outpatient services. Greenhope Services developed a tailored workshop using Change Machine tools and resources to support women in their vocational training program. By celebrating successes, Greenhope staff has encouraged participants to take control of their own finances and successfully re-enter society.



Madison Strategies

Madison Strategies strives to create opportunities for individuals to build stable and productive lives through education, training, and professional development experiences that support an evolving business environment. As a result of the New Ground Initiative, Madison Strategies has started to expand financial security into all aspects of their services including their intake, pre-employment services, job search, and post-employment. By including conversations about budgeting, saving, taxes, and banking in their existing services, and using Change Machine to track progress, their clients are supported not only with career services but also with financial security services throughout the life cycle of their job placement.



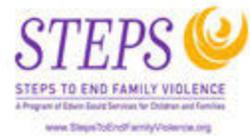
Providence House

Providence House’s mission is to transition women who are homeless and recently released from prison back into society. They support women through their network of transitional residences, individual apartments, and permanent supportive housing. Providence House has started to include conversations around credit, budgeting, and saving in their case management services to support the women they work with to land permanent housing.



Stanley Isaacs Neighborhood Center

The Stanley Isaacs Neighborhood Center provides youth services to young adults ages 17-24 who are out of school and out of work. The Stanley Isaacs Neighborhood Center uses a youth development approach that builds on a young person’s strengths and teaches young people how to be successful in the workplace. After sending their entire staff to training, the Stanley Isaacs Neighborhood Center recognized the need to develop an in-house “financial expert” to work one-on-one with their participants on some of their complicated financial issues and barriers such as low or no credit scores, lack of appropriate banking options, and lack of emergency savings.



STEPS to End Family Violence

STEPS provides clinical, legal, advocacy, and case management services to defendants that are survivors of domestic violence and have an open criminal case related to their histories of abuse. STEPS works with survivors on Rikers Island to protect their sensitive information and screen for financial insecurity.



West End Residences

West End Residences works to provide safe and supportive transitional and permanent housing together with comprehensive services that assist and empower homeless and formerly homeless youth, families, and older adults to live full and productive lives. Advocates are working with youth to support them to create goals, stay in their housing, and start saving.

PARTNERS OF THE NEW GROUND INITIATIVE

New Ground, generously funded by the Mizuho USA Foundation, is an initiative of The Financial Clinic that supports programs working with justice-involved individuals to embed financial security strategies into their case management through training, technical assistance, and an online platform, www.change-machine.org.