

REAL RESTART ECONOMIC IMPACT WHITEPAPER

Turning a Public Cost Burden into an Economic Contributor

A High-ROI Workforce & Stability Investment for Texas

Executive Summary

Texas spends tens of thousands of dollars per person, per year responding to addiction, incarceration, and chronic instability—*after failure occurs*. Despite billions invested in short-duration interventions (typically 30–90 days), recidivism and relapse remain persistent among high-risk men.

Real Restart is a long-duration, work-based stabilization and reintegration model designed to interrupt this cycle. The program reduces re-incarceration, lowers public system costs, and converts high-risk men into consistent economic contributors.

Using conservative Texas cost assumptions, serving **100 men** through Real Restart can generate approximately **\$175,000–\$700,000 in direct justice system savings alone**, while simultaneously producing **millions of dollars in new economic activity** through employment and local consumption.

This is not an experimental theory. It is the practical application of a well-documented human and economic principle:

When people are asked to carry responsibility beyond their current capacity, they revert to familiar survival behaviors. Sustainable freedom requires time, structure, and progressively increased responsibility.

1. The Problem Texas Is Already Paying For

Chronic Instability Is Expensive

Men cycling through addiction and incarceration are among the highest-cost users of public systems. They draw simultaneously on:

- County jails and state prisons
- Courts, prosecutors, and public defenders
- Probation and parole supervision
- Emergency rooms, EMS, detox, and overdose response
- Public assistance and crisis housing
- Lost workforce productivity

These costs are not isolated. They are **recurring, compounding, and predictable**.

2. Annual Public Cost of a High-Risk Man (Conservative Estimates)

Justice System Exposure

- Prison incarceration: ~\$86.50/day ≈ **\$31,500/year**
- Jail incarceration: ~\$62/day ≈ **\$22,600/year**
- Probation/parole supervision: **\$3,000–\$5,000/year**
- Court and law-enforcement processing: *thousands per case*

Justice exposure alone frequently exceeds **\$30,000–\$40,000 per year** during active cycling.

Healthcare & Emergency Utilization

Men with addiction histories are disproportionately high utilizers of:

- Emergency departments
- Ambulance services
- Detox admissions
- Overdose response
- Unmanaged chronic-care services

Public health research consistently shows that high-utilizer patients can generate **\$20,000–\$40,000+ per year** in healthcare costs during unstable periods.

Conservative Combined Annual Cost

Without exaggeration, a chronically unstable, justice-involved man can represent:

\$50,000–\$75,000 per year in combined public-system costs

Texas is already paying this cost—**just inefficiently and repeatedly.**

3. Why Short-Duration Programs Underperform

Most recovery and reentry programs attempt to compress:

- Stabilization
- Trauma recovery
- Behavior change
- Employment readiness
- Community reintegration

...into **30–90 days.**

This creates a predictable structural mismatch:

- Responsibility increases faster than capacity
- Stress reactivates familiar survival behaviors
- Relapse and re-offense follow

This outcome is not a moral failure. It is **predictable systems behavior.** Research consistently demonstrates that **longer duration participation improves outcomes**, particularly among high-risk populations.

4. The Real Restart Model (Economic Framing)

Real Restart is designed as a **capacity-building pipeline**, not a crisis response.

Program Structure

1. **Stabilization**
Housing, routine, accountability, and removal from high-trigger environments
2. **Daily Work & Responsibility**
Structured labor, repetition, contribution, and reliability
3. **Skill & Identity Formation**
Vocational development, leadership roles, and decision-making under guidance
4. **Gradual Load Increase**
Employment, external responsibility, and controlled exposure to stress
5. **Extended Runway & Aftercare**
Stability maintained long enough for freedom to become familiar and durable

This pacing—not perfection—is the difference between **temporary compliance** and **lasting change**.

5. Explicit Financial Impact: Recidivism Reduction

100-Man Model (Conservative Scenario)

Baseline assumptions:

- Population: 100 high-risk men
- Typical 3-year re-incarceration rate: ~20%
- Expected re-incarcerations without intervention: 20 men

Modeled Real Restart impact:

- 10 percentage-point reduction in re-incarceration
- Prevented incarceration events: **10 men**

This is not a claim of perfection. It is *10 fewer incarceration events*, which is how public systems measure savings.

Cost Inputs

- Prison cost: \$86.50/day
- Jail cost: \$62.41/day
- Average incarceration avoided: 180 days
- Average pretrial jail time avoided: 30 days

Direct Justice System Savings

- Prison: $10 \times 180 \times \$86.50 = \mathbf{\$155,700}$
- Jail: $10 \times 30 \times \$62.41 = \mathbf{\$18,723}$

Total Direct Justice Savings:

\$174,423 per 100 men

This figure excludes courts, law enforcement, supervision, healthcare, and workforce productivity. It represents a **conservative floor**.

6. High-Utilizer Sensitivity Scenario

For higher-risk populations, the impact increases substantially.

Revised assumptions:

- Baseline re-incarceration: 40%
- With Real Restart: 20%
- Prevented incarceration events: 20 men
- Average incarceration avoided: 365 days
- Jail time avoided: 45 days

Direct Justice Savings:

- Prison: **\$631,450**
- Jail: **\$56,169**

Total Direct Savings: \$687,619 per 100 men

Again, this reflects **justice costs only**.

7. The Work Program: The Economic Multiplier

The most significant impact of Real Restart is not cost reduction alone—it is **economic creation**.

From Cost Center to Contributor

Before Real Restart:

- Unemployed or unstable
- Public-system dependent
- High justice and healthcare utilization

After Real Restart:

- Consistently employed
- Tax-generating consumer
- Reduced public reliance
- Workforce contributor

Workforce Economic Contribution

Conservative assumptions:

- 50 of 100 men reach stable employment

- Average wage: \$40,000/year

This generates:

\$2,000,000 in annual wages

This represents new economic activity layered on top of:

- Avoided incarceration costs
 - Avoided healthcare utilization
 - Reduced supervision load
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8. Total Economic Swing

Before:

- \$50K–\$75K per man per year in public cost exposure

After:

- Reduced justice system utilization
- Millions in earned wages
- Ongoing local economic circulation
- Long-term stability

The economic swing is **six figures per person over time**, not tens of thousands.

9. Who Benefits Financially

1. **State & Local Government** – Reduced bed-days, courts, supervision, and budget volatility
 2. **Healthcare Systems & Insurers** – Fewer high-utilizer patients and crisis claims
 3. **Employers** – Stable workforce and reduced turnover
 4. **Communities** – Safer neighborhoods and stronger families
 5. **Donors & Sponsors** – Multi-system ROI from a single investment
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10. The Real Restart Claim

Real Restart takes men who cost the system **tens of thousands of dollars per year** and converts them into **wage earners, taxpayers, and contributors**—while reducing justice and healthcare burden.

This is not charity alone.

It is **economic strategy grounded in human dignity**.

Conclusion

Texas is already paying the price of chronic instability. The question is not whether resources will be spent—but whether they will produce lasting value.

Real Restart offers a disciplined, long-duration alternative that aligns human formation with economic return. It replaces recurring failure with durable contribution and transforms public cost into shared benefit.