



The **Interdisciplinary Defense System (IDS)**, a Marion County Reentry Coalition pilot project, is Indiana's first holistic defense pilot and the country's first holistic defense and reentry project.

Who is eligible?

Marion County adults who have a public defender and are sentenced to three years or less of executed time in IDOC are eligible to participate in IDS.

Why is this so important?

The IDS project seeks to give clients and their families the tools to break the cycles of poverty and criminal justice involvement and encourage productive engagement in the community. Applying an innovative and collaborative approach that focuses on clients' goals, IDS leverages partnerships already in place to surround clients with support and, client-by-client, build a platform for community-based and larger systems change.



Project Overview

Launched in May 2023, IDS is a **client -centered, interdisciplinary approach involving comprehensive criminal and civil legal representation wrapped in health/mental health services, community supports, and housing navigation that starts at sentencing and extends beyond the life of the criminal case.** A continuum of services is provided through incarceration, post-release, and stabilization in the community.

Designated staff from Adult & Child Health, Horizon House, the Marion County Public Defender Agency, Indianapolis Legal Aid Society, and PACE work together as a single IDS team, with the Indiana Department of Corrections (IDOC) participating as a primary partner. Community Solutions, Inc. is the project manager and evaluator.

Project Updates

from program launch to September 2025.

184

Clients Enrolled!



57% African American/Black
30% Caucasian/White
11% More than one race
3% Latinx/Hispanic

66% were at the age of
25-44 at the time of
enrollment

85% Male
15% Female

Over 7,000 services delivered to clients!

28%

Consultations and advice/assistance with criminal and civil legal issues;

Facilitation of health, mental health, and substance use treatment;

Case planning assessments, development and facilitation of client-led goals and reentry plans;

Housing navigation and placement;

Connections to employment training, referrals, and placement;

Facilitation of obtaining personal documentation;

Advocating for client needs;

Regular case management support;

and Financial assistance.

What we are learning

There is a great need for financial support upon release.

Through the end of September 2025, 50% of post-release clients have required financial assistance immediately upon release to meet their basic needs. Over \$290,000 has been spent, with an average of \$4,100 needed per recipient. Of this amount, 94% was needed to meet housing or other basic needs such as food, clothing, and hygiene products.

Housing is a significant challenge.

Over \$236,000 has been spent on housing needs. 70% of post-release clients have needed help securing housing post-release. Almost all could only secure temporary/transitional housing solutions. While plans are made to move to permanent housing, actualizing these plans has been a challenge; hotels, boarding rooms, and transitional housing have filled the gap.

How impact is being measured

- Throughout clients' involvement with IDS, they participate in periodic Life Areas Assessments, in which they report what they are experiencing in 14 different "life areas" that look at various conditions of living.
- 100% of the clients who completed multiple Life Areas Assessments have increased stability in at least one life area.
- Post-release indicators are measured by recording staff services and tracking progress on client-led goals. Of 104 clients released from IDOC:
 - 83% have housing (63% needed services to secure temporary housing)
 - 61% increased access to health care
 - 42% obtained employment at some point post-release
- Recidivism will be measured at various intervals post-release.

