

REENTRY RESOURCE GUIDE FOR SANGAMON COUNTY

This Guide is a list of resources and services that are currently available in Sangamon County. These resources and services could help a person returning to this County after imprisonment--if and when a person needs help.

Many people--all of us--need some help sometimes. In this County, we have people who will help you to do well, to succeed, for yourself--and for everyone around you. Some of these resources and services might be what you need. Others might not be what you need. So you may have to “navigate,” to find your way. You may be able to find your own way, or you may need to ask for help. There is help available.

This Guide does not list every resource and service in this County. You can learn more about these or other resources and services by (1) a computer or (2) a telephone call or (3) visiting the place when you are here. Street addresses are in the City of Springfield. We recommend that you call before a visit, to be sure that the place has what you wish.

This Guide is prepared by the Sangamon County Reentry Resources Council--people who would like to help other people toward success, when they return to this community.

REENTRY RESOURCES

Shifting Into New Gear (“SING”): For several years, Lynard Joiner, SING’s CEO, has helped other formerly-imprisoned people with their reentry to family and community life. SING works with people for as long as three years, and has helped hundreds, with a track record of success. SING includes a needs assessment, mentoring, help to find housing and employment, a financial literacy class, and resource navigation and referrals. SING’s website <https://ShiftingIntoNewGear.org> has much more information from Mr. Joiner and from clients. Call Mr. Joiner at 217-441-3082, or email joiner1963@outlook.com. SING has an office at the City’s Office of Community Resources, 2833 S. Grand E, Suite C100 (217-535-3120).

Faith Coalition for the Common Good: Their Transformational Justice Task Force can help people navigate. Contact Shelly Heideman, 2208 E. Kansas (217-544-2297).

“Mapping Your Future: A Guide to Successful Reentry:” This is a 240-page publication by the Education Justice Project (EJP) at the University of Illinois, and includes a list of resources across the state. This publication is available in prisons, online and by request to EJP. EJP also offers helpful reentry videos: Preparing Mentally for Release, (<https://vimeo.com/596027712>) and Getting Your IDs and Documents, (<https://vimeo.com/596023038>).

East Springfield Community Center Commission, Inc., has “PROJECT Returning American Citizens Empowered” (“RACE”), 1507 E. Cook Street (217-414-9784) or e-mail the.esccc@gmail.com. RACE provides a complete approach to support services for former offenders, assisting people to find housing, counseling, health screenings, employment programs and educational training.

GOVERNMENT SERVICES

Illinois Department of Employment Services, 1300 S. 9th St. (800-244-5631): employment services, information about other services.

Illinois Department of Human Services: please search ABE.Illinois.gov, using a computer, before you contact Sangamon County Family Community Resource Center, 600 Ash St., Bldg 500 (217-782-0400): Medicaid, SNAP (food stamps), some cash assistance.

Illinois Secretary of State, offices at 316 N. Klein St. (217-782-4850), 501 S. 2d St. (217-785-3000), 2701 S. Dirksen Pkwy (217-782-6212): Drivers licenses, state ID cards.

Social Security Administration, 3112 Constitution Ave. (877-279-9504): Social Security retirement or disability benefits, supplemental security income (SSI), Medicare.

Springfield Housing Authority, 200 N. 11th (217-753-5757): public housing and Section 8 vouchers. They have a waiting list, and disqualify people with a misdemeanor within 3 years or a felony within 10 years.

GENERAL RESOURCES

211: If you dial 211 on the phone, you can reach a resource person at United Way who can assess your needs and refer you to services, including crisis help, emergency shelter, food pantries, day care, rent or utility assistance, mental health services, counseling, health and disability resources, and educational and vocational training.

Springfield Urban League, 100 N. 11th St. (217-789-0830): offers health programs, workforce development, job training.

HOUSING RESOURCES

Capital Township General Assistance Office, 2833 S. Grand Ave. East (217-525-1736): rent and utility assistance for Capital Township residents.

Contact Ministries, 1100 E. Adams St. (217-753-3939): homeless shelter for women and women with children, transitional housing.

Helping Hands, 1023 E. Washington St. (217-522-0048): homeless shelter for men, supportive housing.

Inner City Mission, 714 N.7th St. (217-525-3940): transitional housing for women and women with children.

M.E.R.C.Y. Communities, 1344 N. 5th St. (217-753-1358): supportive housing for women with children.

5th Street Renaissance/Sara Center, 1315 N. 5th St. (217-544-5040): supportive housing.

Springfield Overflow Center, 221 N. 11th St. (day time number, 217-622-9742; night time number, 217-303-4473): winter overflow overnight shelter for men and women.

Family Guidance Center, 120 N. 11th St. (217-544-9858): a federally-funded halfway house for people after imprisonment, helping people reenter the workforce and community.

EMPLOYMENT RESOURCES: FOR JOBS AND JOB PREPARATION

The City of Springfield's Office of Community Relations, 1450 Groth St. (217-789-2270), publishes a list--"Community Employment Connection, Second Chance Employment Opportunities"--of more than 200 employers who consider all applicants, including people who have been imprisoned. Contact this Office for this list.

The City's "Community Employment Connection" also lists some resources that help people prepare for employment: SING (listed above); Urban League (listed above); Illinois Department of Employment Security (listed above); 5th Street Renaissance (listed above); Lincoln Land Community College, 5250 Shepherd Rd. (217-786-2200)(GED course, adult education, job training); Midwest Technical Institute (2731 Farmers Market Rd., 877-292-8664); Abundant Faith Support Services (2641 E. Cook St., 217-527-1006).

There is also a private company, Express Employment Professionals (3000 Professional Dr., 217-528-3000), that offers informational videos and individual services.

Land of Lincoln Goodwill Industries, 1220 Outer Park Dr. (217-789-0400): job and career counseling.

Land of Lincoln Workforce Alliance, 1300 S. Ninth St. (217-524-5996): job preparation and career training.

HEALTH RESOURCES

If you have limited finances and no health insurance, you should apply for a Medicaid

card--to help pay for health care. For a Medicaid card, you can (1) contact the Illinois Department of Human Services at www.ABE.Illinois.gov or (2) apply by phone at 800-843-6154 or (3) get a paper application at the Sangamon County Family Community Resource Center, 600 E. Ash St., Bldg 500 (217-782-0400)(call first for information).

Southern Illinois University School of Medicine (SIU) has a Community Health Worker program: these workers help people navigate the health and service programs. 401 N. Walnut St. (217-545-3847) (contact Erica Austin).

There are several Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). These FQHCs provide health care to people with insurance or Medicaid cards or anyone else (“self-pay”). For “self-pay,” FQHCs have a sliding scale based on ability to pay, so the cost should be reasonable. These FQHCs are: Central Counties Health System, 2239 E. Cook St. (217-788-2300)(Central Counties also goes to Helping Hands–listed above as a housing resource–two days a week, call ahead to 217-522-0048); SIU Center for Family Medicine, 520 N. 4th St., #5238 (217-545-8000); and the Sangamon County Health Department, 2833 E. South Grand Ave. (217-535-3100).

There are also emergency rooms, Urgent Care and Prompt Care clinics, and other clinics.

FOOD RESOURCES

Central Illinois Foodbank, 1937 E. Cook St. (217-522-4022): they don’t distribute food themselves, but they know who does distribute food, when and where.

There are food pantries at several places. You should contact these pantries before you go, to be sure when they are open. These include:

Abundant Faith Christian Center, 2525 Taylor Ave. (217-585-4000)

Catholic Charities, 120 S. 11th St. (217-523-4551)

First Presbyterian Church, 321 S. 7th St. (217-528-4311) (mini pantry)

Grace Lutheran Food Pantry, 714 E. Capitol Ave. (217-522-9707)

Kumler Outreach Ministries, 303 N. Grand Ave. East (217-523-2269)

Salvation Army, 1600 E. Clear Lake Ave. (217-525-2196)

St. Martin’s de Porres Center, 1725 S. Grand Ave. East (217-299-7921). St. John’s

Breadline, 430 N. 5th St. (217-528-6098): free meals daily 10:30 am to 1:30 pm.

Washington Street Mission, 408 N. 4th St. (217-544-9011): coffee and donuts weekdays 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES (including Job Training)

Lawrence Education Center, 101 E. Laurel (217-525-3233): GED course, adult education.

Lincoln Land Community College (listed above): GED, adult education, job training.

Land of Lincoln Workforce Alliance (listed above): help with job training, counseling and searching.

SERVICES FOR MILITARY VETERANS

Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs, 833 S. Spring St. (217-782-6641): assistance applying for benefits, housing, education and legal aid.

Veterans Assistance Commission of Sangamon County, 901 S. 11th St. (217-753-6680): assistance applying for benefits, emergency financial assistance, transportation to other veterans facilities.

Salvation Army, 1600 East Clear Lake Ave.(217-525-2196): assistance for eligible veterans seeking section 8 vouchers, assistance for eligible homeless veterans to find housing.

SERVICES FOR JUVENILES (up to age 21)

Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice (in Lincoln, IL)(217-557-1030): program called “Aftercare,” to help youth after imprisonment with health treatment (including mental health and substance abuse), education, vocational training and counseling.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES (for treatment and recovery)

This County has a Recovery Oriented System of Care (ROSC), working toward better resources and services for substance abuse. At present, there are telephone services through the Illinois Helpline (833-234-6343) and the Illinois Warmline (866-359-7953). There are local services through the Family Guidance Center (217-544-9858)(listed above under “housing resources”); Gateway Foundation, 2200 Lake Victoria Dr. (217-529-9266 or 217-685-4197); Phoenix Center, 109 E. Lawrence (217-528-5253)(harm reduction services); Narcotics Anonymous (there are 18 groups meeting in the area); Alcoholics Anonymous, 1701 E. Cook St. (217-525-5795); Celebrate Recovery, 2800 Adlai Stevenson Dr. (217-529-1905); We Connect Recovery (meetings online).

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Memorial Behavioral Health has walk-in mental health services: 710 N. Eighth St. (217-525-1064); 3225 Hedley Rd. (217-726-7308); 901 First St., Suite 225 (217-788-4065); 701 N. First St. (Memorial Hospital) (217-788-3000). If possible, please call first.

Memorial Behavioral Health also has an Emotional Support Hotline (217-588-5509). There are other hotlines and warmlines: Illinois Warm Line (866-359-7953); Illinois Call4Calm Text Line (text “talk” to 552020); National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (800-273-8255).

Family Service Center, 730 E. Vine St. (217-528-8406): offers counseling.

CIVIL LEGAL AID

Land of Lincoln Legal Assistance, 3085 Stevenson Dr., Suite 202 (217-529-8400): offers help with consumer law, family law, education law, elder law, disability rights, housing law, health law, employment law.

State Appellate Defender, 400 W. Monroe, Suite 303 (217-782-3654): they can send you an “expungement packet,” information on how a person can expunge and/or seal some criminal records--but expungement does not apply to most felony cases that ended with a criminal conviction.

Illinois Attorney General, 500 S. 2d St. (217-782-1090): mediation service for consumer complaints.

Illinois State Bar Association, 424 S. 2d St. (899-922-8757): lawyer referral

service. **COMPUTER ACCESS (for the public)**

Illinois State Library, 300 S. Second St. (217-785-5600): computers available to public.

Lincoln Library, 300 S. 2nd St. (217-753-4900): computers available to the public.

Springfield Urban League, 100 N. 11th. St. (217-789-0830): computer lab for limited purposes.

TRANSPORTATION

Sangamon Mass Transit District (SMTD), 928 S. 9th Street (217-522-8069): 17 bus routes, map is available. Rides are \$1.25, cheaper with bus pass, cheaper to seniors and disabled people, tickets available at Walgreens and schools.

Also consider taxi service, Uber, Lyft--and rides from friends.