

HERE, WE DO.



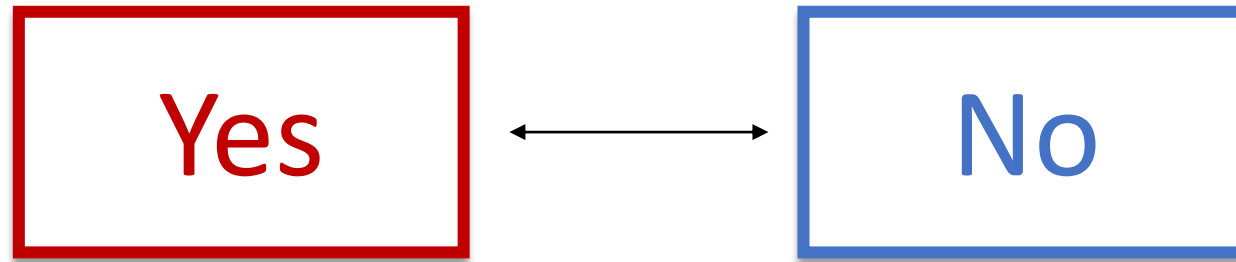
Beyond Recidivism: Desistence and Determinants of Successful Reintegration

Budgeting for Results Commission 2023 Annual Public Hearing

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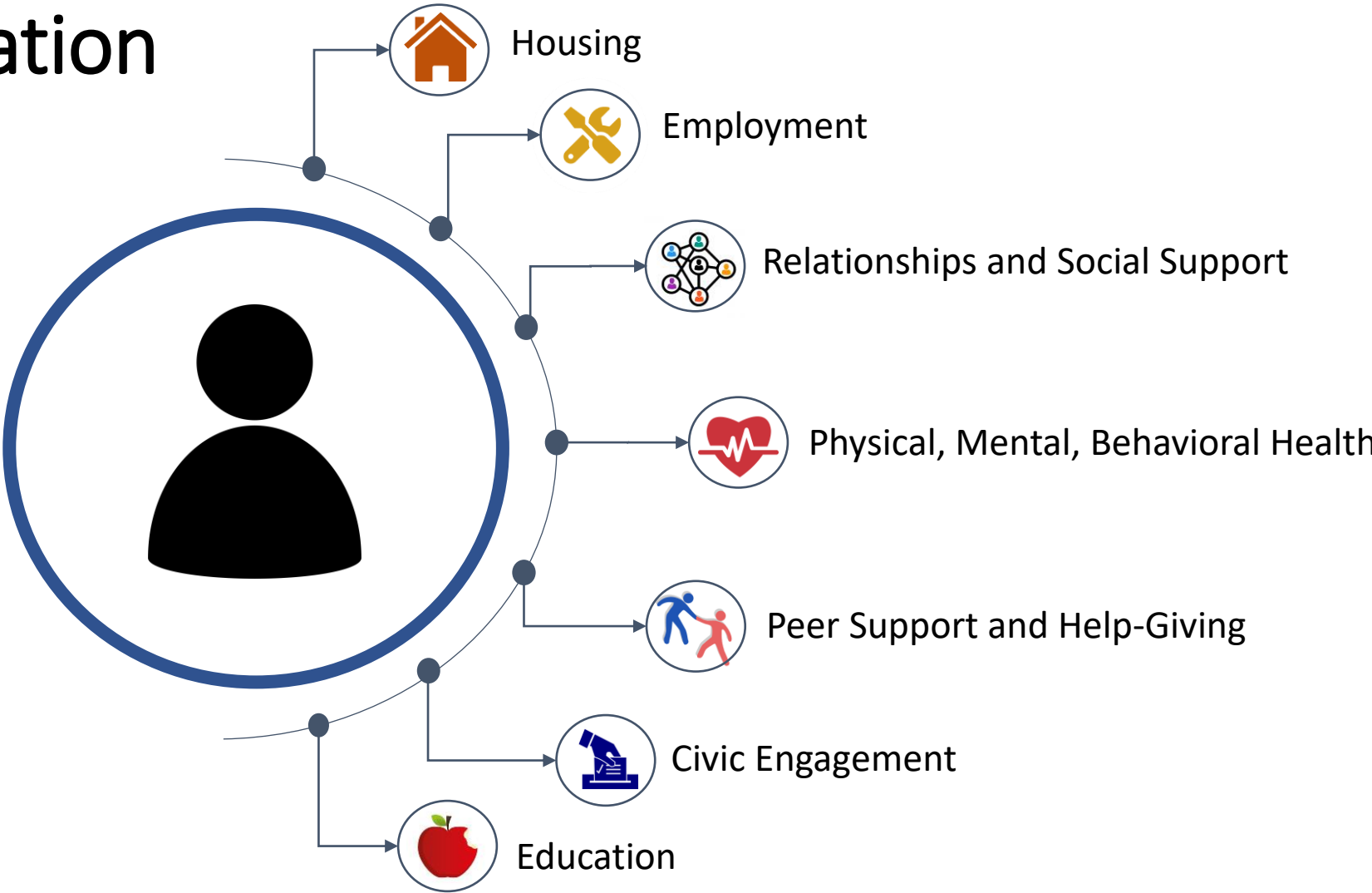
Measuring Recidivism



Desistence from criminal behavior is a gradual process

Determinants of Successful Reintegration

Structural inequalities at the community-level may moderate pathways to success.



National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (2016)

What we Know about Successful Reintegration

(but often ignore)

- Desistance is a **process**
- Individuals may achieve **success** in one domain, while experiencing **setbacks** in another
- Individuals returning from a period of incarceration experience **challenges**, but bring with them numerous **strengths**
- Individuals returning from a period of incarceration may feel **pressure to prove they are worthy** of respect (by self, family, peers, professionals)

Challenges to Moving Beyond Just Recidivism

- Criminal history data are the most readily available to researchers
- Funders typically require recidivism as a metric of success
- Little attention or value placed on *how* we support returning individuals
 - Are clients engaged?
 - Do clients have a voice?
 - Does the program have a theory of change and evidence behind it?
 - Do we expect too much / too little?
 - How does the agency work with clients to achieve goals or address needs?
 - Do clients show progress in one or more domains?
 - Do clients feel respected, included, understood, supported?

Considerations for the BFR Process

- Listening to **what success means** to those we are trying to help.
- Traditional recidivism measures should be **supplemented with other metrics**.
 - Desistence
 - Achievements in other domains
 - How programs interact, treat, and support clients
- Need to **support data collection** efforts by programs.
 - Researcher – practitioner collaboration
 - Funding to collect and analyze data

Sources:

National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. 2022. *The Limits of Recidivism: Measuring Success After Prison*. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press. <https://doi.org/10.17226/26459>. Available at: <http://nap.nationalacademies.org/26459>