

Organizational Overview



To reduce recidivism for former offenders by providing the tools they need to become productive members of society.

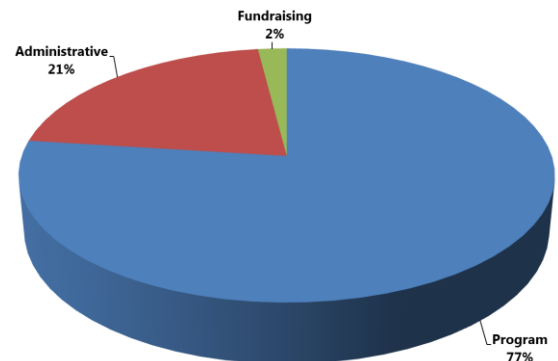
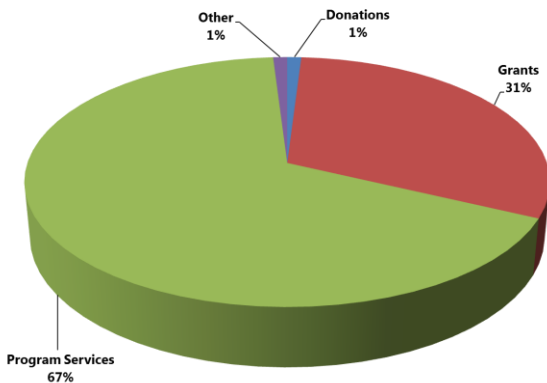
The Ridge House, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit, substance abuse treatment and re-entry organization located in Reno, Nevada. Our therapeutic programs are designed to change the behavior of offenders, prevent future offending and contribute toward the overall safety of our community. The organization helps former offenders become restored socially, spiritually and emotionally. We exist to help those serious about changing their lives.

Ridge House was founded in 1981 by a small group of Kairos members. Kairos, adapted to mean "In God's time" is a Christian retreat program that takes place around the world. In 1981, Kairos members were seeing some of their "inside" friends being released from prison, but the former offenders were not set up to succeed in the outside environment. They were basically given a stipend by the prison and told to be good little girls and boys. Many, who were incarcerated for years, failed and were sent back to prison. The Kairos members did not have the skill set to assist their released friends. They saw a great need for some kind of facility where the released prisoners could stay in a safe environment while they learned the life skills and discipline necessary to succeed in the outside world. In 1982, this group rented a home on Ridge Street in Reno, where the name Ridge House is derived from.

Did you know???

- Less than 25% of clients return to prison within 3 years; the national average ranges from 40-67%
- It costs \$30,000 per year (to the taxpayer) to house an inmate, not including income, payroll, and sales tax revenue collected from the inmates
- About 12,000 inmates are incarcerated in state prison in Nevada
- Roughly 5,000 inmates are released from Nevada state prisons each year

2011 Sources of Funding and Distribution



Ridge House recidivism program statistics

Ridge House has a total of 42 beds, yet served 124 individuals in residential/transitional programming in the last fiscal year. If the national average of 40% recidivate in 3 years' time, 50 people go back to prison. Using the Ridge House average of 25% recidivate, then 31 go back to prison. The difference is 19 people, which multiplied by an average taxpayer cost of \$30,000, the Ridge House saved Nevadans about \$570,000.

The Ridgehouse, Inc.

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Project Overview

The Ridge House has designed an innovative initiative to place individuals to work for an agency-owned sandwich shop franchise. The shop would serve as a training ground for former offenders to learn specific, transferrable job skills in restaurant operations and management, including additional challenges such as job retention skills.

The individuals will be paid 100% from the Work Experience (WEX) contract through its funding with Nevada Works (WIA). Through partnerships with other sandwich shop franchisees in the region, the trained individual will be placed at another location on the OJT (On the Job Training) contract, which pays up to 50% of the employee's salary. This system would ensure a former offender to start employment immediately following release, which is a proven method to reduce relapse and re-incarceration rates.

This project will serve as a capacity-building project, as well. The establishment of a social enterprise for the agency has the potential of diversifying its funding streams beyond the usual public sector subsidies (government grants), charitable donations and client service fees. Profits from the sandwich shop will be used to support the agency's other program, thus reducing its dependence on public (tax payer) dollars.

Dependence on government grants is not the way to run a sustainable non-profit organization. Our goal with this project is to diversify the agency's funding streams by creating a social entrepreneurial business model to sustain overall operations. Meanwhile, using the current clients of the agency to operate the franchise will give them important transferable job skills, reduce their dependence on the system and create productive members of society who pay taxes, volunteer in the community and take care of their children.

The feasibility study will be the launching pad for a business plan for the project and will identify potential funders. The output of the study will launch a fundraising campaign for the franchise.

Ultimately, success of the project to create the franchise, as well as manage it, will be determined by the level of public support and involvement. The entire community is invited to become an active participant in the project and its eventual impact on our community's offenders.



Projected Budget

Capital/Building	\$174,500
Employee Training	\$21,000
Franchise Investment	\$10,000
Store Equipment	\$85,000
Restaurant Supplies	\$56,500
Management/Operations	\$58,000
Total Funding Need	\$405,000

Please note that these figures are a projected and will be adjusted based on the feasibility study analysis.

Timeline

- ☐ Write description and budget
- ☐ Design testing methodology
- ☐ Conduct face-to-face survey interviews with stakeholders and unaffiliated community leaders
- ☐ Invite staff, donors, and volunteers to complete the survey online
- ☐ Design a funding campaign strategy
- ☐ Analyze feasibility study data
- ☐ Present feasibility study report to board and funders.

To participate in the survey, contact Pete Parker (NPcatalyst) at
775-333-9444 or pparker@npcatalyst.com..

You may also go to the online survey, located at www.xxxxxxx.