

Next Step Recovery Housing

Alternative sentencing impact in Arkansas

Prepared for Arkansas legislators • Jimmy McGill, Executive Director • October 13, 2026

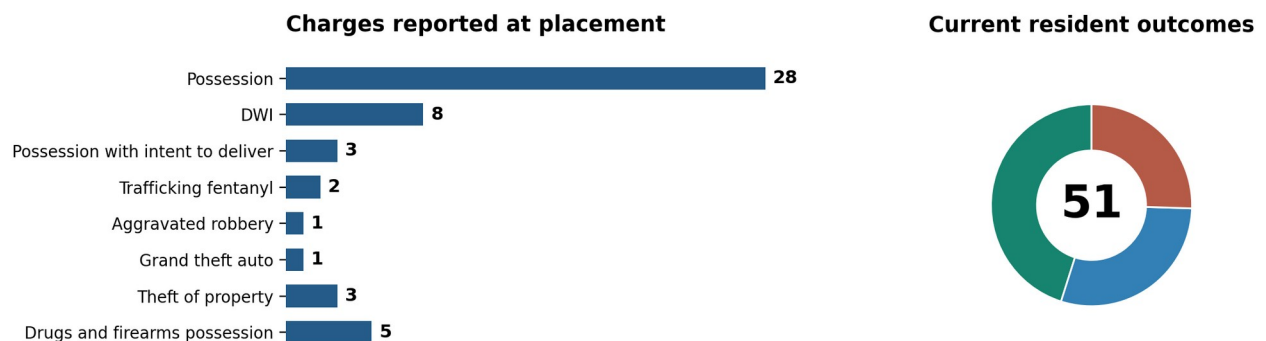
Over the past two years, courts sentenced 51 residents to Next Step for 18 months each instead of returning them to the Department of Corrections. Next Step reports that every resident had multiple prior prison stays. The program combines recovery housing, required employment and transportation to and from work.

\$2,106,473.40

Estimated incarceration cost equivalent for all 51 full 18 month sentences

51 residents × 547.5 days × \$75.44 per day = \$2,106,473.40

18 months is annualized as 1.5 × 365 days; equivalent cost per resident is \$41,303.40.



23 • 45.1% Still at Next Step and maintaining sobriety

15 • 29.4% Moved out and working full time

13 • 25.5% Currently in jail or prison

Employment and Arkansas tax contributions

Next Step reports that all 51 residents were required to hold regular jobs, received transportation to and from work, earned wages and paid Arkansas taxes on those earnings. These tax contributions are additional economic benefits; wage and tax totals were not supplied and are not included in the estimate above.

Counties represented in the supplied breakdown

Cross 1 • Faulkner 2 • Franklin 2 • Garland 1 • Hempstead 2 • Independence 2 • Johnson 10 • Little River 2 • Logan 1 • Lonoke 7 • Madison 4 • Pope 1 • Pulaski 2 • Sebastian 1 • Washington 15

County entries total 53; charge and outcome counts each total 51. County assignments require reconciliation.

Calculation basis and limits

The estimate values full sentenced time, not verified taxpayer savings or actual days diverted. Actual savings require admission and exit dates, incarceration dates, likely prison time served and any state-funded program costs. Outcomes are a current snapshot, not a measured recidivism rate. Counts and employment statements were supplied by Next Step and have not been independently audited.

Rate note: \$75.44 is the rate supplied for this brief. The Arkansas DOC FY2025 Inmate Cost Report lists \$74.46 per inmate per day and \$75.41 per bed per day.

Source: Arkansas Legislative Council, Exhibit H.05.d, DOC 2025 Cost per Day Report, FY2025 summary.