

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.

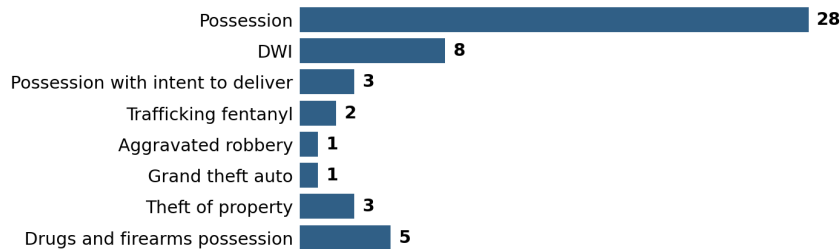
\$2,106,473.40

Estimated incarceration cost equivalent for all 51 full 18 month sentences

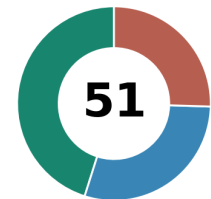
51 residents × 547.5 days × \$75.44 per day = \$2,106,473.40

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

Charges reported at placement



Current resident outcomes



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 (Residents were sentenced on other charges after completing our program.)

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 2 • Pope 1 • Pulaski 2 • Sebastian 1 • Washington 15

County entries total 51; charge and outcome counts each total 51.