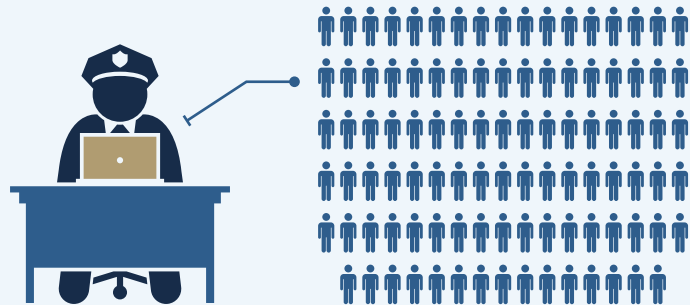


# Why Work for Time Credits are Right for Idaho

## The criminal justice system is failing.

Prisons and jails are overcrowded, probation officers and parole supervisors have unmanageable caseloads, and structural failures have fostered generational cycles of crime and incarceration.

Probation and parole officers across the U.S. have caseloads that **regularly exceed maximum recommendations.**



Source: Cathey, Dan, and Chris Miller, "Research Adult Probation and Parole Services," New Mexico Sentencing Commission. November 2007.

For years, criminal justice experts and corrections officials alike have sounded the alarm about overcrowded prisons and jails, excessive supervision caseloads, and structural failures that keep generations of Americans in a cycle of crime and incarceration. **Policymakers from across the political spectrum cannot ignore the exploding costs of prison and the staggering rates of recidivism—both indicators of a system that is failing our society.**

95% of inmates will be released within their lifetime, and Idaho spends approximately **\$5 per day per offender** on community supervision.

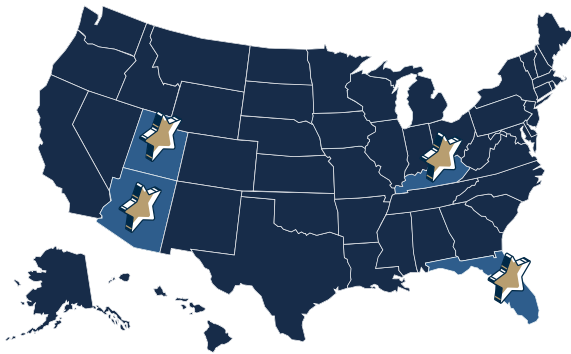


That means 8,722 of the approximately 8,900 inmates who will be released will cost the state approximately **\$16,363,344 per year** to supervise.<sup>1</sup>

## THE SOLUTION

States should reward successful, non-violent, low-risk probationers and parolees with credits of time—usually measured in days—towards their supervision sentences, allowing them to terminate their sentences earlier than expected. Time can be earned by meeting or exceeding expectations for stable employment, sobriety, maintaining housing, and so on.

States such as **Arizona**, **Florida**, **Kentucky**, and **Utah** have already demonstrated success with earned time credit policies.



## WHY IT MATTERS



Earned time credits create powerful incentives for individuals to make meaningful progress toward rebuilding their lives while reducing recidivism and caseloads.

Idaho's current  
recidivism rate is  
**35–37 PERCENT.**<sup>2</sup>



Stable employment  
has been shown to  
reduce recidivism  
across states **down**  
**to 9 PERCENT.**<sup>3</sup>

## THE BOTTOM LINE:

**Earned time credits encourage rehabilitation, improve public safety, and reduce strain on overloaded parole and probation officers.**

**They encourage strong families and reinforce the importance of community—elements of life that many individuals lacked before entering the criminal justice system.**

### SOURCES:

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2. Office of Performance Evaluations, Idaho Legislature. Criminal Justice: Reentry. Evaluation Report, July 2023. <https://legislature.idaho.gov/wp-content/uploads/OPE/Reports/r2106.pdf>
3. Prison to Employment Connection. 10 Facts About Prison. <https://prison2ec.org/facts/>. Accessed February 12, 2025