



WestTCORE

West Tennessee Coalition
for Offender Re-Entry
www.westcore.org

WestCore is a collaborative organization of not for profit, faith based groups, governmental agencies and concerned citizens united to address Offender Re-entry in West Tennessee.

Several thousand men and women are paroled from incarceration from a dozen West TN Correctional Facilities and County Lock ups each year, many returning to the Memphis area. The job of restoring of these individuals falls to fewer than 6 Parole Board Approved Halfway Houses with a collective bed count of approximately 170 beds [for men] and none women.

WestTCORE is a coalition of Halfway Houses and ancillary non profits dedicated to helping as many of these individuals regain their balance during a very delicate time in their lives. Without any funding from the State Department Of Corrections, Board of Probation and Parole, County or City agencies, the Halfway Houses struggle to provide the needed services required by our clients. Funding usually comes from Church related and private party financial and "in kind" assistance. While some houses enjoy some grant monies from several agencies, most receive none. The individual Houses are left to apply for whatever funding may be available.

WestTCORE was created as a means to approach common issues and establish consistency regarding policy and practices among our members. Secondly, as a platform to provide a united front when seeking Governmental Grants, Private Sector Grants, or Corporate Financial Assistance. And thirdly, to become a voice for a forgotten, but rapidly growing segment of our population: the Ex-Offender.

While millions of dollars are spent annually by the Feds, the States, the Counties, and Municipalities for "inside the walls" rehabilitation, in addition to the \$100.00 per day housing costs, virtually no dollars convey with the individual when they are released to the Halfway Houses, and that is a Tennessee (National) Tragedy. It is little wonder that 75% of those released on Parole return to the institutions within 24 months or less.

Together, we can break this cycle