## <u>memworks</u>

## Employment Roadblock Fact Sheet

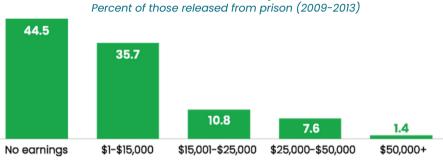




## Involvement with the criminal legal system can impose overwhelming barriers to achieving economic stability

Twice as many people per capita are incarcerated in Shelby County compared to the national average. For those people, support overcoming obstacles to secure stable housing, transportation, and skills development can dramatically improve employment outcomes.

## Income earned the first full calendar year after incarceration



80 percent of people who reenter from the criminal legal system earned less than \$15,000 the first year after reentry, with 45 percent reporting no earnings at all



**Rates of incarceration** have more than tripled in Shelby County since 1985 and is estimated to be 95 percent higher than the national average

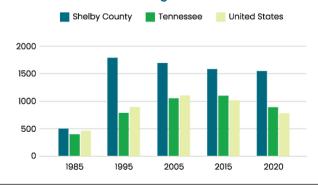


40 percent of annual Tennessee state prison entries are for **violating community supervision requirements** (e.g., probation, parole), similar to all drug and violent offenses combined.



Nearly half of Tennesseans with a felony conviction have **returned to prison within three years**. Across the country, this rate increases to 79 percent after five years.







Only 55 percent of people formerly incarcerated in the U.S. reported having any earnings in the first year after reentry, with median earnings being only \$10,090



Common barriers include legal debt (bail, court fees, etc.), revoked driver's licenses from unpaid debts, housing application rejections, and business practices that **limit job options** 



8 out of 10 people reported having landlords summarily reject their applications because of their criminal records



"...someone reentering society from incarceration with unpaid debts and revoked driver's license may have more trouble securing a job, housing, and financial stability—all associated with reduced recidivism. Unintended consequences like these can play out in a number of ways."



