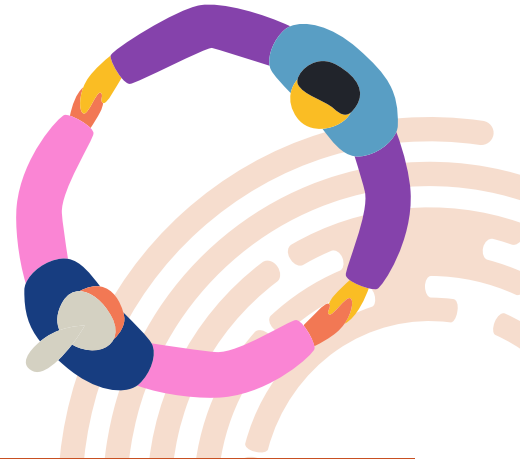


# We Support Family Stability

**TO HELP FAMILIES THRIVE, WE NEED TO FIX THE UNFAIR SYSTEMS THAT CAUSE PEOPLE TO DEVELOP DIFFERENTLY THROUGHOUT THEIR LIVES.** This means working toward changing the conditions where people live, work, and play. States that work toward a fairer society tend to have stronger, more resilient families and communities.



*We serve a diverse community of stakeholders across the state who are affected by inequalities and unfairness that could lead to family instability.*

% of Wisconsin's population	% of our institute's contacts	
8%	10%	2020 census data shows that the <b>Hispanic or Latino(a)</b> population makes up 8% of Wisconsin's population. In 2022–23, 10% of the total contacts we reached identified as Hispanic, Latino(a), or Chicano(a).
6%	12%	The <b>Black or African American</b> population makes up 6% of the state population and 12% of our institute's contacts.
6%	5%	People with <b>two or more races</b> make up 6% of the state population and 5% of our institute's contacts.
3%	2%	The <b>Asian</b> population makes up 3% of the state population and 2% of our institute's contacts.
1%	3%	The <b>American Indian and Alaska Native</b> population makes up 1% of the state population and 3% of our institute's contacts.



**Human Development & Relationships Institute**  
DIVISION OF EXTENSION  
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## The Literacy Link

*The Literacy Link* program has transformed jail waiting and visitation areas to create literacy-rich experiences for children. Additionally, some Wisconsin jails have changed their procedures to support this program. Notably, in both Dane and Racine Counties, facility staff have observed a positive change in how children engage with the visiting space. Children are drawn to the reading corner, where they read books with their parents during visits.

Currently, 14 correctional facilities actively participate in The Literacy Link. Our data suggest that for about three in four parents, The Literacy Link was their first-ever exposure to parenting education. Providing education in jail settings allows us to reach parents and families that are often underserved, including families that are disproportionately affected by incarceration. In terms of race and ethnicity, 60 percent identified as primarily Alaska Native/American Indian/Indigenous/Native American or Black/African American. Additionally, 21 percent of the participants are Chicano(a)/Hispanic/Latino(a).



*We engage with Literacy Link participants across 14 correctional facilities*

**43%**  
children

**58%**  
adults



**46%**  
children  
ages 0-4

**54%**  
children  
ages 5-17





# Financial Coaching

**Financial coaching** is a free service available to Wisconsin residents. Clients meet one-on-one with a professional who helps them create a money management plan based on their own priorities. In the 2022–23 period, we worked with 331 clients.

Key outcomes include 319 clients identified their family’s financial goals; 265 clients felt empowered to tackle financial challenges independently, suggesting that these residents are now better equipped to navigate banking and other financial services; 134 clients increased their employment status; and 109 clients reached out for support to maximize their income (e.g., job training, resume building, tax support). Additionally, 63 percent of clients checked their credit report, which prepares them for applying for loans or credit cards. Among financial coaching clients, 46 reported paying off specific amounts of debt, totaling about \$138,000. Clients collectively added over \$75,000 to their savings, and 85 percent reported increased hope, confidence, or motivation since participating in financial coaching.

## Reentry Ready: Focus on Finances

The Human Development & Relationships Institute works with people who are incarcerated and have often faced inequities, focusing on developing essential skills related to managing money. Participants learn how to track income and expenses, understand credit reports, and take initial steps to address debt. Of the 88 participants who completed evaluations during the first year of the **Reentry Ready: Focus on Finances** program, 92 percent said the course helped them learn a lot about how to track the money they have coming in and going out, and 87.5 percent said they learned a lot about the first steps to take when dealing with debt (the other 12.5 percent said they learned a little).

*“I plan on using a lot from this class — avoiding scams and building credit, taking care of my debt and building credit, using a secured credit card and certificate of deposit and utilizing free credit reports, budgeting, and building up my credit score.”*  
[Reentry Ready: Focus on Finances]

*“I plan to use the tracking, building and earning, and credit history lessons to create better opportunities for myself.”*  
[Reentry Ready: Focus on Finances]

*“I made my first budget at 57 years old.”*  
[Reentry Ready: Focus on Finances]

### Financial Coaching Key Outcomes



**319 clients** identified their family’s financial goals.



**265 clients** felt empowered to tackle financial challenges independently.



**134 clients** increased their employment status.



**109 clients** reached out for support to maximize their income (e.g., job training, resume building, tax support).



**63%** of clients checked their credit report.



**46 clients** reported paying off specific amounts of debt, totaling about \$138,000.



**\$75,000** was collectively added to clients’ savings after financial coaching.



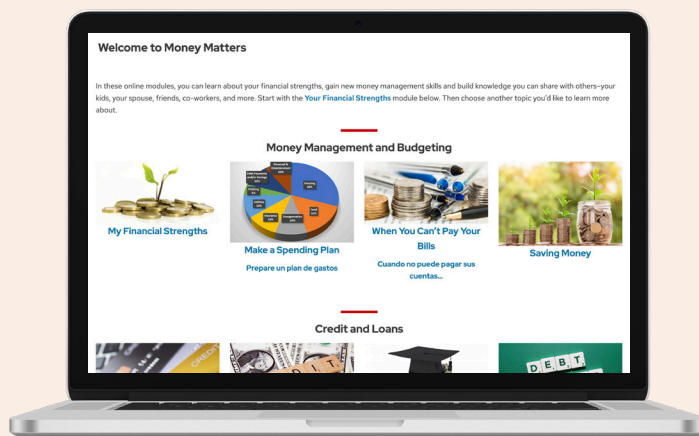
**85%** reported increased hope, confidence, or motivation since participating in financial coaching.

## Money Matters

**Money Matters** is an online program designed for learners who want to enhance their financial literacy. It covers essential topics critical for individuals with low or middle incomes. These topics include personal financial strengths and behavior, budgeting, debt management, saving, credit building, health insurance, and retirement planning. The program is accessible to anyone seeking unbiased, verified financial education. Between 2020 and 2023, an impressive 97 percent of Money Matters participants expressed confidence – either very confident or somewhat confident – in their ability to achieve their self-set financial goals.

97%

Participants expressed confidence in their ability to achieve self-set financial goals.



## Aging-Friendly Communities

The Human Development & Relationships Institute focuses on educating, providing resources, and taking leadership action that creates environments where all community members can successfully age in place. Extension offers information and resources related to the impact of population aging, which addresses ageism and promotes aging-friendly community design. By engaging key stakeholders, these efforts aim to transform communities. These communities become supportive environments for older people while also being attractive to young families seeking a place to settle down, in turn, positively impacting economic development and community vitality.



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