



**DWIHN**  
Your Link to Holistic Healthcare



Detroit Free Press

## **Detroit Wayne Integrated Health Network**

707 W. Milwaukee St.  
Detroit, MI 48202-2943  
Phone: (313) 833-2500  
[www.dwihn.org](http://www.dwihn.org)

FAX: (313) 833-2156  
TDD: (800) 630-1044 RR/TDD: (888) 339-5588

**For Immediate Release**

**CONTACT:** Tiffany Devon  
Director of Communications  
[tdevon@dwihn.org](mailto:tdevon@dwihn.org)  
313-570-9382

### **DWIHN and Chance for Life Bring Game Changing Opportunity to Ex Offenders** *'A Leg Up' Program designed for those having served long-term sentences*

**DETROIT, MI – October 30, 2024** – Returning citizens face tremendous challenges when released from incarceration. They experience varying degrees of difficulty finding jobs and depending on their convictions, the stigma can be overwhelming. The Detroit Wayne Integrated Health Network (DWIHN) and provider, Chance for Life, understands the adversity and are proud to bring an innovative program to the community called, 'A Leg Up'.

"This program is poised to make a significant impact on community reintegration by providing returning citizens with the necessary tools and support to rebuild their lives," said Manny Singla, DWIHN Interim president and CEO.

The program is designed for Wayne County residents, upon release after serving a minimum of 5 years in prison or a combined 10 consecutive years under jurisdiction of state or federal prison with a criminal conviction involving controlled substances. They must be diagnosed with Opioid Use Disorder and any co-occurring substance use disorder (SUD) and mental health condition.

Participants must participate in the following programs and activities with a DWIHN approved provider:

- Mental health therapy with a certified licensed therapist; and a SUD prevention, outpatient, or treatment program
- A mentorship program for a minimum of 120 days or at least 46 hours
- Job-training and coaching
- Family Reintegration program

"This program should significantly reduce the likelihood of recidivism for these individuals," said Thomas Adams, president and CEO of Chance for Life. "We will address critical barriers to care and employment, including transportation and permanent housing, thereby facilitating smoother community reintegration."

The program will provide participants with clothing, transportation, fees for legal documents, security deposits for housing and 60-day temporary housing if needed.

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*DWIHN is the largest Community Mental Health agency offering integrated health care in Michigan. Through programs and services that utilize promising best practices, we promote a community that is supportive and embraces people with mental illness, intellectual and developmental disabilities and substance use disorder. We offer help with Infant Mental Health, Supportive Housing, and Recovery to support self-determination and improve the health, safety and quality of life for nearly 123,000 people. DWIHN has recently been recognized as Crain's Best Places to Work 2024 as well as one of the Top Workplaces in 2023 by the Detroit Free Press. For more information, download the myDWIHN mobile app, visit [www.dwihn.org](http://www.dwihn.org) or contact our 24/7 Access Helpline, 800-241-4949.*

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