



Hon. William H. Hall IV Entrepreneurship Center

2025 ANNUAL REPORT



The Hon. William H. Hall IV Entrepreneurship Center (501c3) was the first Small Business Development Center (SBDC) in a correctional facility in the United States of America



Mission and Vision

Mission

The Honorable William H. Hall IV Entrepreneurship Center was formed August 2024 as the first Small Business Development Center (SBDC) in a correctional facility in the USA. Due to budget issues May 2025, we transitioned from an SBDC to an entrepreneurship center (EC). In October 2025 the Kane County Sheriff's Office eliminated the Diversion and Reentry program. The team continued the work independently of the Kane County Sheriff's Office. The EC provides workforce & entrepreneurship training, employment training, professional mentorships and economic development opportunities for underserved populations; including people reentering society after incarceration, veterans, recovering from substance use disorders, with disabilities, and other disadvantaged or underrepresented people; to promote entrepreneurship, workforce readiness, and long-term economic self-sufficiency. Our program addresses barriers to employment, capital access, and economic mobility.

Vision

Reduce recidivism and enhance economic self-sufficiency through entrepreneurship and small business ownership.

Key Objectives

Provide a comprehensive entrepreneurship education curriculum. Develop strategic partnerships and funding sources. Recruit lenders to fund graduates' business ventures. Offer post-graduation support and continuous development resources.



Accomplishments

Our clients have not only started but grown existing businesses. From January 2025 - October 2025 our clients received \$597,000 small business bank loans. “Start Your Business” 11- week course. The purpose is to teach the participants business fundamentals, financial literacy, and operations to complete a business plan. Graduates receive continued post-graduation support including consulting, mentorship assistance establishing banking relationships and access to funding. In addition to the cohort, we conducted virtual and in-person workshops covering business certifications and government contracts, banking and finance.

Due to budget issues May 2025, we transitioned from an SBDC to The Honorable William H. Hall IV Entrepreneurship Center. In October 2025 the Kane County Sheriff’s Office eliminated the Diversion and Reentry program. We were I the middle of our first “Start Your Business” community cohort. The team reached out to the participants, informed the students the KCSO no longer supports the entrepreneurship center, however the classes will continue. All of the students continued the class.

Key Metrics and Accomplishments

Category	Detainees In Correctional Facility	Justice Involved in Community	Total
Counseling Sessions	66	217	283
Business Plans	47	31	78
Start Your Business Cohorts	2	1	2
Seminars & Workshops	2	3	5



Success Stories

Ms. E. needed working capital to support an increasing number of purchase orders and a recent move to a new location. The Executive Director advised and reviewed her financial statements prior to referring her to one of our banking partners. She too was approved for a \$90,000 conventional working capital line of credit. As a result of this approval, she was able to complete her move and complete her new orders.

Mr. S. is the President and of a commercial cleaning company. Mr. S. received over 10 hours of business advisory and counseling for both of his companies as well as a formal business plan. Our Executive Director assisted J with a loan application for working capital with a Bank. In August of 2025 he was formally approved and funded for a \$97,000 working capital line of credit with one of our banking partners. This line of credit helped Mr. S with new hires and employee retention in his community.

Mr. T. is the founder and owner of a family-owned auto service and auto-repair shop. As a HWHH e-Center client, he was helped and advised for a \$50,000 Line of Credit facility to continue funding his working capital and payroll needs of his employees. Mr. T. was introduced to one of our banking partners by our Executive Director and was subsequently approved for a conventional working capital line of credit for \$50,000.

2025 Events

- National Second Chance Month Reentry Resource Fair Gail Borden Library Elgin
- Money in 2025 Seminar/Workshop, Aurora Regional Fire Museum
- Lewis Simmons Foundation Golf Outing partnership
- Community Day at the Aurora Regional Fire Museum



Executive Leadership Team

Judith Dawson	Corey Dixon	Rudy Gonzalez
Founder & Managing Director	Director	Executive Director

Our Visionary

The Hon. William H. Hall IV

