CASE STUDY

County Impact: Reduced Recidivism, Increased Savings, Better Outcomes



Hancock County Jail
Greenfield, Indiana

- 446 Beds
- 50 full-time custody staff
- Orijin partner since 2023

Challenge

A revolving door of return offenders

As a lifelong resident of Hancock County, Indiana, Sheriff Brad Burkhart saw the county's 40% recidivism rate—and the lack of meaningful programming in jails—as a challenge he was determined to solve. With nearly four decades of experience in law enforcement, he has seen it all—from the devastating effects of the opioid epidemic to the missed opportunities for rehabilitation. So, when Burkhart led the development of a new, modern jail, he was committed to getting it right. That meant finding a transformational solution to support education, rehabilitation, and real second chances.

By the Numbers

$11M+ estimated taxpayer savings

1,400 learners served since 2023

95% daily utilization rate

88% of graduates have not returned to jail

150+ learners achieved 56K days out of custody

Solution

A learning platform that delivers real outcomes

To turn vision into reality, Sheriff Burkhart tapped Orijin's safe, evidence-based learning platform to bring scalable, high-quality education, rehabilitation, and workforce development directly to the hands of incarcerated individuals. Using secure tablets, individuals access GED prep, adult education, cognitive behavioral therapy, workforce certifications, and personal development resources—at no cost to the inmate.

> **"Corrections is about investing in people. These tools give people a reason to believe they can succeed."**



Sheriff Brad Burkhart
Hancock County Jail

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Building essential skills for sustainable careers

Orijin equips learners with industry-aligned skills to support successful reentry and long-term employment. Learners can earn certificates and explore pre-apprenticeship pathways in high-demand fields like HVAC, electrical, plumbing, facilities maintenance, and more. Through virtual simulations and hands-on digital training, individuals build real-world skills that align with local workforce needs, preparing them for sustainable employment post-release.

A platform built on data and responsiveness

The program is anchored in a data-driven approach. With Orijin's platform, jail leadership can track usage, course completion, and engagement trends across the population. This allows the team to continually evaluate what's working, identify areas for improvement, and make strategic decisions that align with their recidivism-reduction goals.

Dedicated support inside the facility

Sheriff Burkhart created the Jail Navigator role to oversee the day-to-day management of the tablets and support learners in accessing the programming that best fits their needs. Hancock County also works closely with an Orijin Strategic Account Manager, who regularly meets with jail leadership to review impact data, monitor trends, and adapt programming to the facility's evolving needs to ensure maximum impact.

> **"Many of our participants tell us that they've never felt this kind of support before—not even from their own families. To know that someone believes in them can be the spark they need to change their lives."**



Crystal Petty
Jail Navigator

> **"It's so rewarding when you run into someone at the gas station, and they say, 'I'm doing really well because I got this job after earning my certification in jail.' It gives them a sense of purpose, and they don't come back."**



Nichole Stark
Assistant Jail Commander



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Results

Reduced recidivism. Increased savings. Stronger outcomes.

Since launching Orijin's learning platform, Hancock County Jail has seen measurable outcomes—inside the facility and beyond its walls.

Utilization rates have reached as high as 95%, reflecting exceptional learner engagement and consistent participation in educational and workforce development programming. Staff note that the high level of engagement has helped improve safety and overall morale and that the environment feels calmer and more focused, allowing staff to support rehabilitation rather than manage behavior.

Above all, the program is breaking the cycle of incarceration. Of the 170 program graduates, 150 have remained out of jail, collectively accounting for more than 56,000 days out of custody. That translates to over $11 million in recidivism-related cost savings for the county—money that is reinvested in public safety and recovery.

Learners are also gaining tangible skills to succeed after release. Many have earned certifications in trades like HVAC, plumbing, and electrical, unlocking pathways to employment and stability. As one graduate put it: "I've never completed anything in my life, but now I have certificates and skills I can use."

These outcomes reflect the success of a rehabilitative model rooted in education, data, and human connection—and they offer a blueprint for jails across the country looking to turn challenges into lasting change.

$11M+

County savings





> **"There are two kinds of incarceration. One where you just sit and wait to get out. And one where you actually learn something, grow, and start building a better life. That's what Orijin gives us.**



Stephen
Incarcerated Learner

Orijin®

Correctional Leader Since 2014

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