

SCRIP Second Newsletter 2026

IMPACT AND GROWTH UPDATE

Second chances become lasting change when opportunity, support and accountability move together.



COMMUNITY PARTNERS



ASCEND GRADUATES TOGETHER



URBAN MALE INITIATIVE

PROGRESS • PERSEVERANCE • PARTNERSHIP

Rediscover Who You Are!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE PROGRAMS EMPLOYMENT GRADUATION COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP GROWTH

A Year of Forward Movement

SCRIP continued to meet people where they were—inside correctional facilities, in the community, at the point of employment readiness, and at the moment when deeper behavioral and emotional support was needed.

Our work is not built around one doorway. ASCEND helps participants examine the experiences beneath behavior and build the skills required for stability. COPE offers a direct path to employment for work-ready men and women, including referrals from partner agencies. Youth Rise and Urban Echoes give young people tools for growth and a platform for their voices. Stick to the SCRIP keeps people connected after the program ends. The Urban Male Initiative creates space for honest conversation, mentorship and community leadership.

This year also challenged us to become more disciplined about what comes after service delivery: documentation, evaluation and a clear final outcome story. We have strengthened cohort tracking, participant surveys, session logs, facilitator observations, case-management records and Apricot data collection. Our next responsibility is to turn those records into evidence that shows what changed, what support made the difference and what barriers remain.

39	4	4	3
ASCEND graduates reported	Cohorts delivered	Graduates housed	Released DOC graduates employed

Reported organizational figures; final outcome reporting continues to be strengthened through participant records and follow-up documentation.

ONE STORY OF OPPORTUNITY

A SCRIP graduate secured a human-resources position through Accurate Personnel and now helps connect other individuals to hiring opportunities. That is full-circle progress: stability creates opportunity, and opportunity becomes a bridge for someone else.

OUR COMMITMENT

We will continue pairing lived experience with structured programming, clinical collaboration, employer relationships and measurable accountability.

— Edward L. Andrews Founder and Executive Director

A Celebration of Leadership and Second Chances

On September 18, 2026, SCRIP brought supporters, honorees, employers, public servants and community leaders together around one shared belief: people deserve a real opportunity to rebuild their lives.



Thea Montañez receives SCRIP's Community Leadership Award from former Hartford Mayor Luke Bronin.



Representatives of Nassau Financial Group, a valued SCRIP sponsor, at the 2026 gala.

The evening demonstrated what partnership looks like in practice. It connected the lived experience of reentry with employers, media voices, correctional professionals, philanthropy and civic leadership. Those relationships strengthen SCRIP's ability to open doors long after an event ends.



Community leadership



Honoring commitment



Partners in the mission

Among those standing with SCRIP were NBC Connecticut news anchor Kevin Nathan, Restaurant Depot Regional Manager Frank Casale, and Connecticut Department of Correction employees. Their presence reflects the cross-sector partnership required to turn second chances into lasting opportunity.

A Space for Truth Mentorship and Growth

This year's Urban Male Initiative created a space where lived experience, leadership and honest conversation could meet. The initiative invites men to speak openly about trauma, accountability, emotional wellness, identity, relationships and the choices that shape their future.



Voices of lived experience and leadership at the 2026 Urban Male Initiative.



The Urban Male Initiative brings trusted voices into direct conversation with the community.

The goal is not simply to hold an event. It is to create a trusted environment where men can recognize the experiences beneath behavior, learn from credible role models and leave with a stronger sense of responsibility, possibility and connection.

HONEST DIALOGUE

Conversations that acknowledge trauma without removing accountability.

TRUSTED VOICES

Leaders, artists, professionals and men with lived experience who can reach the room.

NEXT STEPS

Mentorship, referrals and connection to SCRIP's broader pathways of support.

Community events become meaningful when they lead to relationships, referrals and continued engagement. SCRIP is committed to carrying the conversations forward.

ASCEND Graduates Together

SCRIP's ASCEND graduates represent progress both in the community and inside correctional facilities. In these photographs, the graduates wearing blue robes completed ASCEND through SCRIP's office-based cohort. The two men standing in the background are graduates of ASCEND at Brooklyn Correctional Institution. Together, they show that transformation can begin in different settings while leading toward the same goals of accountability, stability and successful reentry.



ASCEND office graduates in blue robes celebrate completion alongside two Brooklyn Correctional Institution graduates standing in the background.



Office-based and Brooklyn Correctional Institution ASCEND graduates come together as one SCRIP community.

Inside correctional settings, ASCEND is adapted to approved paper-based materials while preserving the structure of participant reflection, trained facilitation, session documentation and clinical collaboration. In the community, office-based cohorts connect the same behavioral-development foundation to clinical support, employment, case management and other stabilizing resources.

BEYOND COMPLETION

Graduation is a milestone, not the finish line. SCRIP's correctional work is connected to employment, case management, mentoring and community-based support so progress can continue after release.

SCRIP continues strengthening its relationship with the Connecticut Department of Correction and preparing responsibly for future work connected to Osborn Correctional Institution.

One Mission Multiple Pathways

ASCEND STRUCTURED BEHAVIORAL IMPLEMENTATION MODEL

Adults age 26 and older engage in a structured system combining technology, trained facilitation, clinical collaboration, practical activities and measurable participant feedback. ASCEND addresses housing, mental health, employment, social and interpersonal skills, and expert mentoring and social networks.

COPE CAREER OPPORTUNITY PATHWAY TO EMPLOYMENT

COPE is SCRIP's direct employment pathway for work-ready men and women, including people referred by outside agencies who are not enrolled in full ASCEND. Services include employment preparation, job-development assistance, referrals, employer connections and continued workforce guidance.

YOUTH RISE AND URBAN ECHOES

Young people ages 14 through 25 participate in an eight-week experience connecting personal growth with digital storytelling. Participants explore self-awareness, decision patterns, communication, accountability, identity and growth while learning podcast and media production.

STICK TO THE SCRIP

Ongoing community-based reentry support helps participants remain connected to trusted people, referrals, mentoring, case-management resources and opportunities after a class or immediate crisis has ended.

EMPLOYMENT CAN BE THE FIRST DOOR

Getting a job and keeping a job are different challenges. Transportation, housing, trauma, communication, family stress, mental health and workplace adjustment may affect retention. When deeper support is needed, SCRIP can connect employment progress to ASCEND, clinical collaboration and case-management resources.

Partnership Turns Readiness Into Opportunity

SCRIP cannot create sustainable outcomes alone. Lasting progress requires employers, workforce agencies, clinicians, housing partners, mentors, sponsors, public agencies and funders working in coordinated roles.

EMPLOYERS

Interview prepared candidates, share openings, host workplace tours and create second-chance hiring opportunities.

WORKFORCE AGENCIES

Exchange referrals, align training resources, coordinate credentials and help document placement and retention.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Support transportation, identification, clothing, technology, meals, housing navigation and emergency stabilization.

FUNDERS AND SPONSORS

Invest in cohorts, youth media, clinical coordination, facilitator training, data systems and unrestricted operating strength.

GRATEFUL FOR INVESTMENT IN THE MISSION

Recent support has included the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, NBCUniversal Local Impact Grants, the Connecticut Social Equity Council, Hispanic Federation, the Connecticut Judicial Branch, the City of Hartford and the Connecticut Department of Children and Families. SCRIP is pairing that support with stronger financial oversight, biweekly Finance Committee engagement, improved participant tracking and a five-year sustainability plan.



SCRIP receives a 2026 NBCUniversal Local Impact Grant with NBC Connecticut and Telemundo Connecticut.



Community generosity and donated auction items help strengthen SCRIP's fundraising efforts.

Building the Next Chapter Responsibly

01

Deliver ASCEND cohorts at least three times each year while strengthening assessment and final outcome reporting.

02

Build a stronger COPE employer network and formalize referral pathways with employment agencies and community partners.

03

Continue correctional programming and prepare carefully for work at additional approved facilities.

04

Advance facilitator training, certification, quality assurance and fee-for-service implementation of ASCEND.

05

Expand Youth Rise and Urban Echoes through aligned partnerships with youth-serving agencies.

06

Use SCRIP's five-year sustainability plan and financial dashboard to guide staffing, revenue diversification and measured growth.

GROWING INTEREST BEYOND CONNECTICUT

SCRIP is participating in early conversations with correctional and program leaders in Nebraska and Hawaii who have expressed interest in learning more about the ASCEND Structured Behavioral Implementation Model. No formal agreements have been finalized. The discussions reflect growing interest in SCRIP's approach and the importance of expanding only with proper training, quality assurance and implementation support.

JOIN THE NEXT CHAPTER

A referral, job interview, sponsorship, professional service, mentorship connection or unrestricted contribution can help someone move from readiness to opportunity—and from opportunity to lasting stability.

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