**Maryland Opportunity Compact *a sound public/private financing tool for positive results and public savings***

***The Maryland Opportunity Compact*** is a public/private financing innovation that redeploys public dollars away from high cost, ineffective services to alternatives that work.

Developed in 2005 by the Safe and Sound Campaign in collaboration with the Governor’s Office for Children and the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the Maryland Opportunity Compact uses one-time grants to seed programs for the *exact same persons* *who would* *otherwise be under the custodial care and supervision of the State.*

An agreement is made between the State and program partners to *share savings if the alternative program produces a better outcome for the same individuals for less funding.*

Under an Opportunity Compact, programs are awarded funding based on documented results thereby, upon achieving measureable success, programs are assured of the resources to retain skilled employees and strengthen the services offered. Program participants have an unprecedented chance to turn their lives around and Maryland benefits from those who return home, fully prepared to be productive members of our communities.

***Public Safety Compact (PSC)***, organized by the Safe and Sound Campaign, with seed funding and guidance from the Open Society Institute – Baltimore, is currently in use to reduce the number of years eligible adult inmates serve behind bars. The savings that accrue are reinvested to support successful reentry, reduction in recidivism and an increase in public safety. The following charts summarize the PSC’s success in its first five years of operation.

**Public Safety Compact (PSC)   
*Reduces the time adults serve in prison by providing drug treatment in prison and, upon release, case management and an array of recovery, educational and job opportunities.***

The objective is to reduce the number of people, who upon release struggle to make it, and eventually return to prison – typically on a drug possession or distribution charge. Created with a one-time seed grant of $2.5 million in 2010, the Public Safety Compact has produced $2.8 million in public savings and a 9% recidivism rate among graduates (three years post-release). In 2013-4 Choice Research Associates conducted a rigorous evaluation comparing the PSC participants to a control group. Controlling for a full range of variables, the report found significant statistical difference in the rate of the PSC participants’ success derived both from the comprehensive services provided and the determination of the returning citizens to take full advantage of the unprecedented opportunities.