



## **New Leaf - New Life**

**Transformative justice, collaboration, advocacy, and accountability.**

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### **New Leaf, New Life Position Statement on a New Jail**

New Leaf, New Life remains opposed to the construction of a new jail facility in Monroe County. As an organization with over 15 years of direct experience working alongside incarcerated and formerly incarcerated individuals in our community, we know that true public safety comes from investment in people — not larger jail facilities.

Despite ongoing discussions about potential locations and the rising estimated costs of a new jail — [now exceeding \\$200 million](#), compared with the [\\$62 million cost](#) to renovate the current facility — we believe these resources would be better invested in expanding housing, mental health care, and substance use treatment in the community. Evidence-based research has proven that new jails do not solve the systemic issues driving incarceration in our area — including poverty, lack of affordable housing, and untreated mental health or substance use disorders.

Monroe County's own data shows most people in the jail are held pre-trial, often for low-level offenses or simply because they cannot afford bail. Expanding the jail will not reduce recidivism or improve community safety — but investing in services like ours does. New Leaf, New Life provides effective, low-cost support that helps people stay out of jail and successfully re-enter the community. Our reentry mentorship program participants currently demonstrate a lower percentage of recidivism at 14.8%, which is 50% of the Indiana Department of Corrections [Monroe County rate](#) of 29.2%.

We urge county leaders to prioritize repairing the existing jail to meet constitutional standards, while committing remaining resources to evidence-based alternatives to incarceration. Building a larger, more expensive facility in a remote location is fiscally irresponsible, socially harmful, and out of step with the community's values.

For more about our work and impact, please visit: [www.newleafnewlife.org](http://www.newleafnewlife.org).  
Read New Leaf, New Life's 2024 statement on the proposed jail [here](#).

*Respectfully submitted by the New Leaf, New Life Board of Directors*