



## Rehabilitative Income Sharing Agreement (RISA): Reducing Prison Costs, Enhancing Public Safety, and Securing America's Future



**America's criminal justice system faces critical challenges: high recidivism rates, underfunded law enforcement, and an ever-growing contribution to the national debt.** The Rehabilitative Income Sharing Agreement (RISA) program offers a transformative solution that bolsters our police forces, modernizes the federal workforce and cuts the cost of confinement by putting incarcerated individuals through rigorous training designed to minimize recidivism and maximize their repayment of their debt to society.

Through the rapidly expanding gig economy, prisoners can acquire valuable skills and generate income, offsetting or entirely covering the costs of their confinement and contributing to a safer, more stable society. With the gig economy projected to reach \$1.86 trillion by 2031, RISA leverages this growth to turn the burden of incarceration into an opportunity for national improvement.

### The Cost of Crime

With crime rampant on the streets of our cities, the U.S. prison system finds itself at a breaking point:

- **Incarceration Costs:** The average cost of incarcerating a single inmate is over \$100 per day or \$37,000 a year, placing a heavy burden on good law-abiding American taxpayers. We are all the victims of crime.

- **Reducing crime:** RISA reduces recidivism by training prisoners in skills that enable them to pay the costs of their own confinement, ensuring more stable, remote employment post-release.
- **\$35.15 Billion in Savings:** Inmates covering their own confinement costs could save taxpayers billions annually, freeing funds for police and federal workforce modernization.
- **Boosting Law Enforcement:** RISA provides sustainable funding for underfunded police departments, enhancing community protection.

**KEY TAKEAWAYS**

- **Rising National Debt:** The national debt, now surpassing \$35 trillion, threatens the long-term stability and safety of our society. Prison costs contribute to this total and as such provide an opportunity for substantial savings.
- **Underfunded Police:** Law enforcement agencies across the country face chronic underfunding, undermining their ability to keep our communities safe.
- **High Recidivism Rates:** Five out of six (that's an astonishing **83%**) of released prisoners are rearrested within nine years after their release, fueling a costly and destructive cycle of crime.

These challenges are interconnected, requiring a comprehensive approach that addresses the root causes while also providing economic solutions. The RISA program is designed to do just that, by training prisoners to earn money through the gig economy, pay for the cost of their own confinement, support law enforcement, contribute to the reduction of the national debt and pay for the modernization of the federal workforce.

## The Silent Crisis: The Unseen Struggles of Underfunded Police Officers and the Threat to Public Safety



In towns and cities across America, the thin blue line that stands between order and chaos is fraying, stretched to the breaking point by the relentless strain of chronic underfunding. Imagine the daily life of an underfunded police officer, tasked with protecting their community from the most dangerous threats, yet armed with outdated equipment and dwindling resources. Each day, they suit up, knowing they are one call away from a life-or-death situation, yet their radios crackle with static, their vehicles break down, and they know their body armor may be past its prime.

These officers are the first to respond when our safety is at risk, but they are increasingly left to face the dangers of their duty without the backup they need. Budget cuts and financial constraints mean fewer officers on the streets, longer response times, and a growing sense of vulnerability in neighborhoods once considered safe. The lack of funding also strips departments of essential training, leaving officers less prepared to de-escalate tense situations or respond to the complex challenges of modern policing.

But the impact goes beyond just equipment and personnel. The psychological toll on these officers is immense. They are asked to do more with less, often sacrificing their own well-being for the sake of the communities they serve. They face burnout, stress, and the crushing weight of knowing that no matter how hard they work, it might not be enough. They remember the faces of their fellow officers who didn't make it home, and they worry that one day, it might be them.

This chronic underfunding is not just an abstract budget issue; it is a direct threat to the safety and security of every American. When we fail to support our law enforcement agencies, we leave them—and ourselves—vulnerable. The bravery and dedication of these officers deserve more than just our admiration; they deserve the tools, training, and resources necessary to do their jobs effectively and safely. If we continue to turn a blind eye to their plight, the consequences could be devastating. Our communities will become less safe, and the trust between law enforcement and the public will erode, leaving us all in greater peril.

## Paths Forward: Evaluating the Solutions

**Status Quo:** Maintain the current system without significant changes.

- **Pros:** No disruption to existing processes.
- **Cons:** High costs persist, recidivism remains high, and police funding shortages continue.

**Incremental Reforms:** Implement modest reforms in prisoner training and use taxes to increase police funding.

- **Pros:** Some improvements in rehabilitation and law enforcement.
- **Cons:** Limited impact; does not address the systemic nature of the problem, costs the taxpayer money and increases the national debt.



**Rehabilitative Income Sharing Agreement (RISA) Program:** Implement a program where prisoners earn income through the gig economy, contribute to their own confinement costs, fund police, help reduce the national debt and modernize the incarcerated portion of the federal workforce through advanced robotics and automation technologies.

- **Pros:** Reduces recidivism, significantly lowers prison costs, provides crucial funding for underfunded police, and contributes to long-term economic stability. Leverages the rapidly growing gig economy, which is projected to reach \$1.86 trillion by 2031.
- **Cons:** Requires initial investment in technology and administration before becoming self-sustaining.

## RISA: The Smart, Sustainable Choice for America

The RISA program is the optimal solution for addressing the intertwined challenges of crime, incarceration costs, and the ever-rising national debt. By harnessing the explosive growth of the global gig economy, RISA enables prisoners to gain marketable skills, earn income, and directly contribute to their own confinement costs. By providing ex-convicts with a legitimate means to earn an income upon release, they gain, perhaps for the first time, a meaningful stake in society. This encourages them to view themselves as responsible members with a vested interest in the community, motivating them to respect and support the law enforcement that safeguards their investment.

This not only alleviates the financial burden on taxpayers but also provides a sustainable funding source for our underfunded police forces. Furthermore, by contributing to the reduction of the national debt, RISA ensures long-term economic stability and safety for all Americans.

## From Concept to Reality: Rolling Out the RISA Program

### Pilot Phase (Year 1):

- Launch the RISA program in select federal and state prisons, focusing on facilities with high recidivism rates and robust technology infrastructure.

- Establish partnerships with leading gig economy platforms to provide a steady stream of work for enrolled prisoners.

### Expansion Phase (Years 2-3):

- Expand the program to additional facilities, based on data from the pilot phase.
- Develop a comprehensive training curriculum tailored to the demands of the gig economy, ensuring that prisoners acquire skills that are in high demand to minimize the chance of recidivism.

### Full Implementation (Year 4 and Beyond):

- Roll out the RISA program across all federal and state prisons, making it a standard part of the U.S. criminal justice system.
- Reinvest savings from reduced prison costs into strengthening prison security, funding other public safety initiatives, and modernizing the federal workforce through automation.
- Follow up with convicts after release to measure reduction in recidivism rates.

## The Financial Impact: Billions in Potential Savings

The average annual cost of incarcerating one inmate is \$37,000. If 50% of the 1.9 million prisoners in the U.S. participate in RISA and cover their confinement costs, the potential savings are substantial:

- **Number of participating prisoners:** 0.95 million (50% of 1.9 million)
- **Annual cost per prisoner:** \$37,000
- **Total annual savings:** 0.95 million prisoners × \$37,000 = **\$35.15 billion per year**

*In addition* to the revenues derived from RISA payments, the savings gained by breaking the cycle of crime can be reinvested in public safety, used to reduce taxes, or allocated to pay down the national debt, providing long-term benefits for all Americans.

## RISA: A Stronger, Safer, More Productive America

The Rehabilitative Income Sharing Agreement (RISA) program is more than just a policy—it is a strategic initiative to transform our criminal justice system, do right by our police and secure the future of our nation.

By leveraging the rapid growth of the global gig economy, RISA turns prisons into centers of high value economic opportunity, training inmates to contribute to their own costs, support law enforcement with much needed funding, reduce the national debt and modernize the incarcerated portion of the federal workforce. This comprehensive

approach not only enhances public safety and provides police with the funding they need to keep us safe, but also strengthens the financial foundation of America, ensuring a safer, more prosperous future for all.



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