



The Prison Fellowship Good Citizenship Inventory:

A NEW APPROACH TO MEASURING REHABILITATION SUCCESS

Traditional recidivism-focused metrics in corrections fall short in capturing the broader success of formerly incarcerated people, ignoring desistance, positive community activity or contributions, employment success, well-being, sense of meaning, positive identity or relationship development, and other facets of broadly defined human flourishing. Emerging research calls for a more holistic rehabilitation model that acknowledges and reinforces the full potential of individuals beyond simply avoiding future criminal behavior.

GOALS OF THE GOOD CITIZENSHIP INVENTORY

The Good Citizenship Inventory (GCI) is a Prison Fellowship® project in development that aims to create a validated quantitative assessment tool for reliably measuring the degree to which individuals in rehabilitative programming internalize and live out the Values of Good Citizenship (VGC)—community, affirmation, productivity, responsibility, restoration, and integrity. Periodic GCI assessment will:

- » Track the relative development of each value dimension.
- » Guide targeted interventions to optimize VGC development.
- » Offer insights for maximizing overall individual or group progress (highest possible GCI overall scores).

RIGOROUS DEVELOPMENT AND EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE

The GCI is being developed through a robust process that includes literature review, stakeholder interviews, expert review of assessment content, multi-site data collection from male and female prisoners, and extensive statistical analysis, including exploratory and

confirmatory factor analyses and a variety of reliability and validity evaluations.

REAL-WORLD APPLICATION AND IMPACT

Upon validation, the GCI will be integrated into Prison Fellowship Academy® sites nationwide. Scores will feed into a sophisticated database and dashboard system, providing:

- » Automated progress reports.
- » Score interpretation that incorporates cut-points and national norms.
- » Longitudinal comparisons.
- » Customized VGC-focused recommendations for participants.

THE GOOD CITIZENSHIP MODEL AND VALUES FOR TRANSFORMATION

In conjunction with the GCI, the Good Citizenship Model® (GCM) proposes that by embracing the six traits of VGC, incarcerated individuals can transform into fundamentally better citizens. The GCM outlines a values-driven process that promotes value-laden character and identity development, along with an array of positive outcomes: increased well-being, reduced violence, reduced rule and law violations, improved relationships, increased community orientation, and other changes associated with human flourishing. Ultimately, these changes contribute to greater community safety.