California State University, Chico

Division of Student Affairs
Project Rebound
Annual Report 2025-26

I. Mission Statement

Chico State's Project Rebound uses the mission statement outlined in the statewide Project Rebound Strategic Plan, which is: "*To support the higher education and successful reintegration of the formerly incarcerated through the mentorship and living example of other formerly incarcerated students, graduates, faculty, and staff. Project Rebound constructs a life-affirming alternative to the revolving door policies of mass incarceration by making higher education more accessible and supportive of formerly incarcerated students so that they can acquire the knowledge and skills of a university education, enhance their capacity for civic engagement and community leadership, secure meaningful and gratifying employment, empower themselves and their families, and ultimately make stronger, safer communities*".

II. Accomplishments - A highlight

The 25-26 AY was the third year of our department. This year we had setbacks to our capacity building. In November 2025 we lost our one full-time staff member and our 50%-time administrative assistant. We spent the remainder of the academic year with only one 40%-time professional staff employee, our director, and a few student staff. Despite this setback, we were still able to continue growing. Our biggest accomplishments centered on continuing to build needed capacity and infrastructure as much as we could and developing a housing program.

Let's Dance: Empowerment

To better prepare our student staff for the job market, and to build capacity, in Spring 2025 we moved from general student staff positions to role-specific positions. We created the following positions this year:

- Student Administrative Assistant -We hired two students, one undergraduate and one graduate, to provide administrative assistance
- Student Outreach Assistant –We hired one undergraduate student to outreach to prospective students through our community partners (e.g. parole offices on our service area)
- Student Correspondence Assistant -We hired one undergraduate student to correspond with incarcerated prospective students

Leveraging Our Strengths in What We Do Measure 4, Let's Dance: Diversity, and Let's Dance: Connection

Over half of our students are remote, and we have focused on finding best practices for supporting both our remote and in-person students. In Fall 2025, we moved away from our bi-weekly cohort model for engaging students and moved to a peer mentor model where each student staff member had a group of 10 students that they

connected with. The idea was that peer mentors could give more targeted support to a small group of students that we could with a large group. We found that there was inconsistency in how peer mentors engaged their students and that students missed having ways to connect in a large group.

In Spring 2026 we brought back our cohort model, led by our new MSW student. Due to staffing shortages, we moved to one a month rather than bi-weekly. We tied attendance to program eligibility, which increased our rates of attendance. Each cohort meeting provides students a chance to check in and connects them with a resource or skills to support them in their academic journey. Our most popular cohort meeting was the one on expungement that was presented by CLIC. Many of our students worry about how their records will affect them in their job search post-graduation, and CLIC provided important updates on laws and procedures for obtaining clearance.

Leveraging Our Strengths in What We Do Measure 1 and Let's Dance: Advocacy
Our biggest accomplishment was the Housing Initiative allocation we received from the Chancellor's Office to support the housing needs of our students. In August 2025 we applied for Project Rebound Housing Initiative funding through the Chancellor's Office and we were awarded just short of $500,000 in October 2025. The Initiative has two components described below. Due to staffing shortages and other setbacks, we were unable to launch the programs in December 2025 as planned. They will launch in the Fall 2026 semester.

- Our director worked with a community partner, the Chico Housing Action Team (CHAT) to develop a housing program for 8 students who are experiencing housing insecurity. The program will house students starting August 2026 at a reduced rent and provided needed housing-related skill building.

Housing Support Team

- Our initiative also calls for hiring a housing coordinator at 30% time and a graduate student at 50% time to support all students with housing needs. Both positions will start in the Fall 2026 semester

III. Program Statistics and Assessment for Past Year

Students Served
We served 53 students in the 25-26 academic year

- 11 graduate students and 42 undergraduates
- 28 students were in-person, 17 students were remote, and 8 students were distributed learning
- 27 were students that enrolled in Project Rebound in the 25-26 year
- 20 were student parents of minors

15 students walked in commencement, 8 of which attended our third Project Rebound commencement and 2 who attended the statewide Project Rebound commencement.

- One Fall 2025 graduate started a master's program in Spring 2026 and 3 Spring 2026 graduates started a masters in Fall 2027

We had 2 students disenroll from the program, one student who took a semester leave, and 5 others who stopped out.

We distributed $27,491 directly to students, $12,743.00 in Fall 2025 and $14,748.00 in Spring 2026.

Our Drop-in center saw 718 unique visits for the Fall 25 and Spring 26 semesters.

FY 2025-2026 Visit Summary

Rank	Reason
1	Study/Resources/Computer/Printing
2	Snacks/Drinks/Coffee
3	Office Shift (for Student Staff)
4	Other
5	Social
TOTAL VISITS 718	

Prospective Student Outreach

In addition to tabling and presenting on campus, we outreached

- Monthly at Butte and Shasta parole events, every three months at Yuba-Sutter parole events, and every six months at El Dorado County and Tehama parole events
- To Butte Community College Rising Scholars and to Santa Rosa Community College Rising Scholars

Housing Program

In June 2026, we conducted housing intakes with 8 students for our pilot program. Students will start being housed in August 2026.

Key Summaries and Insights

We have continued to grow exponentially. We had 13 students on 23-24, 39 in 24-25 and 53 in 25-26. There was a 36% increase from 24-25 to 25-26. Despite our growth we are confident that there are many formerly incarcerated Chico State students we are missing. In particular, we believe we are missing many remote students who do not

see the same flyers and tabling that in-person students see. We have not yet found a way to outreach to those students.

Our off-campus outreach has grown, but at a slower rate than the year prior, due in large part to being short-staffed for most of the year. For example, in 24-25 we outreached to youth in Butte County Juvenile Hall twice and Shasta County Juvenile Hall once but did not outreach to either place in the 25-26 year.

Our pilot housing program was originally slated to launch in December 2025, but we were unable to hire a staff member at 30% time to run it. Our director decided to temporarily take on that role to ensure that the delay would not be long. Even then, it took months to get a contract written up and signed between Project Rebound and our community partner. This is why we only were able to conduct initial intakes before the end of the 25-26 year. Our director will continue to run the program until a housing coordinator is hired, hopefully by October 2026.

IV. Integrate Unit Objectives with Strategic Action Plan in 2026-27

Proudly Owning Who We Are Measure 1
In Fall 24, we created a student resource folder that contains on campus and off campus resources that formerly incarcerated students can utilize. Since our MSW intern graduated in Spring 2025, the folder has not been consistently updated
Outcome Measure: We are compiling a team of student staff to work on folder revisions. By October 2026, we will update our resource folder so that it can be utilized by students.

Leveraging Our Strengths in What We Do Measure 2
We serve a population of non-traditional students who often have needs that differ from traditional students. One of these needs is housing. Many of our students face housing barriers due to their conviction histories, lack of rental and credit history, etc. Receiving the housing initiative funds will help ensure that more of our students who are experiencing housing insecurity can find homes.
Outcome Measure: By September 2026 we will house 8 students in our pilot housing program. Assuming our housing case manager will be hired by October 2026, by December 2026 our housing team will develop a case management protocol and implement at least 3 workshops focused on building housing skills.
Assessment of the Housing Initiative

We will assess the success of our housing initiative program:

- Through a survey for the 8 students who are housed in our pilot housing program
- Through post-workshop surveys provided to Project Rebound students.

Advancing Our Influence by How We Do Our Work Measure 2

At the start of the 25-26 AY, the director began working with a continuous improvement analyst in the Project & Change Management Office to build out tools to help us more efficiently capture data and more effectively organize and analyze them.

Outcome Measure: By September 2026 we will launch our new student check-in system through Salesforce CS 360.

Let's Dance: Advocacy

Our new program coordinator is organizing a film series open to all students, staff, and faculty that will highlight key issues experienced by incarcerated and formerly incarcerated individuals.

Outcome measure: Within a year we will show three films. We aim to have at least 10 non-Project Rebound students and staff at each film. We believe these showings building awareness on campus to issues facing students with incarceration histories

V. Identify at least one goal/objective that supports the Chico State Playbook in 2026-27

The fifth question from the Chico State Playbook asks, "what is most important right now?" We believe that developing relevant programming for Project Rebound students is a key objective for the 2026-27 year.

In April 2026 we hired a new program coordinator who comes to us with both an academic and a practitioner background in addressing the effects of incarceration. We have provided limited programming in the past three years. For over two of those years, the 40% director was the only professional staff member and had limited capacity to develop programming. For 10 months we had a program coordinator who developed some programming, but it was not well attended by students. In this upcoming year, the program coordinator will create relevant workshops and other programming to support students in their success at Chico State.

The program coordinator will also work with the director to fundraise for Project Rebound, specifically for scholarships for incarcerated and self-support program students.