



## **UMOJI: Where Phoenix Rises From Ashes (Mission Statement)**

"The UMOJI Energy: Empowering Transformation

UMOJI Energy is dedicated to fostering the resilience and potential of individuals who have experienced adversity, such as incarceration, displacement, or homelessness. We believe that these individuals possess the inherent capacity to rise above their challenges and become beacons of hope within their communities. By providing holistic support, education, service learning skill building training, a network of resources, and UMOJI allies network, UMOJI Energy empowers individuals to embrace their unique journeys and emerge as agents of positive transformative change. Our mission is to ignite the spark of potential within each individual, power them to thrive, and contribute meaningfully to society."

Imagine a world where the walls crumble, not just of prisons, but of limitations. A world where those who walked a troubled path are embraced by a community that sees not their past, but the boundless potential within.

At UMOJI, we ignite the spark of second chances. We are the bridge from a past shrouded in shadow to a future bathed in sunlight. With empathy as our compass and empowerment as our fuel, we guide individuals on a transformational journey.

We are the architects of possibility.

Through supportive havens and educational frontiers, we equip returning citizens with the tools to not just survive, but to thrive. We unlock hidden talents, nurture dormant dreams, and cultivate the skills needed to build a life of purpose.

Our vision transcends mere reintegration. We envision vibrant eco-villages, testaments to human resilience and innovation. Here, cutting-edge technology like AI, VR, and AR become instruments of empowerment, shaping personalized wellness programs and fostering profound connections with nature.

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## **TARGET AUDIENCE**

Umoji is a beacon of hope, a testament to the transformative power of human connection. We believe in restorative justice, where wrongs are righted, and healing begins. We champion environmental justice, ensuring a sustainable future for all. We fight for restorative justice, in a world where opportunity knows no bounds.

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## **Statement of Needs Assessment**

### **1. Introduction**

This Statement of Needs Assessment outlines the critical needs within our target population based on Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs. This framework provides a structured approach to understanding the fundamental human needs that must be met for individuals to thrive.

### **2. Target Population**

### **3. Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs Applied**

#### **Physiological Needs:**

Assess: Are the basic needs of the target population met?

Access to food (quantity, quality, safety)

Access to clean water and sanitation

Adequate shelter (safety, security, warmth)

Access to healthcare (physical and mental)

Examples of potential needs:

Food pantries, soup kitchens, emergency shelters

Mobile hygiene units, access to public restrooms

Safe and affordable housing options

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Access to primary healthcare, mental health services

**Safety Needs:**

Assess: Do individuals feel safe and secure from physical and emotional harm?

Protection from violence and crime

Job security and financial stability

Safety from natural disasters and environmental hazards

Examples of potential needs:

Safe neighborhoods, community security systems and alarm, camera systems, and safety measures initiatives

Job training programs, financial literacy education

Disaster preparedness and response plans

**Love and Belonging Needs:**

Assess: Do individuals feel a sense of connection and belonging within their community?

Strong family and social support networks

Meaningful relationships and friendships

Opportunities for social interaction and community engagement

Examples of potential needs:

Community centers, support groups, social clubs

Family counseling services, relationship-building programs

Volunteer opportunities, community events

**Esteem Needs:**

Assess: Do individuals feel valued, respected, and confident in their abilities?

Recognition for accomplishments and contributions

Positive self-image and self-esteem

Opportunities for personal growth and development

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Examples of potential needs:

Skill-building workshops, mentorship programs  
Educational opportunities, career counseling  
Opportunities for leadership and community involvement

### **Self-Actualization Needs and Transformative Needs:**

Assess: Do individuals have the opportunity to reach their full potential and pursue their passions?

Creative expression and artistic pursuits  
Opportunities for personal growth and self-discovery  
A sense of purpose and meaning in life

Examples of potential needs:

Access to the arts, music, and creative outlets  
Personal counseling and life coaching  
Opportunities for spiritual growth and reflection

### **Projects: Programs**

#### **Statement of Intent: UMOJI**

UMOJI is dedicated to fostering holistic well-being, community empowerment, and restorative justice through a network of innovative programs. We believe that by addressing individual needs within the context of a thriving community, we can create a more equitable and fulfilling society for all.

#### **Our Core Values:**

**Holistic Approach:** We recognize the interconnectedness of mind, body, and spirit, and strive to address the whole person through our programs.

**Community Empowerment:** We empower individuals and communities to become agents of empowerment transformation-change, fostering self-sufficiency, self-autonomy, group autonomy, and collective action.

**Restorative Justice:** We are committed to promoting equity, inclusivity, and restorative justice for all, with a particular focus on marginalized and underserved populations.

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Innovation: We embrace innovative approaches and utilize cutting-edge strategies to address complex social challenges.

### **Key Programs:**

#### **UMOJI ENERGY Transitional Housing:**

Provide safe and supportive transitional housing at strategically located properties, including Remington Ranch Destination Resort in Powell Butte, Corvallis Rodeway Inn, and potential locations in Newport.

Integrate with a network of 5,000 community hubs across rural Oregon to create a comprehensive support system.

#### **UMOJI RISE ABOVE THE ASHES:**

Foster healing and entrepreneurship through writing and literacy programs, empowering individuals to share their stories and build healthy communities.

#### **UMOJI SWAG ART SHOWS:**

Promote healing through art therapy, providing a platform for artists to showcase their work, learn entrepreneurship, and participate in global art markets.

#### **UMOJI FREEDOM SLAM:**

Cultivate awareness of diversity and inclusivity through spoken word, poetry, and talent shows, providing a safe space for expression and community building.

#### **UMOJI Let's Talk Mediation:**

Promote conflict resolution and win-win solutions through mediation training for incarcerated individuals, released individuals, communities, students, and professionals.

#### **UMOJI ALOHA:**

Address mental health needs through a comprehensive wellness program, including psychological and psychiatric support under the guidance of holistic healers, professionals, and licensed professionals.

#### **UMOJI GAME:**

Foster diversity and inclusion within the LGBTQAA+ community through apprenticeship programs, educational awareness, and competitive entrepreneurship-minded leagues, emphasizing excellence, green workspaces, work ethic, and professionalism.

#### **UMOJI Freedom:**

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Promote physical and mental well-being through fitness programs, personal training, mentorship, coaching, peer-to-peer teams, leagues, and recreational activities, including chess tournaments and board games.

**UMOJI UNN (Cultural Clubs):**

Foster cultural exchange and community engagement through block parties, events, and world tours, providing opportunities for cultural exploration and personal growth.

**UMOJI BUILD:**

Develop essential life skills, including wardrobe, attire, and presentation skills, empowering individuals to succeed in personal and professional settings.

**UMOJI HOST:**

Enhance hospitality and culinary skills, providing valuable training for both personal and professional life.

**UMOJI MICROCOSM:**

Foster sustainable and resilient communities through initiatives in outdoor and indoor living, ecosystem health, horticulture, agriculture, and urban farming. (Hydroponic Farming, Aquaculture)

**Our Vision:**

To create a network of thriving communities where individuals are empowered to reach their full potential, live with dignity, and contribute meaningfully to society.

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## The UMOJI Rangers Program

The UMOJI Rangers program aims to empower individuals released from custody by providing comprehensive support and opportunities for successful re-entry into society.

### Key Program Features:

- **Team-Based Approach:** Adults released from custody are organized into teams, each comprised of a principal coach, manager, trainer, and captain. This structured environment fosters collaboration, accountability, and shared responsibility.
- **Comprehensive Training & Certification:** Participants undergo rigorous training and certification programs to equip them with essential skills for employment and personal development.
- **Contract-Based Employment:** UMOJI facilitates the placement of trained teams into various contracts, providing them with valuable work experience and income.
- **Project & Opportunity Acquisition:** Teams will receive projects and opportunities through the SAM Award system and other avenues, expanding their professional horizons and building their portfolios.
- **Collaboration with Goodwill:** UMOJI seeks to collaborate with Goodwill Employment Opportunities to leverage their expertise in job placement, career development, and community integration.

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### Program Goals:

- **Reduce recidivism rates:** By providing meaningful employment and support, the UMOJI Rangers program aims to reduce the likelihood of individuals returning to the justice system.
- **Promote economic self-sufficiency:** The program empowers participants to achieve financial stability and independence through gainful employment.
- **Foster personal growth and development:** Through training, mentorship, and team-based experiences, participants develop valuable life skills, enhance their self-esteem, and build strong relationships.
- **Contribute to community well-being:** By providing valuable services and completing community-based projects, the UMOJI Rangers contribute positively to the overall well-being of their communities.

The UMOJI Rangers program represents a unique and innovative approach to re-entry, offering a pathway to success for individuals transitioning back into society while contributing valuable skills and services to the community.

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