

Reentry Employment & Workforce Development Programs & Resources

Federal Programs and Resources

WOTC - <https://www.irs.gov/businesses/small-businesses-self-employed/work-opportunity-tax-credit>

- The Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) is a Federal tax credit available to employers for hiring individuals from certain targeted groups who have consistently faced significant barriers to employment, including ex-felons.

US Department of Labor - https://www.doleta.gov/REO/eta_default.cfm

- REO → Reentry Employment Opportunities
- Provides funding, authorized as Research and Evaluation under Section 169 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) of 2014, for justice-involved youth and young adults and adults who were formerly incarcerated.
- \$8.4 million in Reentry Projects grants have been awarded to 41 non-profits and local and state governments to create models that offer apprenticeship opportunities as well as increased employment outcomes for eligible participants.

<https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20180626>

US DOJ - NCOC <https://nicic.gov/transition-and-offender-workforce-development>

- National Institute of Corrections → Transition and Offender Workplace Development
- The Community Services Division coordinates the efforts of federal, state, local, and non-profit agencies to improve employment programs for offenders and ex-offenders. The division assists corrections professionals who provide direct services to offenders and ex-offenders. The Community Services Division:
 - Collects and disseminates information on offender employment programs.
 - Provides training for staff who provide employment services to offenders and ex-offenders.
 - Provides assistance to state and local agencies for improving job training, placement, and retention services for offenders.
 - Develops partnerships with federal, state, and local agencies to provide offender workforce development training in their home jurisdictions.

US Department of Education – Second Chance Pell Program

- Pilot program, launched by the Obama administration which provides Pell Grant eligibility at 67 participating colleges and universities. The colleges partner with more than 100 federal and state penal institutions to enroll roughly 12,000 incarcerated students. These institutions may provide Pell grants to qualified students who may be released within five years of enrolling.
- On February 13, 2019, the Trump administration extended the program for a fourth year.

State-Based Government and Non-Profit Programs and Resources

<https://exoffenders.net/reentry-programs-assistance/>

ALABAMA - <https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdal/programs/ex-offender-re-entry-initiative>

- Project H.O.P.E Re-Entry Initiative
- The mission of Project H.O.P.E. is to address the needs of re-entering ex-offenders in order to make their transition back into mainstream society a success. For instance, Project H.O.P.E. attempts to assist ex-offenders in addressing their housing, educational and employment needs.

CALIFORNIA - <https://www.ridehomeprogram.org/>

COLORADO - <https://e-colorado.coworkforce.com/File.aspx?ID=24271/>

- Community Re-Entry Specialists provide case management and comprehensive services that include, but are not limited to employment services, shelter and transportation assistance, clothing and tools, health care, and referral to community support services that may impact transition from prison to the community.
- Boulder: <http://focusreentry.org/>

FLORIDA - <https://www.project180reentry.org/about-us/>

- Non-profit
- “Project 180 seeks to break this cycle by providing workforce education and financial literacy classes for inmates, an annual reentry lecture series for the general public, information and referrals for felons seeking housing, programs, and employment, and a comprehensive, whole-life Residential Program for men in recovery. Project 180 seeks to build community, not prisons.”

INDIANA - <https://uwci.org/agencies/pace-inc-public-advocates-in-community-re-entry/>

IOWA - <https://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/my/ex-offender-initiative>

PENNSYLVANIA - <https://business.phila.gov/fairchance/>

- Fair Chance Hiring Initiative
- “ The City of Philadelphia has a commitment to diversity and inclusion. As part of that, the Department of Commerce has created this program. The Fair Chance Hiring Initiative reimburses local employers who hire formerly incarcerated individuals.”
- “Our goal is to create a workforce that reflects the city’s population. About 300,000 Philadelphians have had contact with the criminal justice system. Integrating these individuals into the workforce is a priority.”

TEXAS - https://www.hotworkforce.com/Jobseeker/program_contact_info.php

- Project RIO (Reintegration of Offenders)
- Project RIO is a no-cost employment program designed to give ex-offenders the assistance they need to find a job. Specifically, Project RIO can provide:
 - Job search assistance including job referrals
 - One-on-one assistance with job applications and resumes
 - Help in securing the documents needed for employment
 - Information on job training programs
 - Referrals to other community services
- Services are offered to program participants pre- and post-release.