

A city skyline at sunset with mountains in the background. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue. The city buildings are silhouetted against the bright sky, and the mountains in the distance are also silhouetted against the horizon.

“Preparing Ex-Offenders for Re-Employment in a New Economy”

Recovery and Reemployment Research Conference
September 15-16, 2009
Washington, D.C.

In good times, many communities are challenged to find successful approaches for helping ex-offenders gain re-employment. In these troubled times, some approaches offer more promise than others. This workshop will explore collaborative networks of partners created to better assist ex-offenders, including innovative efforts to give program participants a choice in service provider through performance-based contracting.

Who are ex-offenders ?

Total U.S. prison population December, 2008 - 2,396,000

- State prisons - 59%
- Federal prisons - 8%
- County Jails - 33%
- Women - 10%; Men - 90%
- African-American - 43%
- Latino 22%
- White (NA/AN, API included) 38%

75% incarcerated on non-violent offenses

Recidivism: 75% had prior felony convictions;
one-third were on probation, parole or on pre-trial release

Effects of Incarceration

- Gaps in employment history
- Isolation from families
- Sexual violence while incarcerated
- Victims of prison rape commonly report nightmares, deep depression, shame, loss of self-esteem, self-hatred, and considering or attempting suicide. Some of them also describe a marked increase in anger and a tendency toward violence.
- Incidence between 10% - 33%
- Exposure to infectious disease - HIV/STI/HCV



Lack of Pre-Release Services

Identification documents lost or out of date

Child support orders:

- Must be paid if it was ordered before imprisonment.
- Is not automatically modified – inmates must ask the court to lower it while they are incarcerated

Lack of drug, mental health treatment in prison

Structural Barriers

Employment

Housing

Public Assistance

Access to Criminal Records

Re-Entry Needs

Unresolved legal matters:

- Unpaid traffic tickets
- Detainers from other jurisdictions
- Child support
- Conditions of Parole

Parole conditions:

- Restitution
- Parole officer visits on the job

Re-Employment

Jobs for Offenders

Green Jobs

High growth areas





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