



GET YOUR
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November 20, 2019

Lt. Governor Adam Gregg

Governor's FOCUS Committee on
Criminal Justice Reform

Iowa Workforce Development (IWD)

Director Beth Townsend

Deputy Director Ryan West

Current IWD Reentry Support

- 91% percent of incarcerated will return
- Second largest group of potential employees
- Four Reentry Advisors
 - Iowa Correctional Institute for Women (ICIW), Mitchellville – 700 women
 - North Central Correctional Facility (NCCF), Rockwell City – 500 men
 - Mount Pleasant Correctional Facility (MPCF), Mount Pleasant – 900 men
 - Correctional Release Center (CRC), Newton – 380 men

Current IWD Reentry Support

- On average Reentry Advisors serve almost 2500 returning citizens & local employers annually
- 15 IWD field offices provide services
- Disabled Veterans Outreach Program Specialists (DVOPS) serve justice involved veterans at all and field offices and some facilities

Reentry Advisor Roles

- Soft skills training; conflict resolution and financial literacy
- Resumes building
- Mock interviews
- Proctor O*Net assessment (career interest inventory)
- Sponsor for the DOC Registered Apprenticeship programs
- Identifying available training programs and career pathways
- Connecting returning citizens with employers prior to release
- Helping employers recruit and hire soon to be released

Roles Cont'd

- Organize & host career fairs inside the institution
- Partner with community reentry service providers in creating successful transition plans
- Identifying and making referrals to wrap around services:
 - DOC, DOT and DHS
 - Community Colleges
 - Vocational Rehabilitation
 - United Way
 - Evelyn K. Davis Center for Working Family
 - Goodwill Industries
 - Central Iowa Works
- Educating employers on available incentives & programs

Referral Process

- Over the past year, IWD and DOC implemented a robust referral system that connects the returning citizen with the “outside”
- A referral is sent from releasing facility to the local *IowaWORKS* office for registered apprentices
- Identifying data; progress in the program; identity of program
- *IowaWORKS* works to find employment opportunities in local area that match skills
- Outcomes continue to be collected but early results are promising

IWD Recommendations

- Provide funding for additional four Reentry Advisors to be placed in the following correctional facilities:
 - Fort Dodge Correctional Facility (FDCF), Fort Dodge – 762 men
 - Clarinda Correctional Facility (CCF), Clarinda – 900 men
 - Anamosa State Penitentiary (ASP), Anamosa – 950 men
 - Add 2nd position at MPCF - 900 men
- Have DOT navigators available at all facilities to enable individuals to obtain driver's license (or restricted license)/non-driver ID prior to release, at little or no cost

IWD Recommendations Cont.

- Require all incarcerated attain their high school diploma regardless of age
- Improve available technology and security within the prisons to allow on-line training, more virtual job fairs and employer interview sessions
- To place individuals in the best position to achieve work success after release, address underlying mental/physical issues while in confinement
- Provide more transportation to and from worksites upon release (Uber, Lyft, public transportation passes)
- Create a value process map (similar to process map regarding incarceration process) mapping the first 180 days of separation including all requirements faced by returning citizens in effort to streamline, reduce mandatory appointments that hamper work efforts



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