



New York Re-entry Today

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NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services

Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives (OPCA)

Albany, New York

Welcome to New York Re-entry Today

This bi-monthly newsletter brings news, policy and program updates and best practice information to the 19 County Re-entry Task Forces (CRTFs) and stakeholders.

CRTFs are in the following counties:

- Albany
- Bronx
- Broome
- Dutchess
- Erie
- Kings
- Manhattan
- Monroe
- Nassau
- Niagara
- Oneida
- Onondaga
- Orange
- Rensselaer
- Rockland
- Schenectady
- Suffolk
- Ulster
- Westchester

Employment a Crucial Need Identified for Re-entry Clients

Of the re-entry clients discharged from the CRTFs in 2012-13, 63 percent were employable but not employed because criminal convictions are often a barrier to employment. New York State has developed strategies to integrate workforce development and job opportunities within re-entry and alternative-to-incarceration programs, focusing on the appropriate response to, and job readiness, of each individual. The following providers can be contacted by CRTF Coordinators for more information about employment opportunities for their clients:

- **CEO Works** provides pre-employment training, paid transitional employment, full-time job placement and job retention services to those released from prison and returning to New York City and to Albany, Erie and Monroe counties. Contact Marta Nelson at mnelson@ceoworks.org.
- **The Fortune Society's** workforce development program helps those returning to New York City with job placement and retention in above-minimum wage positions with opportunities for sustainability and advancement. A two-week job readiness workshop provides clients with necessary skills, etiquette and attitude to obtain and retain employment. The workshop includes resume development and mock interviews, which allows clients to practice answering difficult questions about their criminal history, homelessness and/or histories of substance abuse or mental illness. Fortune's job developers identify both permanent and transitional employment opportunities while retention specialists offer counseling and other support to employed or unemployed clients. Contact David Nidus Esq., at Dnidus@fortunesociety.org.
- **The Osborne Association's Career Center** is based in the Bronx and works with parolees and other justice-involved populations. The program uses evidence-based interventions, including cognitive behavioral therapy and motivational interviewing. Participants receive training in a variety of areas: soft skills, work readiness, job-seeking skills, hard skills in the construction trades, industry-recognized credentials and job placement and retention for 30 days and 90 days. Contact Jenny Bardales-Reyes at JBardales@osborneny.org.

Offender Workforce Development Specialist (OWDS) Training

OWDS training is now underway and the second week will be held Nov. 18 through 22, 2013. Representatives of seven CRTFs are participating in this class, which will be completed the week of Jan. 13 through 17, 2014. Please send an email to Cynthia Blair at Cynthia.blair@dcjs.ny.gov to be placed on a wait list for a future OWDS training.

The goal of re-entry efforts in NYS is to reduce recidivism by providing essential services that support behavioral change in those returning home from prison. CRTFs secure and case-manage services to moderate-high-risk parolees and provide access to cognitive behavioral therapies and employment services.



New York Re-entry Today is produced by the DCJS Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives (OPCA).

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Offender Employment Specialist (OES) Training

As part of New York's Work for Success Initiative, OPCA collaborated with the state Department of Labor (DOL) to provide the National Institute of Corrections' (NIC) Offender Employment Specialists Training to DOL staff employed at the *Career Centers /One Stops*. Three regional trainings have been held in Bronx, Erie and Albany counties, with 62 participants receiving OES certificates. This three-day training is designed for professionals who assist ex-offenders in securing employment by overcoming barriers.

Save the Date: CRTF Webinar scheduled for Nov. 25

OPCA will sponsor a webinar on CRTF reporting from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 25. The webinar will cover the basics and updates of the monthly, quarterly and fiscal reporting that is required of CRTF grantees. Please invite new staff and those with the responsibility to prepare reports and file for reimbursements to participate. More information will be e-mailed to CRTFs by Friday, Nov. 15.

DCJS Releases Annual CRTF Program Activity

DCJS has released the annual program activity report summarizing CRTF activities from July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013. During that period, CRTFs enrolled 3,623 individuals who had been released from prison, which is 90 percent of the statewide goal of 4,014 intakes. CRTF participants are those assessed to be at a moderate- to high-risk of re-offense or special populations, such as juveniles, women, persons with developmental disabilities or mental illness, sex offenders, persons who have severe medical conditions, or those who served their maximum term and were released without parole.

Of the 3,623 admissions:

- 39 percent were between the ages of 25 and 34, and 28 percent were between the ages of 35 and 49
- 93 percent were males
- 88 percent were assessed as moderate- to high risk of re-offense
- 99 percent were on parole
- Employment, chemical dependency treatment and social services were the top service needs identified

Of the 2,778 discharges during the year:

- 61 percent successfully completed CRTF programs
- 22 percent were discharged due to a new arrest or parole violation
- 85 percent of discharged clients remained in the CRTFs for at least 45 days, while 66 percent were enrolled for more than 90 days.

To view the entire report, click here: [**2012-2013 Annual CRTF Report**](#).