

CITY OF CHICAGO, DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND SUPPORT SERVICES

THE COLLABORATIVE ON REENTRY EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATION DISCUSSION June 15, 2009

Presenter: Christopher Mendoza

Program Description:

1. **Transitional Jobs Program**- the program provides subsidized employment to ex-offenders, with the goal of obtaining full-time unsubsidized employment.
2. **Customized Job Training Program** - the program provides customized job training in woodworking, shipping and receiving, food service, maintenance, certified nursing associate, precision machining, culinary arts and automotive repair technician
3. **Customized Work Services Program** – the City started a new initiative with participating City departments who provide work opportunities such as ground maintenance, tree trimming, cleaning vacant lots, and snow removal.
4. **Social Enterprise Venture** - the program builds capacity in nonprofit enterprises. Through this effort the program promotes economic development by increasing employment opportunities and stimulating Chicago's business community.
5. **Community Re-entry Support Centers** – the Support Centers assist ex-offenders in achieving self-sufficiency while successfully reintegrating into local communities. The Center provides referrals to job training, housing assistance, health services, employment assistance, and food assistance.
6. **Productive Choice Program** - This is a model program funded by the Department of Labor, which provides job training, employment assistance and supportive services to individuals 18-29 who have been recently released from either a State or Federal prison
7. **Title XX** – the program provides work readiness training, supportive services and employment assistance to individuals residing in the Adult Transition Centers.

Program Goals: To provide job training, employment assistance and supportive services that will in turn reduce recidivism and promote community safety for residents of the City of Chicago who have a criminal record.

Program Partners & Collaborations: City Departments, IDOC, IDHS, U.S. Department of Labor and nonprofits.

Program Outcomes: The CITY OF CHICAGO was one of the first major cities to recognize and promote the importance of reentry programs. Throughout the years the City has increased its financial commitment to provide services that will assist in a successful reentry.

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