



Kentucky Education and Workforce Collaborative Meeting

January 26, 2023, 1:30-3:30 pm EST

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Appendix:

Collaborative Executive Order

KWIB Strategic Plan



Kentucky Education and Workforce Collaborative Meeting

AGENDA

January 26, 2023, 1:30-3:30 pm EST

Official Board Member or Designee AND In-Person Attendance **PREFERRED**

500 Mero Street, 4th floor, Frankfort, KY

Zoom Meeting Session Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84820790377?pwd=N1dCUXF5bFFvcjdjQWZZN29OYzBadz09>
Meeting ID: 842 4408 0742 / Passcode: &sSJ7v

1:30PM EST CALL MEETING TO ORDER

- Welcome and Introductions**.....Beth Brinly, Chair
Deputy Secretary, Education and Labor Cabinet
 - Strategic Plan Goals Review..... Alisher Burikhanov, Executive Director
Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board
 - Initiative Updates**.....Kim Menke, KWIB Chair
Toyota Manufacturing
Funding Report work for PY2019, PY2020, PY2021 (Metrics working group)
 - Statewide Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Update..... Debbie Dennison,
Deputy Executive Director
Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board
 - Resource Alignment and Funding work (2024 WIOA State Plan Modification) Debbie Dennison,
Deputy Executive Director
Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board
 - Justice-Involved Re-Entry Initiatives in Kentucky**
 - Overview..... Alisher Burikhanov, Executive Director
Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board
 - Discussion Lead.....Kerry Harvey, Secretary
Justice and Public Safety Cabinet
- Open discussion on state government agency re-entry initiatives*

3:30PM EST ADJOURNMENT

May 23, 2022, Meeting Minutes:

12:30 CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Stefanie Ebbens Kingsley, Executive Director of the KWIB welcomed everyone and started the meeting. The meeting is informational, and no business will be conducted.

Entity Name	Contact in attendance
Governor Andy Beshear - Exec. Assistant- Jaclyn Dales	
Kentucky Education & Workforce Development Cabinet	Commissioner Kish Price
Kentucky Cabinet of Economic Development	Dep Commissioner Kristina Slattery
Kentucky Labor Cabinet	
Kentucky Cabinet for Health & Family Services	Sec Eric Friedlander
Kentucky Justice & Public Safety	Deputy Commissioner Lisa Lamb
Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board	KWIB Chair Kim Menke
Kentucky Council on Post-Secondary Education	Ryan Kaffenberger
Kentucky Council on Post-Secondary Education Conference of Presidents (representing the Presidents)	Dr. Bob Jackson
Kentucky Department of Education	Assoc Commissioner David Horseman
Kentucky Commission on Military Affairs	BG Steven Bullard / Dallas Kratzer
Kentucky Chamber of Commerce	Exec Director LaKisha Miller
Kentucky Housing Corporation	Kaye McAfee
Chief Local Elected Official (representing the LEOs through KACo)	Judge Orbrey Gritton
Local Board Director (representing the 10)	Tara Johnson Noem, Sheila Clark, Jeff Whitehead
State Director of the Kentucky National Federation of Independent Business	Tom Underwood
Executive Director of the Kentucky Human Development Institute	
Job Corps Director (representing the 7)	
Kentucky Community and Technical College	Dr. Paul Czarapata

Others present Stefanie Ebbens Kingsley, Sara Jagers, Debbie Dennison, Tammy Hyde

Stefanie introduced **Kim Menke as the new KWIB Chair** and who will also be presiding over these meetings. Kim thanked Stefanie and asked her to continue.

Stefanie updated the board as to the recently re-submitted answers to questions of the Department of Labor (DOL) for clarification. The updated submittal back in *federal review* can be found on the KWIB site, within the [WIOA State Plan Modification](#) tab.

KWIB staff also sent the questions and answers to the LWDA Directors for their review.

Stefanie shared that the work of the **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)** is moving forward. Discussions have been had with local workforce and within the cabinet. There should be a **draft template** within the next quarter to share with the board.

Finally, Stefanie shared the work of the **Metrics sub-committee** and walked through the google form that is in its third iteration, waiting on the final round of edits and suggestions from partners. The goal is to identify funding as it relates to training, employers, and to align the funding by function and not by stream. The next meeting is Wednesday, May 25th and the sub-committee will review the google doc that will be used to gather information by known federal, state, non-profit and other funding streams. A draft of the current google doc can be viewed at <https://secure.kentucky.gov/formservices/OET/FRD>.

David Horseman asked for clarification of the MOU work and added that he will provide a couple of new participants representing KDE to Stefanie.

Deputy Commissioner Kristina Slattery lifted that the new Cabinet for Economic Development, Secretary Jeff Noel will begin June 1st and asked that the KWIB provide an on-boarding for him soon. KWIB staff will provide that onboarding.

Stefanie and staff will be identifying dates and remaining 2022 meetings which will be shared soon.

12:52pm **ADJOURNMENT**

Information from Partners:

State Government

Justice & Public Safety Cabinet:

The Kentucky Department of Corrections (DOC) has several important programs aimed at boosting workforce participation among the justice-involved population. These individuals have paid their debt to society and finding meaningful employment upon their reentry is critical to their success and reduce recidivism rates.

According to DOC, more than 13,100 individuals are released from prison annually after completing their sentence, and one of the most frequent barriers to successful reentry in the United States is the lack of employment. To support our booming economy, fuel our workforce, and reduce the chances of someone returning to prison, those transitioning out of prison need a good-paying job.

Investing in individuals upon their return to society is an investment in the future of Kentucky. Many individuals come to corrections broken, addicted, or without vital resources to overcome the many barriers they have encountered along the path to incarceration. Helping them to achieve employment and build marketable skills is step forward in breaking those cycles.

With its partners inside and outside of government, DOC is working toward this goal through exciting and innovative programming.

Multi-Agency Collaboration to Issue Identification Cards for State Inmates

In February 2021, the Justice and Public Safety Cabinet (JPSC) and DOC announced a multi-agency collaboration to provide state identification cards for Kentucky's justice-involved population. The joint partnership between JPSC, the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, with funding assistance from the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services and the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce, allows inmates being released from state custody to walk out of prison with a state ID card in hand.

Having an ID provides a permanent long-term solution to assist the justice-involved population with successful reintegration into the community as they obtain employment, find housing, receive financial assistance, and access additional needed services. The ID also assists released inmates who want to obtain driver's licenses on their own.

A total of 1,425 IDs have been provided as of Jan. 2023. All fourteen state prisons, as well as one county jail housing state inmates, currently participate in the program. An additional nineteen county jails housing state inmates will join the program in March.

Job Readiness Simulator

DOC is offering a new virtual learning job skills program. By learning to overcome challenges through this virtual learning experience, inmates will develop the resiliency, perseverance, and confidence needed to overcome real-life obstacles and health them answer job interview questions. This is a first of its kind project within DOC, and it presents an opportunity for its population to prepare for employment and be interview-ready upon release from custody.

The job readiness simulation was created by Marquis Software Development and SimCoach Games. The program is offered to inmates at Kentucky Correctional Institution for Women and Luther Lockett Correctional Complex who are nearing the completion of their sentence. The Beshear-Coleman administration plans to expand the program statewide in 2023.

Free Transportation Cost

JPSC and the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, launched a statewide transportation project in that will offer rides at no charge to former inmates with a mission of helping Kentuckians return-to-work while also preventing re-incarceration and providing an additional tool in Kentucky's continued fight against the opioid epidemic.

Eligible services include: substance abuse treatment, probation and parole office visit, DOC case court hearing, job interview, mental health treatment and employment for their first two weeks of a new job. This is offered statewide to all prisons at the time of release and all probation and parole districts when an offender has a transportation barrier.

To date, a total of 13,636 rides have been provided.

Prison-to-Work Pipeline

The administration is partnering with the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce to conduct a Prison-to-Work Pipeline at all 13 state prisons and 19 local jails that house state inmates. Businesses located throughout Kentucky's 120 counties will virtually interview inmates with the goal of the inmate being offered a start date before returning to society. Inmates will receive resume writing assistance and job interview preparation prior to their interviews.

The program launched July 1, 2022.

eKentucky Advanced Manufacturing Institute

On April 27, 2022, Gov. Beshear and other state leaders attended the groundbreaking ceremony for the eKentucky Advanced Manufacturing Institute (eKAMI). This innovative program will offer skilled workforce training in advanced manufacturing and robotics to state inmates to aid in successful reentry into their communities.

eKAMI studies participate in immersive programs, with the goal of building the skilled workforce needed to attract skilled, high-paying jobs to the region. These jobs are for the next generation of manufacturing such as computer numerical control, machinists, as well as machine building and tool maintenance technicians for the aerospace and other advanced manufacturing industries.

Department of Corrections Reentry Employment Program Administrators

Employment is a key factor in successful reentry for justice-involved individuals. In 2018, DOC hired Reentry Employment Program Administrators to help ensure those leaving state custody are gainfully employed as they reenter their communities. These staff utilize 80% of their time completing person-centered employment assessments to determine individual employment needs, which results in either a direct employment referral or referral to a suitable employment training program. The remaining 20% of their duties are to inform employers of the benefits of being a transformational employer, including education on Federal Bonding and Work Opportunity Tax Credits.

In 2022, 3,963 total assessments were completed, making the total number of completed assessments since the beginning of this initiative 13,199 assessments. DOC data shows that in 2021, 55% of individuals who received an assessment obtained gainful full- or part-time employment after meeting with the Reentry Employment Program Administrator.

Kentucky Office of Education (KYAE):

The Office of Adult Education has agreements with state prisons and jails statewide to provide GED instruction to currently incarcerated individuals. In addition to these direct services, OAE state staff lead an Education to Career Pipeline workgroup in collaboration with the Office of Employer and Apprenticeship Services (OEAS), the Department of Corrections (DOC), including their Education and Re-entry branches. The workgroup meets quarterly and strives to create a pipeline for incarcerated individuals to have a successful transition to employment upon reentry to society.

Office of Employer & Apprenticeship Services (OEAS):

Target group: Qualified Ex-felons

A qualified **Ex-Felon** for WOTC is an individual who has been convicted of a felony or released from incarceration for a felony conviction within 12 months prior to the individual's start date.

Maximum Credit Amount \$2,400



The **Kentucky Fair Chance Bond**, part of the Federal Bonding Program was established by the U.S. Department of Labor to provide fidelity bonds that protect employers against employee fraud and dishonesty for “at-risk,” hard-to-place job seekers. These bonds are available through your Kentucky Career Center at no cost to Kentucky employers or job applicants.

The fidelity bond covers the first six months of employment and has no deductible, so there is no out-of-pocket expense for businesses that participate. Employers also can extend coverage for an additional six months at no cost if the worker demonstrates job honesty.

Please note, the bond does not cover liability due to poor workmanship, job injuries or work accidents, bail, contract or performance bonds, or license bonds for self-employment.

Individuals in the following categories are eligible for the program:

- individuals with criminal records;
- individuals in recovery from substance use disorders;
- public assistance recipients;
- individuals with poor credit records;
- economically disadvantaged youth and adults who lack stable work histories;
- individuals dishonorably discharged from the military; and
- anyone already employed who needs bonding to prevent termination or secure a transfer or promotion.

In Kentucky, the Fair Chance Bond may be issued as soon as the applicant has begun working. Workers must be paid wages with federal taxes automatically deducted from pay. Part-time and temporary workers are eligible for the program but not self-employed persons.

With less than a 1% default rate, the bond can provide peace of mind to any employer, employee or position including working with temporary staffing agencies.

To apply for the Kentucky Fair Chance Bond, contact [**workforce@ky.gov**](mailto:workforce@ky.gov).

For more information, please visit [**bonds4jobs.com**](http://bonds4jobs.com)

Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC):

In addition to a partnership with the Department of Corrections to get ID cards for inmates prior to their release, the Transportation Cabinet hires inmates in some counties to perform services such as picking up trash on the roadways, mowing & weed eating, washing vehicles, painting snowplows, and cleaning maintenance facilities. One supervisor said, “they are some of the hardest working and nicest laborers you’ll ever meet”.

Local Workforce Development Areas

Putting Kentuckians First:

A comprehensive task force designed to create a directed individualized services provided to the justice involved population. Focusing on in person services, direct warm handoff of participant, accountability/monitoring for partners and the local Judicial System. PKF focuses on an initial partnership with the local (county specific) judicial entities, beginning with the County Attorney Office, (EVERY criminal, child support, family court and general judicial interactions begin at the County Attorney level). Upon approval by the County Attorney, a PKF task force member (a mental/behavioral health provider) is allowed to attend in person court proceedings. During court proceedings the local County Attorney Office refers individuals to the PKF program; referred individuals meet with task force representatives to complete a “quick needs” assessment form.

After the completion of the quick needs/ base line assessment form, which is a shared document across all partner agencies, determinations are made as to what agency will be the primary point of contact for the participant. The primary agency receives the handoff and can begin working on the individual’s case. After the primary agency has established rapport and a “case plan” other partners are brought to the table to work with the participant when applicable. All measures and progress are tracked on a shared intake and monitoring sheet. Each week representatives from the task force convene on a virtual meeting to review cases and the monitoring sheet to ensure progress and outcomes are being accurately tracked. Reporting is done directly to the County Attorney’s Office of participation, expectations, compliance, and outcomes for each participant.

Since 03/15/2022 (launch date) PKF has had 150+ participants referred to the program in Russell County. These cases are monitored weekly on a shared tracking method and updated accordingly as staff interacts with participants.

Information tracked – employment status/needs, Adult Education needs, Recovery Needs/ Resources, Mental/Behavioral Health Needs, and progress as well as any “emergency needs. Info is shared and viewable to the County Attorney. Adair County has recently been launched as the second site for PKF.

KentuckianaWorks:

Adult

In July 2022, KentuckianaWorks received funds from the American Rescue Plan (ARP) through an application to the Metro Council. The grant funds the Comprehensive Re-entry Employment Services (CRES) project, an evidence-based program model for justice-involved individuals. The project increases long-term employment outcomes and builds economic mobility for this population. KentuckianaWorks and the nonprofit Center for Employment Opportunities (CEO) are in a project partnership, with CEO as the direct service provider.

The CRES project provides transitional jobs and career services to justice-involved individuals. The transitional jobs sites employ work crews, with employer partners. Currently, CRES participants work at two work crew sites in Louisville: Dare to Care and the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet. Participants help with food distribution and sanitization at the Dare to Care location, among other job duties. The work crew at the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet helps roadside clean up, among other responsibilities.

Within one week of enrollment and after completing job readiness training, participants become employees of CEO. Participants work four days a week under the guidance of a CEO Site Supervisor. Over the course of a full day's work, the Site Supervisor gives participants real-time feedback on essential soft skills needed for any work environment, making this an incredibly effective form of work-based learning. On average, CRES participants spend 10 weeks in a transitional job before securing unsubsidized permanent employment. The participants will work on a crew earning at least \$12 per hour on the transitional jobs.

The CRES project started on July 1, 2022 and will end in December 2024. During this time, we expect 450 people to enroll in the CRES project and at least 375 to be hired into transitional jobs. Of those employed on work crews, 200 will be placed into permanent jobs, at an average wage of \$15.00 per hour.

***Funding:** American Rescue Plan Funding through Louisville Metro Government*

Youth & Young Adult

Along with facing justice involvement and/or a criminal record, young adult participants often face a range of adversity and barriers, such as lack of education and degree attainment, learning disabilities, lack of employment/job restrictions, little to no income, unstable housing and home life, toxic/dependent relationships, substance abuse, trauma, behavioral and mental health, hedonism, and limited support. The Spot: Young Adult Opportunity Campus program placement is based on the client's assessment of risk and self-sufficiency through intake at two sites in central and west Louisville.

OSHN Program (Low/Moderate Justice Involvement, High Community Risk), in collaboration with the Louisville Youth Network, provides an alternative for **youth and young adults (age 16-24) at risk (substance use, lack of social support, academic problems, diagnosed or referred mental health, poverty, anti-social peers, moderate/high Adverse Childhood Experiences score, community/interpersonal violence) or involved with the criminal justice system within the last two**

years by providing holistic services geared toward self-sufficiency and autonomy. A strong focus is placed on sector-specific career pathways, credentialing/training, educational and vocational upskills, and employment placement in a career trajectory.

Services: intensive assessment and case management, justice-system navigation, educational and vocational assessment and services, self-sufficiency assessment and services, mental and behavioral health services, professional development, leadership development, digital literacy, financial literacy, paid industry/sector-specific training (current: Welding, Automotive, HVAC, Plumbing, CNA, Nursing, IT, Human Services, Entrepreneurship, Culinary, Phlebotomy, Customer Service/Retail), supportive services.

Program Onset and Statistics: **Launched on 12/1/2022, the OSHN program** has been added to the comprehensive services at the Spot to serve youth and young adults that may be at severe risk of engaging in the justice system based on assessed environment, neighborhood, or risk exposure. This program directly aims at empowering youth and young adults by building self-sufficiency through enhanced training, certifications, credentials, and industry-specific placement. **Aimed at expanding services to a minimum of 75 youth and young adults annually with specific measurable outcome metrics.**

Funding: American Rescue Plan Funding through Louisville Metro Government

Reimage (Moderate Justice Involvement, High Community Risk), in coordination with the broad Justice System and partners, provides a second chance to **youth and young adults (age 16-24) involved with the criminal justice system (justice-involved, in-facility, in-school at risk, at risk, recently released offenders, facing misdemeanor charges)** by breaking the systemic cycle of criminal involvement and violence while building stronger families and neighborhoods and creating a safer community as a result. We aim for diversion, felony/recidivism prevention, and violence reduction amongst our participants through a strong focus on education, training, employment support, barrier removal, and supportive services.

Services: intensive assessment and case management, justice system and court navigation, expungement, educational and vocational assessment and services, self-sufficiency assessment and services, mental and behavioral health services, professional development, leadership development, digital literacy, financial literacy, employment placement, supportive services, incentivized services.

Program Onset and Statistics: **Since November 2015** – served more than 1,086 youth and young adults, directly influencing the obtainment of 416 degrees and credentials and 631 employment placements. **In 2021/2022 alone**, The Spot served **168 NEW participants**, and **since July 2023 – 73 new participants**. In the last six months, the 73 new clients and 264 total active program clients, have obtained 57 credentials, 49 employment placements (\$16.69 average earnings/hr.), 4 post-secondary education placements, 2 completed internships, 2 completed probation/court-mandated programs, and 32 receive mental and behavioral health services.

Funding: Louisville Metro Government General Funds

Go Grant (Moderate/High Justice Involvement, High Community Risk, Violent/Violence Risk) in direct referral and service collaboration with Metro Corrections, Office of Safe and Healthy Neighborhoods, JCTC, Louisville Urban League, BuildEd, and other training and employment partners, offers services directly aimed at violence prevention, risk and barrier removal, and justice-system involvement navigation for **youth and young adults (age 18-24) who have been expelled from school or had juvenile or adult justice system contact (current or previous incarceration/arrest, probation/parole/out-of-home placement, alternative sentencing, diversion program) and have one or more risk factor (juvenile or criminal record, alternative or disciplinary schooling, gang memberships, a parent who is currently/formerly incarcerated, diagnosed with learning disability or having an IEP school plan, assessed anti-social attitudes/beliefs, substance misuse before age 12.** Services are aimed at violence prevention through comprehensive and holistic/all-inclusive human, barrier removal, supportive, educational, and vocational services. We aim to upskill youth and young adults through occupational skills training, earned credentials, measurable skills gains, educational placement, 200-paid-internship placement in a specific industry/sector of interest/capacity/aptitude, organized mentorship, apprenticeship, leadership development, and behavioral/mental health services, violence prevention services, and vocational placement.

Services: intensive assessment and case management, justice-system navigation, violence prevention, educational and vocational assessment and services, self-sufficiency assessment and services, mental and behavioral health services, professional development, leadership development, mentorship, digital literacy, financial literacy, paid industry/sector-specific training (current: Trades Exploration, Entrepreneurship, Human Services), 200-hour paid Internships, apprenticeship.

Program Onset and Statistics: **Launched on 1/1/2023, the Go Grant program** has been added to the comprehensive services at the Spot to serve youth and young adults that may be at severe risk of community and interpersonal violence. This program directly aims at empowering youth and young adults by building self-sufficiency through enhanced training, certifications, credentials, paid industry-specific internships, mentorship, apprenticeship, and employment placement. **Aimed at expanding services to 100 youth and young adults over the next 1.5 years.**

Funding: Department of Labor REO grant through intermediary FHI360.

Education

Kentucky Community & Technical College System (KCTCS):

KCTCS Corrections Partnerships

GED Programs - Corrections education consists of adult literacy, adult basic education, adult secondary education/GED test credential preparation and/or English as a second language for adult criminal offenders. These services take place at a local jails, halfway houses, and state correctional institutions.

Somerset Forklift Training – WS partnership (Jessie is looking for other SCC programs)

West Kentucky - WKCTC is currently providing inmate training for the local regional jail and two other jails to increase enrollment that will ultimately reduce recidivism. The training is funded through the Delta Regional Authority (DRA) with WORC 2 Department of Labor funds.

Maysville – Completing a Memorandum of Agreement with the Department of Corrections to provide online and face to face higher education offerings leading to direct work certificates, diplomas, and degrees at state correctional facilities. The MOA includes in-facility student support for advising, financial aid, tutoring, and other support as well as assistance and follow up after the inmate-student leaves the correctional facility.

KCTCS Consortium – KCTCS is developing a consortium or other model to expand Maysville's program to all state correctional facilities as Pell for inmates becomes available.

Somerset:

Partnership with the Pulaski County Detention Center, Goodwill Industries, Cumberland's Workforce Board, and Hendrickson to train inmates and obtain their Welder Helper Certificate. This is an 8-week program, and they earn the college credential while incarcerated. Additionally, they earn a forklift certification from SCC. We hold an actual graduation ceremony at the end of the 8-week class. CWB pays for the tuition for each participant and Goodwill provides the following: welding PPE needed for course, clothes for the graduation ceremony and the interviews with Hendrickson, resume' writing class, resume' development, and soft skills training. Hendrickson interviews the participants and will hire them to work as either welders or production workers while incarcerated. Their salary/pay is kept in a savings account until they are released. Some of the participants enroll at SCC after release and some remain at Hendrickson working.

SCC is also working with many recovery centers in their service area and helping their participants enroll into academic programs as well as providing assistance with funding support for tuition, books, and PPE.

Big Sandy:

The Adult Peer Support Specialist (APSS) training program and CDAC pathway program is almost exclusively comprised of justice involved individuals in recovery. BSCTC has promoted education around expungement to support this population. BSCTC also We became a 2nd chance employer when hiring APSS adjunct instructors.

Statewide Goodwill Partnerships:

Several KCTCS colleges are working with Goodwill to provide customized training programs for their employees in their Earn and Learn model. Goodwill works to survey their employees, many of whom are justice involved, to understand their interests. Workforce Solutions divisions at the local colleges work to design programs for these employees who are offered a number of paid training hours each week. Current trainings offered cover a variety of topics including IT, Business Administration, Welding, and CDL among many others.

Goodwill:



GOODWILL TRAININGS

***No justice involvement required**

SSA 101

Soft Skills Academy 101 consists of 6 modules designed for clients with major barriers to employment and/or who may be unable to work full-time. This training has been designed to cover the following topics with a focus on general life skills: Attitude, Communication, Conflict Resolution, Dependability, Safety, Self-Presentation.

DIGITAL LITERACY PATHWAY

The Digital Literacy pathway is designed to start at the absolute basics of computers (ABCs) and progress them into our Applied Digital Skills (ADS) platform. ABCs introduces clients to the basics of computers and digital literacy. It involves in-class learning with a facilitator to help guide an individual to success in utilizing technology that may be new to them. In this class clients focus on learning: Basics of Computers, Internet Basics, Using Email, & Computer Assessment. ADS is a self-paced learning tool from Google. It teaches people all the features Google offers, known as G Suite. ADS empowers adult learners with digital literacy skills using Google's online classroom while also giving them an opportunity to earn a Chromebook and Google certificate.

GOODSTART

Goodstart courses are available at all Goodwill Opportunity Centers. Courses include modules on ethics, customer service, stress and anger management, decision-making, motivation, organizational skills, and self-advocacy.

RISE

RISE: Reintegrating Individuals Successfully Everyday, is a two-week job readiness training created to empower individuals that have multiple barriers to obtaining gainful employment. This program utilizes a holistic approach, giving participants the knowledge, they need to rejoin the workforce.

REENTRY PROGRAMS

*** Justice involvement required**

Expungement

Expungement is the process by which a record of criminal conviction is erased, destroyed, or sealed from a state or federal record. An expungement order directs the court to treat the criminal conviction as if it had never occurred, essentially removing it from a defendant's criminal record. Goodwill is focused on providing legal and financial assistance to participants because of the barriers an individual's background can create to securing stable employment, housing, and other basic needs. Goodwill partners with the four Legal Aid Groups across the state to accomplish record clearing and barrier reduction for clients by supplementing Legal Aid Attorneys' time. Goodwill also pays up to \$600 for each client for certification fees and filing fees.

AVAILABILITY: All of Goodwill KY service area

CONTACT: Miranda Montgomery (502) 585-5221, ext. 2106

ASPIRE (Dormant)

ASPIRE is a program developed to begin inside a correctional institution and continue upon release. In a peer environment, it teaches employment readiness skills, addresses behavioral health issues and other barrier to reintegration, and provides opportunities to earn relevant certifications for in-demand industries. ASPIRE provides justice-involved clients with resources and guidance for overcoming barriers to reintegration while preparing them for sustainable employment. Goodwill designed ASPIRE to prevent and lower recidivism through a holistic approach.

AVAILABILITY: Correctional Facilities

CONTACT: Dennis Ritchie (502) 645-1565

Lifelaunch: **IGNITE (Louisville) & IGNITE 2.0 (Lexington)**

Goodwill has been awarded a grant with the Department of Labor to serve 18-to-24-year-old individuals who are justice involved. Goodwill has partnered with Jefferson Community and Technical College (JCTC), Bluegrass Community and Technical College (BCTC), and various employer partners to establish "Work and Learn" opportunities. These allow participants to attend the colleges to earn a nationally recognized certification, while simultaneously working with an employer partner to obtain hands-on experience. The collaboration between Goodwill, JCTC, BCTC, and employer partners will assist in reducing recidivism and promoting employment readiness and education, while supporting the student to address barriers such as transportation, shelter, food, substance abuse and mental health.

AVAILABILITY: Louisville and Lexington, in designated zip codes.

CONTACTS: Melvin Robards (*Louisville*), (502) 779-0867, melvin.robards@goodwillky.org; Jasmine Woodrum (*Lexington*), (859) 397-3599, jasmine.woodrum@goodwillky.org

Reimage

Reimage is a Louisville Metro Government-funded program that serves 16-to-24-year-old individuals who are justice-involved. The program focuses on re-engagement, education, training, work experience, and career exploration.

AVAILABILITY: Louisville

CONTACTS: Rosell Hamilton, (502) 689-6120, rosell.hamilton@goodwillky.org

RETAIN KY:

RETAIN Kentucky is a \$21.6 million grant funded by the U.S. Department of Labor and implemented by the Kentucky Office of Employment and Training and the University of Kentucky.

RETAIN Kentucky works with employees, employers, and healthcare providers to address issues related to successful return-to-work and stay-at-work for Kentuckians at risk of leaving the workforce. These individuals include those who have justice involvement as part of a research study examining how an early, intensive vocational intervention impacts recovery and the likelihood of remaining employed for people with non-work-related injuries, illnesses, or impairments.

RETAIN Kentucky services are free and participants develop a Return-to-Work plan in partnership with their Return-to-Work Coordinator who provides support to identify their stay-at-work and return-to-work goals and take steps to achieve those goals, as well as connections to community resources, as needed.

Eligibility criteria to participate in RETAIN Kentucky research study are:

- 18 years of age and older
- Kentucky resident
- employed now OR employed in the last 12 months
- have a non-work-related illness, injury or impairment that could prevent them from keeping OR getting a job
- not receiving SSI or SSDI OR not applied for SSI or SSDI in the last three years

Enrollment in the study will occur through March 2024. Individuals interested in RETAIN Kentucky can get more information by visiting www.kyretain.org, emailing RETAIN@uky.edu or calling (859) 562-3251.

Kentucky Chamber Foundation:



The Kentucky Chamber Foundation supports research, programs, and training initiatives that advance Kentucky and its citizens' economic and social well-being. The Kentucky Chamber Foundation's Workforce Recovery Program uses a multi-faceted approach to addressing workforce issues related to justice involvement and substance use disorder (SUD) by engaging the business community to reduce employer stigma and increase fair-chance employment opportunities. In partnership with the Kentucky Office of Drug Control Policy, Kentucky Education and Labor Cabinet, and the Just Trust, the Chamber Foundation's Workforce Recovery Program has built a network of over 1,200 members and recruited 40,000 fair chance job opportunities across the state.

In an effort to address Kentucky's low workforce participation rate and help advance the career opportunities for justice-involved individuals, the Kentucky Chamber Foundation and the Kentucky Department of Corrections have partnered together to launch the Prison-to-Work Pipeline at all 13 state prisons and 19 local jails that house state inmates. The Workforce Recovery Program will partner with the Department of Corrections and their re-entry staff to assist and connect incarcerated individuals to employment opportunities before release. Through this initiative, employers are able to tap into a new workforce of people ready and willing to work.

Research shows that the first few weeks after release are critical to successful re-entry and preventing recidivism. It is vital to make this transition as smooth as possible, and a large missing element is an access to identification. Identification is essential to securing employment, housing, transportation, and other basic needs. The Kentucky Chamber Foundation, Kentucky Department of Corrections, Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, and Kentucky Transportation Cabinet have partnered to provide valid forms of identification for Kentuckians as they are released from incarceration. To reenter the workforce, the program stresses the importance of Kentucky's returning citizens having a valid form of identification instead of their release sheet with a mug shot. To date, over 1,000 returning citizens have received IDs due to this program. This effort started as a pilot program in four state facilities and has been growing. By 3/1/23, the pilot will be active in all state prisons and 20 county jails.

Volunteers of America (VOC):

The Recovery Ready Communities Certification Program is designed to give community leaders, recovery advocates, employers, and residents a quality measure of the efforts that a community has implemented to address substance use disorder (SUD). Volunteers of America Mid-States (VOA) was selected by the Kentucky Office of Drug Control Policy to assist in the development of a comprehensive set of criteria to evaluate a community's SUD response, provide technical assistance to the Recovery Ready Communities Advisory Council (RRCAC), and provide support to communities who apply for certification. The criteria adopted by the RRCAC is divided into three categories prevention, treatment, and recovery support. Evidence-based interventions were given more weight in terms of scoring and all interventions are designed to maximize positive outcomes in regard to public health, public safety, and workforce participation.

Restorative Justice VOA's comprehensive alternative to the traditional criminal justice system for youth and young adults brings together the victim, offender, and community to make amends and repair harm.