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

Recovery and Reemployment Research Conference
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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Identification documents lost or out of date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