



## PRISON TO EMPLOYMENT INITIATIVE

As part of Governor Brown's efforts to improve California's criminal and juvenile justice systems and reduce recidivism through increased rehabilitation, the California Workforce Development Board (State Board), California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR), California Prison Industry Authority, and California Workforce Association have finalized a partnership agreement that is included in amendments to the [California WIOA Unified Strategic Workforce Development Plan 2016-2020](#).

The [partnership agreement](#) is intended to strengthen linkages between the workforce and corrections systems in order to improve the process by which formerly incarcerated and justice-involved<sup>1</sup> individuals reenter society and the labor force. The partnership agreement will inform policies specific to Local Workforce Development Boards (Local Board) and how they serve the state's formerly incarcerated and justice-involved population.

### Pending Regional and Local Planning Guidance

Local Boards and workforce services providers should begin to think about how to best coordinate reentry and workforce services in each of the state's 14 regions. The State Board will be issuing draft Local and Regional Planning Guidance spelling out new planning requirements in the Spring of 2018 and final guidance in the Summer of 2018. We acknowledge that Regional Planning Units (RPU) are in the process of implementing current regional plans, and we anticipate that the new planning process will be updating, refining, and improving on existing plans. That said, the new planning guidance will require that regional plans specify how Local Boards and RPUs will partner with Community Based Organizations (CBO), CDCR contracted reentry service providers, and representatives of Parole and Probation to provide seamless, integrated services to the formerly incarcerated and other justice-involved individuals in each of the 14 RPUs. The RPUs will be encouraged to build on existing regional partnerships, including existing Community Corrections Partnerships to develop a comprehensive regional

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<sup>1</sup> "Justice-involved" refers to individuals who are on parole, probation, mandatory supervision, or postrelease community supervision and are supervised by, or are under the jurisdiction of, a county or the CDCR.

*The EDD is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.*

vision and plan for successfully integrating the formerly incarcerated and other justice-involved individuals into the labor market.

### **Pending Budget Resources to Implement the “Prison to Employment Initiative”**

The Governor’s 2018 Budget proposal includes \$37 million over three budget years to fund the integration of workforce and reentry services in the state’s 14 regions. Known as the “Prison to Employment Initiative,” the proposal is briefly mentioned in the [Governor’s Budget Summary](#) on page 74.

Funding for the Prison to Employment Initiative is contingent on approval by the Legislature and is intended to support regional planning efforts, fund regional plan implementation, and provide resources for direct services to the formerly incarcerated and other justice-involved individuals. It also sets aside specific resources for both supportive services and earn and learn activities.

### **Getting Started**

Early funding under the initiative will be provided for planning activities while some grants will be awarded to high-needs areas of the state. In anticipation of new regional planning requirements and new opportunities to fund the relevant services, practitioners should begin to think about all of the following:

- The potential to work with partners who currently serve individuals supervised by state Parole or county Postrelease Community Supervision.
- How Local Boards might work with reentry service providers and CBOs, who may not currently be partners, but who provide services to formerly incarcerated and justice-involved individuals.
- How to develop or scale-up relationships with regional parole offices, and parole agents.
- How to increase involvement with county-level Community Corrections Partnership plans.
- Regional labor market needs and employers who are willing to hire formerly incarcerated and justice-involved individuals, including those with felony convictions, and ways to share this information with CBOs and other local stakeholders working with this population.
- The development of tools such as inventory and asset maps to discern the types of funding that can be utilized, and types of services that can be funded by prospective regional partners.
- The staff training needs of Local Boards and partners to adequately serve this population.
- America’s Job Center of California<sup>SM</sup> staff intake and case management needs for serving this population, including informational needs about the education and training

received by individuals while in the state prison, and ways to build on pre-release training and education post-release.

While all regions will be provided planning grants, initial initiative funding in the 2018-19 budget will be for plan implementation, direct services, and supportive services, and will be prioritized for programs that can identify high levels of need and substantially demonstrate the development of regionally integrated workforce partnerships with relevant stakeholders.

### **Share What You Know**

Additionally, the State Board is seeking input from Local Boards with success serving formerly incarcerated and justice-involved populations. The State Board invites Local Boards to detail how they have achieved success serving this population, as well as what they know about best practices and model partnerships. Local Boards interested in providing input should contact Curtis Notsinneh at [curtis.notsinneh@cwdb.ca.gov](mailto:curtis.notsinneh@cwdb.ca.gov).

If you have any questions, please contact Curtis Notsinneh at [curtis.notsinneh@cwdb.ca.gov](mailto:curtis.notsinneh@cwdb.ca.gov) or 916-657-1482, or Dan Rounds at [Daniel.Rounds@cwdb.ca.gov](mailto:Daniel.Rounds@cwdb.ca.gov) or 916-657-1434.

/S/ JAIME L. GUTIERREZ, Chief  
Central Office Workforce Services Division