



COALITION TO REDUCE RECIDIVISM

INSIDE/OUT



"A conviction does not have to be a life sentence"

Fall 2015

Locked Out of Jobs, Formerly Incarcerated Struggle to Reintegrate by Michelle Chen



Not only does incarceration take people out of the workforce, but for many, the sentence never ends: The prison system places shackles of stigma and discrimination on hundreds of thousands of people it releases each year.

Once people get out of prison, staying out can be all but impossible. Since communities hit hardest by over-imprisonment typically suffer from low social cohesion, poverty and high joblessness, the formerly incarcerated return home to daunting hardships. And when they try to play by the rules and seek jobs, they get slapped by widespread hiring bias from employers. That's on top of the overall setbacks to employability linked to long periods of incarceration, like a lack of up-to-date job skills and educational credentials.

That's where the concept of transitional jobs comes in. Community groups in cities across the country are working to absorb formerly incarcerated workers into temporary work programs designed to move them toward permanent work through entry-level temporary jobs, coupled with training and guidance on adapting to the working life "on the outside."

Research has shown that such programs pay public dividends, too, by playing a key role in reducing recidivism and thereby enhancing public safety and saving states in incarceration costs. A steady paycheck is a crucial connection to the legal economy that can keep people from resorting to crime to make ends meet. Though transitional jobs are by definition temporary, they can prove critical in the first few months post-prison, when people are especially unstable and may need intensive reintegration services.

To activists like Meyers-Peeples, people who have served time deserve fair treatment in the labor market not just because they're entitled to full social inclusion, but because society as a whole suffers when it prevents people from exercising their potential. Many people have obtained advanced degrees or learned trades through prison programs, only to find that once they're released, their talents stay locked up.

Coalition to Reduce Recidivism Bridge The Gap!

Re-cid-i-vism is a tendency to relapse into a previous condition or mode of behavior; especially: relapse into criminal behavior. As part of the mission to help ex-offenders become better citizens and close the revolving door, the Coalition to Reduce Recidivism hosted its annual Job Fair on Friday, October 9, 2015 at the Milan Banquet Hall, 651 Lakehurst Road in Waukegan, IL.

Did you know that within three years of release, about two-thirds 67.8 percent of released prisoners were rearrested and 76.6 percent were re-arrested within five years? Although, America has 5 percent of the world's population, we house 25 percent of the world's prisoners. The statistics show that recidivism affects everyone.

The 2015 Coalition to Reduce Recidivism Job Fair improves the quality of life for over 125 job seekers:

- ◆ Over 85 job seekers were employed.
- ◆ Over 20 employers/vendors participated.
- ◆ The job fair received coverage from all major news networks and newspapers

2015 Coalition to Reduce Recidivism Job Fair.



Pictured Job Seekers wait in line to see employers



Employers meet with job seekers

"A Home For The Holidays"

Friday, December 4, 2015

Please join us!

Chevy Chase Country Club
1000 N Milwaukee Ave,
Wheeling, IL 60090

Attire: Semi-Formal
Donation: \$75.00

6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Reception & Cocktails

7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Dinner & Awards

8:30 p.m. - Midnight
Dancing & Entertainment

Live Entertainment Provided By:
Jerome Hunter &
Waller Thomas

Keynote Speaker
Pam Oliver
News Planning Editor, NBC
Chicago

Purchase tickets at Supervisor's Office, 149 S. Genesee St or Park Place, 414 S. Lewis Ave.
Online at www.waukegantownship.com. Paypal/Credit Card Payment Available.
Please call to RSVP.

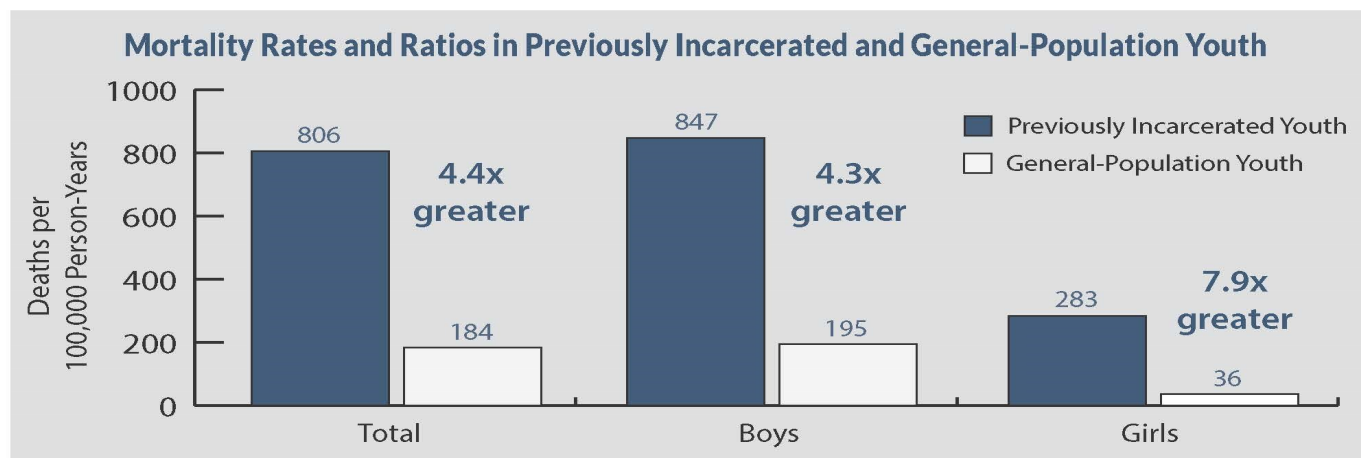
For sponsorship information call 847-244-4900/ E-mail cdunlap@waukegantownship.com

Your Donation Will Benefit Families In Need

"No More Victims"

Previously Incarcerated Youth Die at More Than Four Times the Rate of Their Peers in the General Population

Previously incarcerated youth die at significantly higher rates than youth in the general population, according to results of the Northwestern Juvenile Project¹ published by the U.S. Department of Justice. Through calculating ratios that compared the mortality rates of these groups,² researchers determined that youth who had been detained died at a rate 4.4 times greater than their peers in the general population (806 vs. 184 per 100,000 person-years). While boys in both groups died at higher rates than girls in both groups, respectively, girls who had been detained died at a rate 7.9 times greater than their peers in the general population (283 vs. 36 per 100,000 person-years). Researchers found that homicide was the leading cause of death³ among previously incarcerated youth (90.1%), and that the vast majority of these homicides resulted from gunshot wounds (93.0%). The authors made an extensive series of policy recommendations, including implementing delinquency and violence prevention programs, reevaluating firearm policies in terms of public health, and improving mental health services for high-risk youth.



For more information visit www.centerforhealthandjustice.org

About Inside/Out

Inside/Out is a publication of the Coalition to Reduce Recidivism, which is based in Lake County, IL. The newsletter intends to raise and discuss issues that affect the lives of men, women and children who are

incarcerated and who have been released from incarceration.

The views and opinions included herein do not necessarily state or reflect those of the coalition's executive board or its individual members.

If you have news or updates for our newsletter you can send them to: kwoods@waukegantownship.com

Be sure to visit us on the web at:
www.reducerecidivism.org

Upcoming Coalition Meetings You Don't Want To Miss!

The Coalition to Reduce Recidivism Executive Board will meet from 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m., January 8, March 4, May 6, July 8, & September 9, 2016 at 149 S. Genesee Street., Waukegan, IL. The next Bi-Monthly Public Meeting will be Monday, January 25, March 21, May 16, July 18, & September 19, 2016 at 330 S. Greenleaf Road, Gurnee, IL.

Please consider joining the growing movement in support of the formerly incarcerated. Annual membership dues goes directly to supportive services on their behalf. Membership dues are as follows:

Corporate \$500,
Faith Membership Congregation 301+ \$500
Faith Membership Congregation 100 - 300 \$250
Faith Membership Congregation up to 100 \$150

Agency \$150
Board of Director \$100
Individual \$50
Student, Senior(65+), Unemployed Repatriates \$20

How to Reach Us:

By Phone: (847) 244-4900

By Fax: (874) 244-5185

By Email:

coalition2rr@waukegantownship.com

By Mail:

Coalition to Reduce Recidivism
149 S. Genesee St.
Waukegan, IL 60085



The President has called on Congress to follow a growing number of states, cities, and private companies that have decided to “ban the box” on job applications. Congress is considering bipartisan legislation that would “ban the box” for federal hiring and hiring by federal contractors. In the meantime, the President is directing the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to take action where it can by modifying its rules to delay inquiries into criminal history until later in the hiring process. While most agencies already have taken this step, this action will better ensure that applicants from all segments of society, including those with prior criminal histories, receive a fair opportunity to compete for Federal employment.

White House Press Release

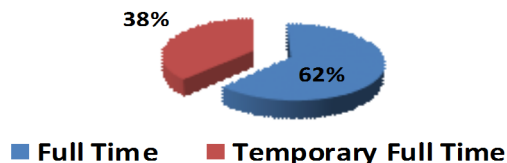
Tell us what you think. Do you agree with President Obama’s decision? What are your thoughts on “Ban The Box”? Email Kwoods@waukegantownship.com. Your response may appear in our Coalition blog.

News You Can Use

Coalition Jobs Report

January, 2015 thru October, 2015 Statistics

Repatriate Employment



To date, **1,294** Repatriates have obtained employment since August 2005.

106 Employed - Full time

64 Employed - Temp Agency

101 New Clients

Expungement & Sealing Data

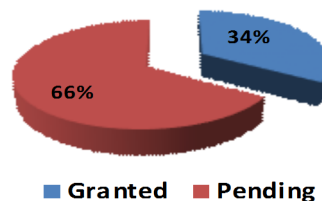
Executive Clemency - 60 (58

Pending & 2 Granted)

Waukegan Township Office

Expungement - 59 (39 Pending & 20 Granted)

Expungement

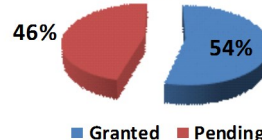


LEGAL HELP DESK

Sealing- 46 (22 Granted & 24 Pending)

Total clients seen through the Legal Help Desk: 62

Sealing



Johnnie Jenkins
Employment Specialist



COALITION TO REDUCE RECIDIVISM

2016 Criminal Justice Scholarship Application



Scholarships

\$500.00 awarded to the scholarship recipient!

ATTENTION:

- Students graduating from Lake County's Regional High Schools or current Illinois College students.
- Students continuing education at an Illinois Higher Learning Institution.
- Students pursuing a degree in Criminal Justice or another very closely related field of study.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To be eligible for the scholarship, you must meet all of the following criteria:

- Currently enrolled in undergraduate courses or entering college for the first time in the upcoming academic year, in pursuit of, a Degree in Criminal Justice or related field of study.
- Open to all Levels of Grade Point Average.
- Must be a U.S. Citizen and Resident of Lake County, Illinois.
- Must submit an official high school and/or college transcript.
- Must submit a resume, cover letter and completed application form.
- Must enroll at an Illinois School of higher learning as a full-time undergraduate student.
- Must be a registered voter, providing that you are at least 18 years of age at time of application submission.
- Must have a history of extracurricular activities that demonstrates a willingness to accept leadership responsibilities or commitment to civic responsibility, social consciousness and a willingness to serve the community. (student government, club officer, etc/community service projects, volunteer activities with local service agencies or charitable institutions, etc)
- Must submit a 250-word essay on "*The impact of recidivism on the Lake County community and how a degree in Criminal Justice will help you better serve the community and combat recidivism.*"
- Must submit three letters of recommendation from Academic Advisor, Professor, Employer, Coach or Faith Community Member.

Since the inception of the Coalition To Reduce Recidivism, the mission of the Coalition has been to empower returning citizens of Lake County through employment opportunities as well as, empowering returning citizens by providing educational opportunities and advancement. The Coalition Criminal Justice Scholarship Fund was created.



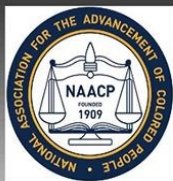
Membership



Why am I a member of the Coalition to Reduce Recidivism?

By Mary Turley, Instructor
College of Lake County and The Umma Center

I have been a member of the Coalition to Reduce Recidivism since its beginning. I continue to be a member because of what the organization represents. I support our mission, our past accomplishments, and the endless pursuit to develop innovative ways to improve the services available to ex-offenders. The Coalition truly fills a void in Lake County, by providing services to ex-offenders that have been overlooked for too many years.



NAACP Lake County

Freedom Fund and Image Awards Banquet

Friday November 13,
2015

6:00pm– 10:00pm

Guest Speaker



Karen Jordan of ABC 7

Wedgewood (formerly Midlane Country Club)
4555 W. Yorkhouse Rd.
Wadsworth, IL

Tickets: \$75.00

Sponsorships

Gold: \$5,000, Tickets, Recognition in Ad Book
Silver: \$3,000, 8 Tickets, Recognition in Ad Book
Bronze: \$2,000, 6 Tickets, Recognition in Ad Book

Tickets & Sponsorships can be purchased via



For question please contact at naacp.lakecounty@gmail.com or 224-372-1909

Working Together

In each edition, we will feature a service organization who offer services to assist former inmates and their families.

Waukegan Housing Authority

215 S Utica St, Waukegan, IL 60085
(847) 244-1595

The Waukegan Housing Authority is a public entity that was formed in 1949 to provide federally subsidized housing and housing assistance to low-income families, within Waukegan Illinois. Currently, the HA owns and/or manages: (a) 3 multi-family apartment complexes totaling 325 units; (b) 1 senior complex, totaling 98 units; (c) 25 single-family homes throughout the city of Waukegan. The HA currently has approximately 23 employees. "With the support of our city's Mayor Wayne Motley, we continue to work closely with the community organizations to provide affordable housing needs to the community and raise the standards and stock of decent, safe and sanitary housing, improving the quality of life within our community", said WHA, Executive Director, CEO, Charles J. Chambers Jr. "I invite everyone to apply".



Executive Director, CEO,
Charles J. Chambers Jr



Support Group

Repatriate, Empowering Support Group:

Meets 1st and 3rd Friday of every month -
5:30pm - 6:30pm., at 149 S. Genesee Street
For info call 847-244-4900

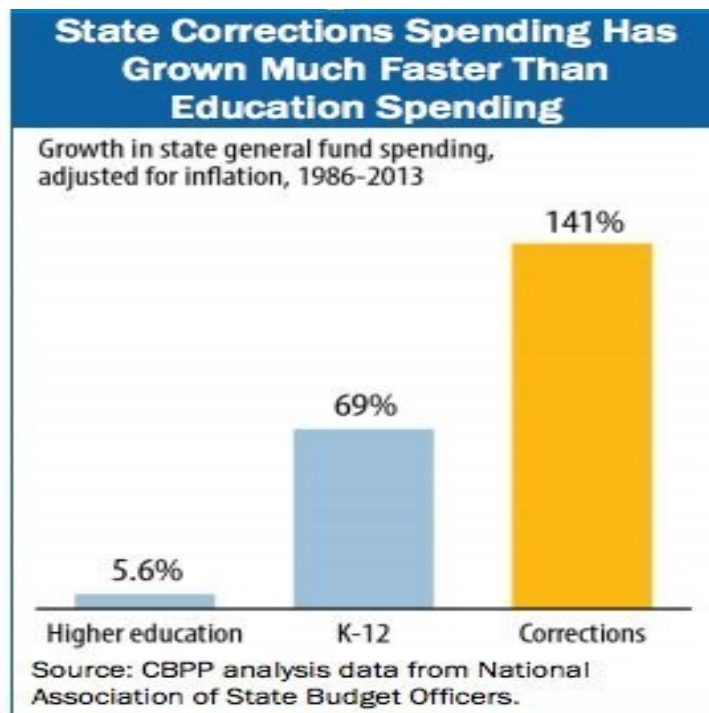
NA Meeting:

Meets every Monday - 7:00pm.,
at 149 S. Genesee Street
For info call 847-244-4900

Adult Reentry Education Grants.

The Department of Education will award up to \$8 million (over 3 years) to 9 communities for the purpose of supporting educational attainment and reentry success for individuals who have been incarcerated. This grant program seeks to build evidence on effective reentry education programs and demonstrate that high-quality, appropriately designed, integrated, and well-implemented educational and related services in institutional and community settings are critical in supporting educational attainment and reentry success.

White House Press Release



LEGAL HELP DESK



Legal Help Desk
Attorneys

Arrests and acquittals are expungeable. Guilty pleas, probation, supervision and convictions, are not. The filing fee for an expungement is \$60.

Information on how to file for an expungement is available through the Lake County Clerk's Office, 18 N. County St., Waukegan, or online at: www.lakecountyil.gov/CircuitClerk/CivilCriminal/Pages/Expungements.aspx. Help is also available at: www.illinoislegalaid.org

The Coalition's Legal Help Desk has volunteer lawyers, that offer free legal advice to people with criminal convictions and determine their eligibility for expungement and sealing. Hours are 1st Friday of the month from 8:30am – 12:30pm. Volunteer Attorney On-Site to Assist with Expungement and Sealing Applications.

Walk In Preferred (No Appointment)

Waukegan Township Supervisor's Office 149 S. Genesee Street
Waukegan, IL 60085. For information Call 847-244-4900 or email coalition2rr@waukegantownship.com.

BRING YOUR RAP SHEET (CRIMINAL HISTORY)

Adult Criminal Lake County Cases: Request your rap sheet at the Lake County Clerk's Office, 18 N. County Street, Waukegan, IL 60085, Basement Floor. Office open from 9am-5pm. Service fees required. For more information, please call (847) 244-4900.



Coalition to Reduce Recidivism Committee members take picture with the Legal Help Desk attorneys.



Legislative Update



By Dr. Richard Keller

State of Illinois

Bills signed by the Governor to become law January 1, 2016

HB 3475 - (Certificate of Good Conduct Bill) Expands the eligibility for Certificates of Good Conduct to include people who have committed non-sex-related forcible felonies so that people who have made grave mistakes have at least one avenue beyond clemency to demonstrate they've turned their lives around so that they can care for themselves and their children.

HB 3149 - (Sealing Bill) Allows for people who earn a vocational certification, GED, HS Diploma or some other degree during the period of his or her sentence, aftercare release, or mandatory supervised release, to petition to have their eligible convictions sealed prior to the statutorily required 4 year waiting period.

HB 2471 - Ends mandatory juvenile life without parole for minors in adult court.

HB 3718 - Stops automatic transfers to adult court for juveniles who are 15 while also limiting the transfer of juveniles aged 16 and 17 to only the most serious crimes.

Outstanding Bills (Still need to be voted on)

HB 494 - Would remove the lifetime ban on individual's with a conviction history from working in our schools. Currently, someone with a prior conviction can never work in our schools, whether that is a janitor, as an office worker, as a teacher, or as an administrator, any job in our schools. The bill continues to restrict those with a sexual offense and those guilty of a violent crime, but allows others to seek jobs in schools after a set period of time, 7 years after end of sentence or incarceration.

HB 218 - Decriminalizes marijuana- Bill proposed making up to 15 grams of cannabis (possession) punishable by a minimum fine of \$50 and a maximum of \$125 with no jail time.

Federal

Important Bills currently being discussed in Congress

S. 2021/H.R. 3470 - Fair Chance Act

This takes Ban the Box federal, requiring federal governments and federal contractors to inquire about a criminal record only once a conditional offer has been made. Currently adopted in 19 states and 100 counties nationwide, Ban the Box addresses the prejudicial effect of a conviction record on employment prospects by limiting room for knee-jerk rejections from employers. Nearly 70 million people have criminal records that keep them from becoming productive citizens, with blacks disproportionately affected.

Sponsors: Sen. Cory Booker (D-NJ), Rep. Elijah Cummings (D-MD-7)

S.502/H.R. 920 - Smarter Sentencing Act

The Smarter Sentencing Act targets costly one-size-fits-all mandatory minimums on controlled substance offenses. It allows for more judicial discretion in sentencing for some criminal history categories. Doing so unbinds judges from giving improper and disproportionately punitive mandatory minimums. Based on a motion, it also allows Fair Sentencing Act 2010 to be applied retroactively to reduce a sentence for crack, cocaine possession and trafficking offense. Under the bill, the Attorney General will also consider sentencing patterns in the past decade and a half and report on cost saving measures to reduce overcrowding, recidivism, and expenditure.

Sponsors: Sen. Mike Lee (R-UT), Rep. Raul Labrador (R-ID-1)



Patricia Jones, M.ED
Coalition Founder/
Chairperson
Waukegan Township
Supervisor



12th Annual Luncheon

*Re-Enter
Re-Claim
Re-Connect*



Dr. Mary Roberson, President
Coalition to Reduce Recidivism

On Friday, October 9, 2015, the Coalition to Reduce Recidivism hosted its 12th Annual Luncheon and Job Fair at the Milan Banquet Hall, 651 Lakehurst Road in Waukegan, IL. The Coalition continued its mission to help ex-offenders, become self sufficient and productive citizens of our community. The job fair was a free event open to the public. It began at 9:00am with employment vendors on site to interview, accept resumes, and hire on the spot. Special thanks to the vendors for supporting the Coalition's job placement efforts. A reception followed at 11:30am and the Luncheon began at noon. This year's celebration featured a panel of dynamic guest speakers, which included the Keynote speaker, former Illinois Governor George Ryan. Ryan spoke about the "felon" tag being a "big deterrent" for someone looking for a job. Greetings were received by **State Representative Rita Mayfield, 60th District, State Senator Terry Link, 30th District, State Senator Kimberly A. Lightford, 4th District, and State Senator Iris Y. Martinez, 20th District.** Having former Governor George Ryan, over 20 job vendors, an impressive list of Honorees of community leaders/organizations, generous sponsor, and event attendees, made this year's luncheon newsworthy. The event was seen on all major news networks and newspapers. Thank you to the community for your continued support. Proceeds from the luncheon benefit the Coalition to Reduce Recidivism programs.



Keynote Speaker, Former
Illinois State Governor
George Ryan and Charles
Chambers, Director,
Waukegan Housing
Authority.



2015 Honorees



Repatriate Award
Dr. Richard Keller



Religious Advocate
Pastors Willie & Kathy Moton



Service Provider Award
Catholic Charities



Humanitarian Award
State Rep. Rita Mayfield



Employer Award
Team Lear



Educator Award
Warren Thomas



Advocate Award
Stella Jones



Vanguard Award
Judge Christopher Stride



Justinian Award
State's Attorney
Michael Nerheim



Chairman's Award
Abu & Dhiya Bakr

2015 Coalition Luncheon Committee - *Patricia Jones, M.Ed., Coalition Chairperson *Dr. Mary Roberson, Coalition President *Jennifer Witherspoon, Esq., Coalition Vice President *Arlene Day, Coalition Treasurer *Octavius D. Hayes Jr., Coalition Secretary *Dr. Philip Carrigan, Coalition Past-President *Charles Chambers, Board Member *Todd Fletcher, Board Member *Cynthia Vargas, Member *Marc Jones, Member *Johnnie Jenkins, Employment Specialist.

"A conviction does not have to be a life sentence"