



Prison to Employment Connection

A Better Way Out

FACT SHEET: EMPLOYMENT

1



A 2011 study of the formerly incarcerated found that employment was the single most important factor in decreasing recidivism.

2



Recidivism rates were nearly cut in half for returning citizens with a full-time job compared to similar inmates who are unemployed.

3



Statewide recidivism rates range from about 31% to 70%, but the recidivism rates for formerly incarcerated people who found employment shortly after their release is less than 9%.

4



Employing 100 previously incarcerated will increase their lifetime earnings by \$55 million.

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Employing 100 previously incarcerated people will increase their income tax contributions by \$1.9 million and boost sales tax revenues by \$770,000.

6



Employing 100 previously incarcerated people will save millions of dollars annually by keeping them out of the criminal justice system.

7



A study of "help wanted" advertisements in Virginia found that just 8.23% of employers were open to hiring an applicant with a record.

8



Formerly incarcerated persons who maintained employment for one year post-release had only a 16% recidivism rate over three years as compared to 52% recidivism rate for those who did not maintain employment.

9



Hiring managers report that applicants can compensate for criminal records with their personalities and in-person contact with hiring authorities.

10



85%-89% of the formerly incarcerated who are rearrested are unemployed.