

The RED Reentry Program

Resource Employment Development

History

In 2017, in effort to decrease recidivism in Arizona, the Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) and the Arizona Department of Corrections Rehabilitation and Reentry (ADCRR) partnered to bring comprehensive services to inmates who were nearing release from prison and likely to recidivate.

This collaboration resulted in the establishment of three Second Chance Centers (SCC) inside State prisons where staff works to prepare inmates for reentry into their communities and the workforce. In 2021, when the SCCs were forced to close during the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Departments launched the RED Program to continue providing inmates with reentry services virtually. Due to the success of connecting with inmates virtually, DES and ADCRR kept the RED Program to provide much-needed resources to inmates throughout the state.



About the Program

The 4-week RED program provides employment readiness services and resources to help participants prepare for successful reentry. Services are provided by DES and Community Based Organizations, with facilitation assistance from ADCRR.

DES services include but are not limited to:

- Development of hard and soft workforce skills
- · Resume development assistance
- Interview preparation with mock interviews
- Access to virtual and in-person job fairs
- Ability to build relationships with potential employers
- Cultural Competency, Healthy Relationships and Work Ethics Series
- Training to utilize online job search websites
- Specialized workforce services for <u>Veterans</u> and individuals with disabilities
- Information about <u>Federal Bonding</u> insurance for employers who hire "at risk" (including formerly incarcerated) job seekers and,
- Information on <u>Work Opportunity Tax Credits</u> for employers who hire former inmates

Community-Based Organizations services include but are not limited to:

- Services and rights for parents on an as needed basis
- Access to housing, food and transportation
- Access to State nutrition and medical benefits
- · Clothing for job interviews and employment
- Mental Health Resources
- Educational opportunities
- · Money Management Education

After release, participants receive 90-day transition services including:

- Access to employment labs
- Registration on the <u>Arizona Job Connection</u> website
- Resume development
- Employment referrals
- · Individualized job coaching
- · Mock interviewing and preparation
- Job fairs
- Follow-up employment services
- Transportation assistance (contingent upon availability)
- Clothing assistance/voucher (contingent upon availability)

As of February 2023, more than 1,200 inmates have graduated from the RED Program resulting in 808 jobs. At this time, 95 employers were active in the RED program.





Equal Opportunity Employer / Program • Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities • To request this document in alternative format or for further information about this policy, contact your local office; TTY/TDD Services: 7-1-1 • Disponible en español en línea o en la oficina local

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