

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW OF NCDOC Transition and Reentry Initiatives

JobStart II - March 2002 – December 2005

Funded by the Governor's Crime Commission

Grant Award Amount: 675,000.00

Counties Served: Prison based program served inmates released statewide

Overview: The project was designed to improve the effectiveness of transition services to offenders released from the North Carolina correctional system, thereby increasing the likelihood of their successful reintegration into the community, by (1) strengthening and more closely coordinating the various services and programs provided to offenders, (2) establishing a network of post-release resources for assisting offenders in making a successful transition to the community and workplace, and (3) increasing participation by the business and workforce development community in providing work opportunities for offenders.

Serious and Violent Offender Reentry Initiative (Going Home Initiative) – July 2003 – June 2007

Funded by: US Department of Justice

Grant Award Amount: 1.5 million

Counties Served: Henderson, Buncombe, McDowell, Burke, Caldwell, Catawba, Durham, Wake, Duplin, Wayne, Lenoir, Greene and Pitt.

Overview:

The Going Home Initiative developed a model for reentry programs that began in correctional institutions and continued throughout an offender's transition to and stabilization in the community. The program was voluntary and targeted adult offenders (18-35 years old) released from prison under community supervision (e.g. parole or post-release supervision) with at least a 90-day term. The Going Home Initiative was divided into three phases: Phase I - Institutional Component, Phase II - Community Component, Phase III- Aftercare. The GHI process consisted of agency staff and community partners working together to establish a team concept to support offender reentry. Teams were created at the local level to assist offenders prior to and after release. Local teams assisted case managers with developing an in-depth plan transition plan to guide the process for a smooth transition.

REPAIR Project - (Reentry Entrepreneurial Partnerships Aimed at Individual and community Restoration)

Funded by: Supplemental funding through GHI

Counties Served: Durham and Wake

Grant Award Amount: 300,000.00

Overview:

The REPAIR project was a four month vocational training program for Phase II Going Home Initiative participants. REPAIR was a collaborative effort between the NC Department of Correction, Weed and Seed in Wake and Durham counties, Durham Technical Community College and Wake Technical Community College. The purpose of the program is to enable Phase II GHI participants to learn employable, construction-related skills while giving back to the community. The course was a combination of classroom instruction and hands-on work experience related to neighborhood revitalization and restoration efforts in Weed & Seed targeted communities.

Prisoner Reentry Initiative (PRI) July 1, 2007- June 30, 2011

Collaboration with ESC

Grant Award Amount: 600,000.00

Funded by: US Department of Labor and US Department of Justice

Counties Served: Nash/Edgecombe, New Hanover and Mecklenburg

Overview:

PRI was a two phased initiative involving pre and post release services to participants. In Phase I Pre-Release, the Job Developers coordinated with the Division of Prison facilities visits with the facility designee for informational meetings, assessments, and review of assessment results. During Phase II Post Release, the Job Developers was responsible for job matching and placement based upon the assessment results. The Job Developers researched community resources and referred participants to community partners as necessary. The Job Developers hosted informational luncheons for local employers and established relationships with employers for future opportunities.

In Mecklenburg County, PRI worked with The Center for Community Transitions (The Center), a community organization located in Charlotte. The Center provided job readiness training, job retention and case management services, coordinated job fairs, and host mentoring fairs to train volunteers to help participants with successful reentry.

Certified Communication- July of 2009 – June 30, 2011

Collaboration with Wake Tech Community College, Nash/Edgecombe Community College, Cape Fear Community College

Funded by: N.C. Governor's Crime Commission

Grant Award Amount: 153, 150.00

Counties Served: Prison based programs at Wake Correctional Center, Fountain Correctional Center for Women and New Hanover Correctional Center

Overview:

Certified Communications was a one (1) year grant from the Governor's Crime Commission. The program provided offenders with short term training in low voltage wiring applications in the areas of Telecommunications, Integrated Voicemail Systems, Home Audio and Entertainment, Copper based and Fiber Optics. The project was a partnership between the North Carolina Department of Correction and the North Carolina Community College System.

Offender Employment and Training Initiative (OETI)- January 1, 2010 thru June 30, 2011

Collaboration with Employment Security Commission,

Funded By: NC Department of Commerce Division of Employment and Training

Grant Award: One Million dollars

Counties Served: Alamance, Buncombe, Cumberland, Durham, Forsyth, Gaston, Guilford, Mecklenburg, Pitt, Rowan and Wake.

Overview

The Offender Employment & Training Initiative (OETI) was a collaborative effort between the NC Department of Correction and the NC Department of Commerce to address the importance of providing more comprehensive employment services and support to offenders with issues regarding employment. American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds were used to support employment readiness through vocational and educational training, employer education and collaboration of all workforce development and correctional professionals at the state and local levels. A key component of the OETI was to provide dedicated staff to assist with providing direct services that addressed the employment, vocational and training needs of offenders.