



State labor, corrections departments announce partnership for job placement

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The state Department of Labor has partnered with the state Department of Corrections and Community Supervision to help inmates connect with jobs after being released from incarceration.

The partnership, announced earlier this month, is an extension of the Work For Success program that helps former inmates find and retain work. Individuals who are assessed as having a low risk of re-offending and a low barrier to employment are provided training by the labor department's career centers, while those with at a higher risk are placed in non-profit programs that specialize in working with people with criminal convictions.

The DOCCS's new partnership with the labor department is intended to place participants in jobs that are better suited for their needs and encourage a lower turnover rate.

"There has never been a collaboration of criminal justice and labor that matches individuals exiting prisons to employment services specifically targeted to their risks and needs," Mindy Tarlow, co-chair of the Work for Success initiative, said in a statement. "We are developing this forensic approach to ensure that the right people get to the right services at the right time to reduce recidivism among individuals coming home from incarceration."

Work For Success's partnership with the DOL also includes a public education campaign to inform employers and businesses about tax credits and other benefits that are involved with hiring formerly incarcerated workers.

"Getting a job after being incarcerated dramatically increases the chances that an individual will stay out of prison," state labor commissioner Peter Rivera said in a news release. "By sending low risk individuals to Department of Labor Career Centers, our staff, workforce development programs and partnerships are helping to ensure that finding work and re-joining society becomes a reality."

For more information about the program or partnership, visit workforsuccess.ny.gov.