

FLASH FAX/E-NEWS JUNE 28, 2013

A Second Chance for Ex-Offenders

The federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission took on an important issue last year when it reaffirmed and updated a ruling that barred employers from automatically denying people jobs based on arrest or conviction records. The guidance made clear that an arrest alone was not proof of illegal conduct or grounds for exclusion. It also explained that, when considering an applicant with a criminal conviction, the employer must take into account the seriousness of the offense, the time lapsed since the offense and the relevance of the crime to the specific job being sought.

The point is to eliminate unfair obstacles to employment for the 65 million Americans who have criminal records, including those based on minor convictions that might have occurred in the distant past. **Visit:** http://www.nytimes.com/2013/06/20/opinion/a-second-chance-for-ex-offenders.html?_r=0. **Also visit the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission at:** http://www.eeoc.gov/laws/guidance/arrest_conviction.cfm.

Ex-Offender Employment Opportunities

One of the first requirements for an offender who is released from prison is to obtain a job. Employment increases an ex-offender's opportunities to obtain housing and health care, comply with court-ordered debts such as restitution and child-support, and support himself or herself and family. Having a criminal record may make it more difficult for an ex-offender to find a job, especially a well-paying one. Those who have served time in prison can expect to earn about 40 percent less in annual wages compared to people in similar circumstances who have not spent time in prison, according to a 2010 study by the Pew Center on the States. To improve employment prospects for ex-offenders, states have adopted policies to encourage their employment, addressed employer liability and hiring incentives, expanded eligibility for record-clearing policies, and supported employment training and reentry programs. The report covers hiring regulations, employer liability and incentives, record clearing, skills training and reentry services, and federal support. **Visit:** <http://www.ncsl.org/issues-research/justice/ex-offender-employment-opportunities43.aspx>

National Journal LIVE Policy Summit

Wednesday, July 10, 2013
The Newseum
Knight Broadcast Studio, 3rd Floor
555 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C.

A degree beyond high school is essential for young people to succeed in the global economy and pursue their dreams. Unfortunately, too many postsecondary programs don't deliver the value that students and families want and need. College costs too much. Their degree programs are designed for full-time students, even though 75 percent of students today are "non-traditional." Too many students never finish, ending up with debt but no degree. For those that do graduate, too many are unprepared for the workplace. As such, colleges are developing new models of degree acquisition in an effort to better serve the modern lifestyles and waning pocketbooks of students. What is the future of the college degree, and higher education in general, in the United States? Join National Journal for a policy summit convening key industry leaders, labor and workforce experts, and advocacy groups to discuss the future of higher education in the U.S. given our shifting economy and the changing models of post-secondary degrees. **Visit:** <http://www.nationaljournal.com/events>

IMMEDIATE OPENINGS Job Corps Is Now Enrolling!

Job Corps is seeking new applicants to fill immediate openings and restore its 125 centers nationwide to full capacity.

A U.S. Department of Labor program, Job Corps provides eligible students with academic and career technical training, room and board, counseling and mentoring services, and basic medical care. Young people ages 16 through 24 who meet low-income requirements can enroll in the program at no cost to them by calling (800) 733-JOBS [5627].

If you know of someone age 16 through 24 who may be a good fit for Job Corps, call (800) 733-JOBS [5627] or **Visit:** <http://www.recruiting.jobcorps.gov/en/home.aspx>

Arizona Starts Jail-to-Community Effort to Cut Repeat Crime

Maricopa County, AZ., the nation's fourth most-populous county, hopes to reduce recidivism among jail inmates by spending more money on high-risk offenders and helping low-risk inmates safely reintegrate into their communities upon release, reports the Arizona Republic. The county's efforts are part of a growing national trend toward classifying inmates based on their likelihood of committing another crime and matching them with services that decrease the chances of them returning to crime.

Planning for the Transition From Jail to Community effort has been underway since 2011, when a consultant from the National Institute of Corrections began working with county criminal justice agencies. Maricopa County has struggled with rising criminal justice costs: 51% of the budget is spent on public safety. The Republic describes the program as a "herculean undertaking" involving all cross-sections of the criminal justice system and community groups, including mental health and human services organizations. For more information, **visit:** <http://www.thecrimereport.org/news/crime-and-justice-news/2013-06-push-on-az-jail-recidivism>

Webinar for Faith-Based and Community Leaders: Helping Children of Incarcerated Parents

On July 9, 2013, at 2 p.m. ET, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and the U.S. Department of Justice Center for Faith-Based & Neighborhood Partnerships (CFBNP) will present the Webinar "Faith in Action: Working with Children of Incarcerated Parents." This 90-minute Webinar will inform faith-based and community leaders about trends in youth delinquency, substance abuse, and poor academic attainment due to parent incarceration and resulting absence. Panelists will highlight the impacts on the health and safety of youth at risk of delinquency when parents are incarcerated and will provide resources for leaders to make a positive difference in the lives of youth and their communities. **Visit:** <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/fbnp/about.htm>

