

# FLASH FAX/E-NEWS JULY 12, 2013

## Upcoming Federal Webinar Series

Annual Planning and Budget Formulation  
August 21, 2013

11am to 12pm EST | 8am to 9am PST

Visit: <http://www.umd.com/en-us/education/upcoming-webinars/241/annual-planning-and-budget-formulation.aspx>

Communicating Investment Status  
September 18, 2013

11am to 12pm EST | 8am to 9am PST

Visit: <http://www.umd.com/en-us/education/upcoming-webinars/242/communicating-investment-status.aspx>

## **The Pew Charitable Trusts Release Juvenile Justice Reform Briefs**

The Pew Charitable Trusts has released two Web briefs:

“State-Local Partnership in Ohio Cuts Juvenile Recidivism, Costs” describes how that state expanded its use of more effective, cost-efficient community-based alternatives to incarceration in overcrowded, expensive state facilities for lower risk youth. Visit: <http://www.pewstates.org/research/reports/state-local-partnership-in-ohio-cuts-juvenile-recidivism-costs-85899478801>

“Bending the Curve: Juvenile Corrections Reform in Texas” describes how that state reformed its juvenile corrections system as a response to reported abuses. Reforms reduced the number of juveniles in secure state facilities, reduced recidivism and increased public safety, and saved the state millions of dollars. Visit: <http://www.pewstates.org/research/reports/bending-the-curve-juvenile-corrections-reform-in-texas-85899480847>

## **Registration Open for Global Youth Justice Training Institute**

On December 3-5, 2013, Global Youth Justice will host its 8th Global Youth Justice Training Institute in Las Vegas, NV. Participants will learn how to establish or enhance local juvenile justice diversion programs—teen, peer, youth, and student courts and peer juries. Topics include training youth and adult volunteers, delivering quality community services and programs, and conducting mock family intake meetings and juvenile referral sources, grant writing, funding opportunities, and more.

Visit: <http://www.globalyouthjustice.org/>

## **Out of Prison but Still Struggling**

Freddie Smith was determined to stay free. Newly released from a prison sentence in Washington, D.C. in 2008, he had been in and out of jail since he was 13 years old. But this time was different; this time he had shown huge gains in stabilizing his life, having spent months in a drug rehabilitation center. Then the judge demanded 90 days in a halfway house, standard for ex-offenders in the District of Columbia.

“The only thing I could do was go to work,” Smith said. But finding work was difficult, especially since employers are often wary to hire ex-offenders. Then he remembered how a friend back at his rehab center had recommended he apply to a place called DC Central Kitchen, which, he was told, trained at-risk individuals such as ex-offenders and victims of substance abuse—in his case, he was both—in professional culinary skills. The organization then linked participants to jobs in commercial kitchens around D.C. with a nearly perfect placement record.

Smith quickly applied to the program and was soon accepted. Three years later, having successfully completed the program, he is now a staff member at DC Central Kitchen. Yet the District of Columbia has few organizations like DC Central Kitchen; that is, programs that not only offers transitional outreach services to ex-offenders, but also trains them in useful job skills.

For its part, DC Central Kitchen offers participating students—many of whom enter the program with a previous interest or background in cooking—free books, a transportation stipend and two meals a day. It also links them to various transitional programs, including transitional housing shelters and pre-trial services, and eventually to a job in one of D.C.’s commercial kitchens, with the hope of stabilizing their day-today lives.

One of the major hurdles ex-offenders must overcome is finding work, particularly as competition for low-wage jobs has increased. DC Central Kitchen’s CEO, Michael Curtin, said that as the pile of applications facing employers increases, ex-offenders are often ignored entirely. Visit: <http://streetsense.org/2012/04/lifeafterprison/>

## **Reentry / Successful Reintegration Begins Here**

Six hundred fifty thousand (650,000) prisoners will return to their home states each year from federal and state correctional facilities. Thirty-five thousand (35,000) return to Philadelphia each year from federal, state, and local prisons without jobs, stable homes, or hope for the future.

Impact Service Corporation has worked with ex-offenders since 1974, and understands the challenges of reentry. Selection as winner of Annie E. Casey Foundation’s Strengthening Families Award, and the Innovative Program Design Award from the Post-Secondary Program Network (PEPnet) has highlighted the success of this innovative work.

Impact’s Ex-Offender/Parenting Department currently provides five programs that serve ex-offenders and one program that serves youth. Since 2000, Impact has served 3,354 ex-offenders, and placed 1,651 in full-time employment. The Community Service Walk-In Program provides job readiness training, placement, and job retention services to community residents who are ex-offenders, while the Access to Recovery Program offers job readiness training, life skills training, and GED preparation to individuals in recovery who are uninsured or underinsured.

Incarcerated and recently released veterans who were not dishonorably discharged from the U.S. military receive job readiness training and job placement, occupational training, and housing services through the Incarcerated Veterans Transition Program (IVTP).

Through its U.S. Department of Labor Reintegration of Ex-offenders (RExO) Generation 5 program, which has been underway for nearly a year, Impact will provide 400 ex-offenders (200 ex-offenders per year for two years) with employment services, recognized certificate training, mentoring, participants will receive ABE/GED services, and support services such as housing, drug and alcohol counseling, and mental health counseling as needed. Referrals will come through Pennsylvania Department of Corrections, Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole as well as the Philadelphia Prison System and Adult Probation and Parole.

Impact’s Youth Placement Program provides job placement services to out-of school youth aged 17-21. Visit: <http://www.impactservices.org/reentry-services-for-ex-offenders/>



Comments or Questions? Contact Phyllis Richardson at 1-202-693-3085 or email [richardson.phyllis@dol.gov](mailto:richardson.phyllis@dol.gov)

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The content and views expressed in this publication do not necessarily represent the opinions of The U.S. Department of Labor, Division of Youth Services.

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