### ABOUT O.C.R.T.F.

The OCRTF was established in 2008 with a grant from the Division of Criminal Justice Services. It is comprised of key stakeholders with a shared interest in better serving the formerly incarcerated which include State and County representatives and many critical Community Partners considered experts in their fields. With a common vision, the OCRTF strives to ensure the successful transition of persons released from prison back to the community by coordinating our efforts and supporting theirs.

The guide for the OCRTF has been the model of re-entry developed by the National Institute of Corrections which emphasizes a research informed approach. It focuses on the removal of barriers which can prevent a successful re-entry and utilizes evidence based practices to enhance it, thereby reducing recidivism and increasing public safety.

### **OUR GOAL**

The OCRTF seeks to remove any barriers to employment through public education and employment training for the formerly incarcerated. We provide them an opportunity to enter the workforce, to become productive, law abiding citizens that positively contribute to the tax base and community at large.





# **LEAD AGENCIES**

Office of the Onondaga County District Attorney

**County Dept. of Social Services** 

County Dept. of Mental Health

State Dept. of Corrections & Community Supervision

State Office of Alcohol & Substance Abuse

# CONTACT

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Striving for

a safer

community



Motivated to work, determined to succeed

# BENEFITS OF HIRING

There are many advantages to hiring a formerly incarcerated individual:

#### **Financial Incentives**

-The Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC)

You and your business can earn up to \$2,400 per year in tax credits for each formerly incarcerated person you hire.

Online infomation-www.labor.ny.gov

# Federal Bonding Program -No cost to you fidelity bonds.

You and your business can be insured by the federal government for up to \$25,000 for any loss of money or property. *Bonding Coordinator-518.485.2151* 

# **Support Services**

Employers and those hired have the support of case management by Parole Officers through Community Supervision and the Task Force. *Parole-315.428.409*3

### **Highly Motivated Workers**

You and your business will benefit from this untapped workforce. They are anxious to work and determined to succeed, a valuable combination any employer would embrace.



## **RE-ENTRY SERVICES**

With increasing numbers of men and women released from New York's prisons each year, successful re-entry is a vital component in the pursuit of safer communities. As we strive in this mission, the OCRTF is committed to building collaborative partnerships that support successful re-entry and benefit us all. Working more closely with employers is one such partnership we seek to pursue.

In collaboration with other members of the OCRTF, we develop specifically tailored action plans for each participant with the explicit goal of ensuring their success, reducing recidivism and increasing public safety. Parole Officers, as the primary re-entry agent, provide case management and supervision, making needed referrals to community based agencies that then provide any additional expert support.

We prepare participants for employment with a 20 hour training to enhance their skills in problem solving, communication, conflict management and overall job readiness.

As well, we make referrals to other community agencies able to provide more specific job training and employment support.

### **SUPPORT SERVICES**

As an employer considering the hiring of a formerly incarcerated individual, we have taken into consideration your concerns and are offering support services to both you and the employee as an integral part of the OCRTF.

A strong partnership with local Parole Officers guarantees additional follow-up support and assistance to you and your business as needed and appropriate. Constructive feedback is welcomed and integrated into our efforts. Support is a phone call away.

Since 1976, New York law has encouraged the employment of persons previously convicted and has prohibited employers from having blanket policies against hiring people with convictions. See Correction Law sec. 752 and 753.

# WE NEED YOU!

This is where we call on you, employers within this community, to collaborate with us and take a chance by offering that much needed second chance. Please join us in this worth while investment, to reduce recidivism and increase public safety, an endeavor from which our entire community will benefit.





