



*"Ready4Work gives hope and opens a door for people who are ready for work, willing to make positive life changes, and able to meet the needs of their families and communities. Linking people with jobs, through the work of faith-based and community nonprofit groups, changes lives and strengthens the American workforce."*

*-Elaine L. Chao,  
United States Secretary of Labor*

## National Partners

**National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice (NABCJ)**

**Prison Fellowship Ministries**

**The Jobs Partnership**

**Center for Workforce Preparation  
U.S. Chamber of Commerce**

**U.S. Department of Justice**

**U.S. Department of Labor**

# READY 4 WORK

*A Business, Faith, Community & Criminal Justice Partnership*



## CENTER FOR FAITH-BASED AND COMMUNITY INITIATIVES



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## READY 4 WORK A Business, Faith, Community & Criminal Justice Partnership

Expanding the workforce. Addressing public safety concerns. Rebuilding communities. Restoring hope. These are the objectives of Ready4Work—a reintegration employment project that helps businesses meet employment needs in partnership with community organizations that train and mentor job-ready ex-prisoners. Many employers balance their needs for skilled, reliable employees with their sense of civic responsibility. Indeed, when asked, employers often describe hiring ex-prisoners as "contributing to the community" or "giving someone a second chance." Research also indicates that at the time of release from prison, most inmates want to rejoin society as productive members. Ready4Work creates a partnership between local government, religious leaders, businesses, nonprofit organizations, and the criminal justice system to improve outcomes for ex-prisoners and the communities in which they live.

### Working in Partnership



- ❑ Faith-based and community nonprofits are leading the way in successfully reintegrating ex-prisoners. Identifying ex-prisoners who are prepared to do their part is critical to the re-entry process. Partnerships with corrections, parole and probation officials are indispensable since these criminal justice professionals are able to assess the capabilities, commitment and attitudes that are essential to success. Ready4Work brings together the business, faith, community and criminal justice sectors to select, mentor and employ the most qualified candidates.
- ❑ Ready4Work, through its national partners—National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice, Prison Fellowship Ministries, and The Jobs Partnership—mobilizes local coalitions of religious leaders, faith-based and community nonprofit organizations, and corrections, parole and probation officials to work together for sustainable ex-prisoner re-entry.
- ❑ Ready4Work partners receive comprehensive mentor training, technical assistance and skills development to help prepare faith-based and community organizations to meet the challenge of preparing ex-offenders to re-enter the marketplace.

### Good for Business



- ❑ By 2008, the U.S. economy will produce 7 million more jobs than it has workers to fill.
- ❑ Employers must tap underutilized worker populations to ensure continued economic growth and stability.
- ❑ Ready4Work helps link skilled individuals who are striving for a better future to faith-based and community groups and employers.

### Good for Communities



- ❑ Ready4Work, through its network of local faith-based and community service providers, will help rebuild communities by preparing and placing ex-prisoners in jobs. Employment will improve community stability and strengthen families.
- ❑ Ready4Work targets several major cities and communities. Jacksonville, FL was selected as the initiative's model city based on the strength and vigor of community re-entry programs already underway. Proposed expansion sites include, Chicago IL/Gary IN, Detroit MI, Metropolitan Washington DC, St. Louis MO, and Oakland CA.

### Good for Individuals



- ❑ Ex-prisoners benefit from jobs that provide income to support themselves and their families.
- ❑ Meaningful employment helps ex-prisoners build self-respect, which results in lifestyle changes that reduce recidivism and lead to positive engagement in the community.
- ❑ Studies indicate that ex-offenders who change their criminal behavior tend to do so at crucial turning points in their lives, such as when they secure gainful employment.