

"The purpose of this project is to determine whether the successful PRI strategy of community-based, mentor-supported and employment-focused re-entry can move beyond helping individuals to helping entire neighborhoods and a city recover from the burden of high rates of criminal recidivism," said Deputy Assistant Secretary of Labor for Employment and Training Brent R. Orrell, who made the announcement of this award in Newark at the New Careers Center with New Jersey Gov. Jon S. Corzine, Newark Mayor Cory A. Booker, and a contingent of partners and community members. "By leveraging the power of partnerships, Newark can be a model for other cities to drive down crime and raise up lives through a network of support that leads to employment."

The PRI connects ex-offenders to training and employment services such as basic skills remediation, mentoring and job training. Thirty PRI projects - including one run by Goodwill Industries of Greater New York and Northern New Jersey - are underway in segments of urban areas across the country. To date, they have shown remarkable success in increasing employment and reducing recidivism among nonviolent offenders to a rate two-thirds below the national average.