



Historic Federal Investment in Prisoner Reentry Reform in Newark

THE CITY OF NEWARK, NJISJ THROUGH ITS NEW CAREERS PROGRAM and several other local agencies will receive an historic, multi-year \$5 million grant from the US Department of Labor and private foundations for an on-the-ground, collaborative initiative to dramatically improve the ability of ex-offenders returning to Newark to gain employment. This is the largest grant of its kind ever made to the City. Newark will join a handful of other cities around the country working for reforms to drive down high re-incarceration rates that cost taxpayers millions each year, by helping formerly incarcerated women and men find and keep jobs.

Governor Jon Corzine, Mayor Cory Booker, Brent Orrell, Deputy Asst. Secretary of Labor for the US Department of Labor, Jedd Medenfind, Acting Director, White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, and other state and local officials gathered on September 9th to formally announce a \$2 million USDOL grant to Newark for comprehensive prisoner reentry intervention. The federal investment will be leveraged by private philanthropic resources that will provide \$3 million resulting in a \$5 million prisoner reentry initiative.

The Institute will be a key participant in this initiative through its New Careers Program. New Careers will provide its combination of temporary work experience, comprehensive case management to address personal and family issues, and permanent job placement, including ongoing services for clients who have become employees and their employers. Goodwill Industries, America Works and Offender Aid and Restoration were also named in the proposal. Public/Private Ventures will coordinate the overall initiative.

While the details are still being developed, public and private agencies will work together to assist non-violent offenders who are Newark residents get to work and reenter as productive citizens of the community.

