



NYS Announces \$14 Million for Re-Entry Initiatives

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New York State has recently announced a total of \$14 million in grants of federal stimulus funds to support re-entry initiatives crucial to the implementation of Rockefeller Drug Law reform.

Receiving the grants are:

The Fortune Society: \$2 million

Osborne Association: \$2 million

Center for Employment Opportunities (CEO): \$5 million

The Doe Fund: \$3 million

Department of Correctional Services: \$2.8 million

“To successfully transition from an incarceration-based system to a treatment-based system we must have the infrastructure to assist former offenders and to prepare them for a drug-free and crime-free life,” said Governor David Paterson in announcing the awards.

The Fortune Society will receive \$2 million over a two-year period to provide clients with job-readiness training and placement into stable full-time and transitional jobs. Over 500 new participants will be enrolled over the two year period and 256 will be placed in permanent jobs at wages above \$9/hour. Simultaneously, Fortune will place 90 individuals into subsidized transitional employment to adequately prepare them for entry into the mainstream workforce.

“Fortune is grateful to be awarded funding that will allow us to assist our clients to support themselves and those who rely on them through legitimate employment,” said JoAnne Page, Fortune’s President and CEO said,

The Osborne Association is awarded \$2 million over a two year period for the creation of a Green Career Center providing job opportunities and support services to 130 formerly incarcerated persons in the first year and 192 in year two.

“The fiscal and climate crises have forced us to recycle and reconsider how we use our precious resources, and there is no resource more precious than people,” said Elizabeth Gaynes, Executive

Director of the Osborne Association. “People leaving prison can re-purpose their lives and contribute to growing an economy that benefits all of us.”

CEO will receive \$5 million to place approximately 675 parolees in transitional jobs over the next two years in New York City and several upstate counties. CEO will provide a full range of pre-employment training, job development, placement and retention services to all people enrolled in transitional jobs.

“This investment will allow CEO to preserve and create jobs for people returning from prison and going on parole in New York City and, for the first time, will allow us to bring much needed employment services to parolees in urban upstate counties,” said Mindy Tarlow, Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer, of CEO. “Parolees in these counties need help getting jobs more than ever and we couldn’t be happier to have this chance to serve them for the first time.”

The Doe Fund (TDF) will receive \$3 million to expand its Ready, Willing & Able program.

“Most individuals leave incarceration with the simple desire to earn an honest living so that they never have to return,” said George T. McDonald, Founder and President of The Doe Fund.