Getting Talent Back to Work Toolkit

THE RESOURCES YOU NEED TO ADVANCE THE HIRING OF WORKERS WITH A CRIMINAL BACKGROUND.

GettingTalentBackToWork.org

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INCENTIVES & SUPPORT

Programs at nearly every level of government offer financial incentives for organizations that hire people re-entering the community after serving prison time. Additional support services are offered by state and local development programs.
**Work Opportunity Tax Credit**
The U.S. Department of Labor offers the Work Opportunity Tax Credit to organizations that hire ex-felons within a year of their being convicted or released from prison. It is a credit against the first and second year’s wages paid to qualified employees.

**Federal Bonding Program**
The department’s Federal Bonding Program provides fidelity bonds for at-risk, hard-to-place job seekers for the first six months of employment at no charge to the employer. Each bond has a $5,000 limit with no deductible.

**Local Workforce Development Programs**
Many states and municipalities have workforce development programs whose missions revolve around training and supporting people with criminal histories as they transition back into the general population.

If an employer requires niche skills or needs to hire in volume, these organizations can help it connect with the right candidates. Many of the programs even provide training so new hires will have needed skills before they start the job.

**Local Community and Faith-Based Organizations**
Local community and faith-based organizations also offer re-entry programs that help with housing and transportation, along with employment-related services.