



For Immediate Release: July 1, 2021

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Lancaster County Workforce Development Board Recipient of U.S. Department of Labor Grant to Improve Employment Outcomes for People Involved in Criminal Justice System
Pathway Home grant supports education, training

Lancaster, PA: Lancaster County Workforce Development Board is one of 22 organizations across the United States to receive a grant award of \$1.5M to expand services to eligible, incarcerated individuals in local jails **pre- and post-release** to help eliminate the gap between release and enrollment into a reentry program leading to employment.

The project titled **“TRANSFORM”** will provide 150 inmates over the next 42 months at Lancaster County Prison with pre-release soft skills training, pre and post-release occupational skills training, continuous career navigation and additional supportive services such as mental health screening, transportation, and employment related expenses once released. These comprehensive job-readiness services will help each reentrant move into stable employment leading to a fulfilling career.

“Lancaster County Prison is extremely excited to be collaborating with our community partners on this amazing opportunity. As part of our continued effort to expand reentry services in Lancaster County, the Pathway Home grant will allow us to offer additional education and training both pre- and post-release. This in turn will better prepare our reentrants for their transition back into their communities; and set them and their families up for long-term success. Stable employment and continued education have been shown to both reduce recidivism and keep our communities safe”, says Matthew Wagner, ReEntry Services Manager at Lancaster County Prison.

Community partners who will be involved in providing these first-of-a-kind services inside the prison include Lancaster-Lebanon Intermediate Unit 13 Community Education, Educational Data Systems Inc (EDSI), PA CareerLink® Lancaster County, a proud partner of the American Job Center Network, Lancaster Behavioral Health, TW Ponessa, Lancaster Works at Assets, Community Action Partnership, Lancaster County ReEntry Coalition, and Lancaster County Prison.

Program Director Tim Shenk of LLIU13 Community Education states, “The timing of receiving this grant initiative is perfect. The Reentry Coalition is aligning reentry services across sectors, the Lancaster County prison is ready to offer training and employment opportunities beyond High School Equivalency instruction, and employers are in great need of new employees. IU13 Community Education is eager to join this initiative as an education and training partner.”

Read the official U.S. Department of Labor award announcement [here](#).



About Lancaster County Workforce Development Board (LCWDB): Founded in 1999 as the successor organization to the Lancaster County Private Industry Council, the Lancaster County Workforce Investment Board, DBA Lancaster County Workforce Development Board, LCWDB, has a mandate through the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) of 2014 to be the lead organization in Lancaster County for workforce planning, to cooperate with State officials in providing business with locally-validated labor market information, and to arrange for a service delivery system that meets the workforce needs of business and the public alike.

Equal Opportunity Employer/Program. Auxiliary aids and services available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

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