



HB 2972: FACT SHEET



READ OPB's impactful article on the success of this initiative and the urgent need for continued funding.

A partnership between: Oregon Department of Employment, Oregon Workforce Partnership, and Oregon Department of Corrections

Each year, over 4,000 individuals reenter Oregon communities from state correctional facilities. With a current recidivism rate of 38.5%, the need for employment and other reentry services and connections for returning citizens is significant in order to improve this outcome for returning citizens.

How can Oregon support industry's need for talent while reducing recidivism of Oregonians returning to their communities from state prison?

Oregon's Department of Corrections provides release planning services to interested individuals nearing their release date to support transitions back into communities.

And through a new partnership with the Oregon Employment Department and Local Workforce Boards, returning citizens can access employment preparation and placement services using **WorkSource** pre-release (the state's training and employment assistance programs).

What is WorkSource Oregon Reentry?

Using DOCs release planning model, Oregon Workforce Partnership and the Oregon Employment Department (through a US Dept of Labor grant) have implemented WorkSource Centers in all of Oregon's 12 state correctional facilities.

WorkSource Oregon Reentry services provide, and leverage, a range of employment specific service:

- Work preparation services like developing a resume, cover letter, and interview practice
- Training and education services
- Job search and placement assistance
- Financial literacy and budgeting classes
- Computer skills

Rapid attachment to meaningful employment is significantly correlated with reduced recidivism and **investing in expansion of the WorkSource Reentry program will support:**

- 650 individuals, annually, as they transition into gainful employment upon release
- Aim to reduce the annual recidivism rate by 13%
- Save Oregon taxpayers over \$3 million within the program's initial span
 - Housing Oregon's inmates costs \$38,000 (annually, per inmate), WorkSource Reentry achieves reintegration and employment connections for a one-time cost of just \$5,000 per person.

The state of Oregon will see increased revenue from this employment, lower recidivism rates, and citizens further invested in their communities.

An investment of \$3 million will allow OED, OWP, and DOC to expand WorkSource reentry services to ALL Oregon state correctional facilities.

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