

Subsidized Jobs: Program Spotlight



CENTER FOR EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES



ABOUT

The **Center for Employment Opportunities** (CEO) works to **reduce recidivism** and **increase employment** among people impacted by the criminal legal system. CEO has branches in 31 cities across 12 states. CEO New Orleans launched in Louisiana in October 2019 and has served over 150 returning citizens so far.

The program provides people returning from prison a **subsidized job**, which offers **immediate, wage-paid employment, skills training, and ongoing career and personal support**. CEO's transitional jobs placements last **3-6 months**, after which the organization helps participants with finding longer-term jobs in the competitive labor market. Sometimes, CEO hires participants as **full-time staff**.

LOUISIANA BY THE NUMBERS

INCARCERATION & RACIAL DISPARITIES

- **31,609** people in prisons in 2019.
- **66.6%** Black imprisonment rate compared to 33% white imprisonment rate in 2019.
- **Highest** imprisonment rate in the United States in 2019 (680 per 100,000 Louisianans)

UNEMPLOYMENT & RACIAL DISPARITIES

- **7.1%** overall unemployment rate in 2021 Q2.
- **10.8%** Black unemployment rate compared to 5.1% white unemployment rate in 2021 Q2.
- **41st** highest overall unemployment rate in the United States in June 2021.

POVERTY & RACIAL DISPARITIES

- **19%** overall poverty rate (857,894 people) in 2019.
- **29.4%** Black poverty rate compared to 12.7% white unemployment rate in 2019.
- **Highest** overall poverty rate in the United States in 2019.

Advances racial and economic justice: People of color are far more likely to be impacted by the overreach of the criminal legal system and to face structural barriers to employment. By targeting employment services to returning citizens, CEO's approach advances economic justice for people of color.

Increases long-term employment success: After their subsidized job, participants are able to advance in their chosen careers. In one study, CEO participants were 48% more likely to be employed three years after enrolling in programming than members of a comparison group.

Reduces recidivism: Experimental research shows that CEO's subsidized jobs programs significantly reduce recidivism among participants. In Louisiana, CEO participants have a recidivism rate of only 1.3% compared to 14.6% in the state.

Benefits families: CEO participants' earned income contributes to greater financial stability for families and children.

Positive Return on Investment: CEO's programs have been shown to yield \$3.30 in tax payer benefits for every \$1.00 spent on the program.

Improves mental health: When needed, CEO connects returning citizens with mental health support and substance use treatment.

IMPACT



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What can you do to support subsidized jobs?

We are asking that you support the inclusion of an **equity-centered national subsidized jobs program** in recovery legislation.



With robust support from Congress, subsidized jobs programs like CEO's would be able to ensure that **more returning citizens can connect to work** in New Orleans and across the state of Louisiana.

"Subsidized jobs programs don't just benefit the individual, but also their communities and the larger city- and state-wide economies."

- Troy Glover, CEO New Orleans Director



Other cities and parishes in Louisiana are asking for CEO to expand beyond New Orleans. Federal investments in subsidized jobs programs can make this happen and **open doors to economic opportunity for economically marginalized jobseekers** across the state.

"What would it look like if we can guarantee that everyone who returned home from incarceration had access to a job? Eliminating exclusionary practices would change so many people's lives."

- Troy Glover, CEO New Orleans Director



Investing in subsidized jobs means investing in your community and constituents.