



NEBRASKA
DEPARTMENT OF
CORRECTIONAL
SERVICES

VOCATIONAL & LIFE SKILLS PROGRAM Quarterly Report

Grant Cycle 2

10-17-2016

DEVELOPMENTS IN GRANT CYCLE 2

Vocational & Life Skills Program – Major Developments

July 1st, was the beginning of the new grant cycle. Five grantees from the previous grant cycle were awarded new grants to include Center for People in Need (CFPIN), Mental Health Association (MHA), Metropolitan Community College (MCC), ResCare and Western Alternative Corrections. In addition three new grantees were awarded, Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC), Williams Prepared Place (Hope of Glory Ministries) and ReConnect.

In the first grant cycle, participants were served in four facilities. In this new grant cycle the Vocational and Life Skills programs will be serving participants in all institutions: DEC, NCYF, OCC, CCC-O, CCC-L, NSP, DEC, LCC, TSCI, NCCW and WEC. The services provided include:

Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) – Offers classes for OSHA 10 hour certification in (Construction and General Industry), Construction Core Curriculum and Construction Technology. Locations: CCC-O, NSP, TSCI, CCC-L, NCCW and WEC.

MHA – WRAP (Wellness Recovery Action Plan) a life skills class for people living with mental Health, addictions, trauma, medical conditions and other issues is delivered at NSP, LCC, TSCI and NCCW. They provide residential services at Hanu Home, employment and support individuals' access social services and other community resources. MHA is unique because services are provided by peer specialists.

ReConnect – Success Prep and Final Number provides pre-and post – release reentry planning and effective wrap around services to help individuals overcome barriers resulting from incarceration and limited employment skills necessary to successfully return to their families and communities. They offer peer support services, employment readiness and retention workshops, vocational training in the construction industry, family reunification and community engagement. Classes are offered at CCC-O, OCC, LCC, DEC, NSP, and TSCI.

MCC – Education (Quarterly Credit and Non-Credit Classes) Forklift Certificates and OSHA 10 Hour NCYF, OCC, CCC-O and NCCW

CFPIN / TRADE – Life Skills Core classes which includes Conflict Resolution, Critical Thinking, Communication, Personal Finance, Healthy Relationships, Basic Computer and Job Prep at NSP. Day and evening vocational and life skills classes are provided for CCCL inmates at the Center for People in Need.

ResCare – Career Pathways (Life Skills classes, resume preparation and one-on-one interviewing

skills) NCCW. In addition, ResCare provides employment services at Probation Offices in Lincoln, Omaha, Grand Island, and Gering.

Bristol Station - This is an Intensive Vocational and Life Skills Program (IVLSP) comprised of services that are delivered to participants within the Residential Reentry Setting. The services include but are not limited to: Residential, Transitional Skills, Basic Money Management, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Parenting, Family Reunification, Job placement, Case Management, risk and needs assessment and Release Planning.

Williams Prepared Place – Is a transitional 18-bed living facility for men and women. Participants are offered reentry supportive services and substance abuse treatment. Life skills training consists of three components: general self-management skills, social skills and drug resistance skills. Program personnel remove employment barriers by helping participants secure identification and or/driver’s license, provide transportation and assist with job search, application and resume preparation and family support.

With this new grant cycle we have increased programing to participants on the inside significantly. The only two grantees not participating on the inside are residential facilities Bristol Station and Williams Prepared Place.

1st Quarterly report

Quarterly Report - July 1, 2016 – September 30, 2016

Funding was awarded in June and programs could begin program design and hiring, effective July 1, 2016.

Number of Individuals Receiving Programming this quarter (July – September 2016)	560
Types of Programming	Vocational; life skills
Cost per Individual (Average cost for quarter)	*\$514.13
Number of Individuals Successfully Completed Programming this quarter	122

Grantee	# new participants for the QTR.	# total served for the QTR	# successfully completed for the QTR.	Total # new receiving programing to date	Total # successfully completing programing	Cost per individual to date
Mental Health Assoc.	73	191	9	73	9	\$456.50
Metro Community College	129	644	44	129	44	\$672.27
ReConnect	104	184	0	104	0	\$239.36
Associated Builders & Cont.	126	252	0	126	0	\$50.23
Williams Prepared Place	2	6	0	2	0	\$4804
Center for People In Need	25	64	12	25	12	\$2,824.08
Bristol Station	23	86	16	23	16	\$1,814.08
ResCare	78	166	41	78	41	\$188.61

*For tables above: Cost per individual will change over time as programs progress.

Funds awarded:

Funds for this grant cycle of FY 2016-2017 (\$7,607,446) and FY 2017-2018 (\$7,534,903) were awarded to eight organizations.

INDIVIDUAL PROGRAM Highlights

ReConnect reports:

Success Prep participants are engaged, Reconnect reports that participants appreciate the class and are often reflective about what the class means to them. The facilitator taps into this positive energy to help keep them motivated. They often write letters asking for educational material, support and coaching. Reconnect does a good job following up on each letter. The clients that receive services after release are also doing well. Here's one story as reported by Reconnect.

"One of our more promising cases is a 30 year old male who has been back and forth to Nebraska prisons a few times for drug possession. Back in August he registered for our program, participated in one of our Job Clubs, and signed-up for our Construction Academy. This individual was hired by the employer who was featured in our Job Club that month and worked the third shift position while attending phase I of our Construction Academy. He is now in phase II of the Construction Academy (a 16 week commitment) and currently working 1st shift. We have received nothing but stellar reviews

from both his supervisor and his instructor for the Construction Academy in regards to his work ethic and willingness to learn.

Over the last few months, I'm proud to have watched him struggle and succeed to change his value system and thought process to one that puts hard work and self-development over short-term fast cash or drug culture. He is definitely the type of client this program and grant was designed for."

Associated Builders & Contractors reports:

Chris Beek – Core Instructor at NSP – “Students are really engaged and love the opportunity to learn. They are asking for more.”

Rick Mulkey – OSHA 10 Hour Trainer – “This is the first class I have EVER taught where all 30 students came up after class and shook my hand and said thank you. It was nice.”

Participants are getting great test scores from the Core Curriculum. Only one person has failed a test. Most are getting A’s and many are 100%. Great learning is being accomplished. We have only had 3 people drop out – 1 at NSP, 1 from WEC due to medical transfer and 1 at CCCL, as she was transferred back to NCCW.

Bristol Station reports:

One participant who went through the program from May 2016 to August 2016 has been very successful in his employment journey. He said started at C3 Hotel as a laborer “even though I knew I did not enjoy construction work, but I really wanted a job with the hotel.” Shortly before the construction at the hotel was complete his positive attitude and work ethic helped him achieve his goal to work for C3 Hotel as bellman. He reported he worked as a bellman for only a few days before he was offered the Executive Housekeeping Supervisor position.

Williams Prepared Place Reports:

The current NDCS clients are doing well. One of the residents is working two jobs; one of the jobs as maintenance person for Prepared Place.

Center for People in Need-TRADE Reports:

One individual came to the TRADE program in June 2016, to take the Janitorial/Building Maintenance module. After successfully completing the two week CORE classes and beginning the six week Janitorial/Building Maintenance module he was eligible to enroll in the Small Business Plan class that runs concurrently with a participant’s main module. Utilizing courses from the Small Business Administration website, this individual led by Annette McRoy, Employment Developer and Kyle Bailey, Instructor, completed courses in business plan writing, marketing, pricing, customer service, competitive advantages and financing options to name a few. He was able to write a well thought out business plan for a

hybrid food truck that would target home improvement store customers. The business will feature only organic homemade burgers and brats. The business plan covers everything from marketing plans, to current competition, to pricing, inventory costs, permits needed and a completed menu with competitive prices.

After completing the Janitorial/Building Maintenance module as a Top Student, this individual was able to secure full time employment at the Courtyard Lincoln Downtown/Haymarket hotel as the primary overnight Houseman performing a wide variety of tasks from transporting hotel guests to ensuring that the property is clean and secure each night. What is remarkable about this success story is that he is still actively pursuing a dream of owning a food truck while working mostly overnight shifts. He comes into the TRADE program at least twice a week to seek assistance on fulfilling the requirements of a grant application from Vocational Rehabilitation to fund his food truck. He currently is in Phase II of the application process for a \$5000 grant. The chances of being awarded this grant are very high since he does have prior food service experience and his own cash on hand to hit the ground running. The entire TRADE team fully believes this will happen and plans to be his first customers.

He embodies what the TRADE program can offer someone who is willing to put in the hard work to drive to succeed in making their dreams a complete reality.

Metropolitan Community College:

In addition to GED, noncredit and credit classes currently offered at OCC and NCYF; Metropolitan Community College is in the process of implementing a new welding program at the Omaha Correctional Center.

ResCare:

The “Get the Right Future” program at the Nebraska Correctional Center for Women began, effective September 2nd, 2016.

Mental Health Association:

The premier WRAP (Wellness Recovery Action Plan) program has been implemented in four facilities as of August, 2016. They report that the participants find it very useful.

HIGHLIGHTED DEVELOPMENTS

- The NDCS Reentry Services Unit is collaborating with Community Corrections Center – Lincoln’s Warden and The Nebraska Department of Labor to provide employment services at NDCS work release centers. The vast resources of the Labor department can provide inmates with much needed assessments to determine work interest and skills that would help match individuals to jobs that provide high chance of success. Their data base provides extensive employment options that reduce employment barriers faced by people with a criminal record.
- To address the barrier of lack of affordable housing that faces people after incarceration, NDCS applied for and received a JAG-Byrne grant for about \$80,000 for the new Reentry Housing Initiative. This grant would provide rent vouchers for high needs and indigent people released from NDCS.
- In September 2016, Reentry Administrator and Reentry Manager completed the Offender Work Force Development Specialist training, offered by the National Institute of Corrections. At the end of the training participants will be proficient in doing formal assessments, providing employment training and training other staff to do the same.

CHALLENGES

GRANTEES

- Associated Builders & Contractors has found it more challenging than anticipated to find staffing for NCCW (York) and TSCI (Tecumseh) for their CORE Curriculum training. They continue to follow leads to acquire staffing and provide these courses to our population.
- Lack of communication between facilities and grantees when there is a lockdown.
- Getting information to inmates from grantees.
- Meeting the needs of approximately 200 individuals released from prison each month.
- Unmotivated Clients.
- Individuals who discharge without parole are not being monitored and many do not stick with the program.
- Negative publicity which impacts potential employers or employees working with grant partners.
- Lack of housing.
- 18 month limitation to serve this population.
- Transportation and limited bus routes.

NDCS

- Lack of class space in facilities. Both ResCare and Center for People in Need-TRADE proposed to put their program at CCC-L, but could not due to lack of adequate classroom space. (This will be addressed through the CCCL expansion, which includes programming space)
- Lack of housing for individuals coming out of prison.

***NCJR Data Report attached*

Report Distribution:

Governor Pete Ricketts
Clerk of the Nebraska Legislature (online report submission)
Scott R. Frakes, Director
Senator Bob Krist, Chair, Executive Board of the
Legislature Rosalyn Cotton, Chair, Board of Parole
Mike Rothwell, Deputy Director
Kevin Hand, Vocational & Life Skills
Coordinator Vocational & Life Skills Grantees