

NEBRASKA

Good Life. Great Mission.

DEPT OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

Reentry Services

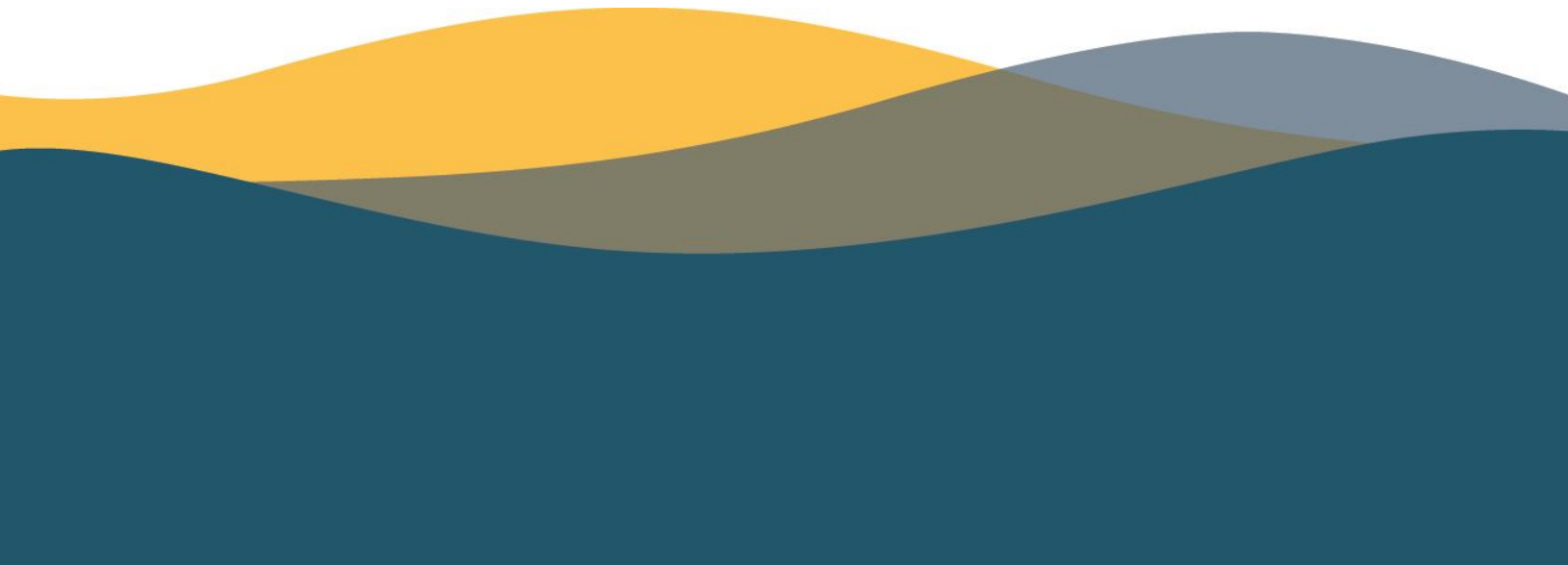
Vocational & Life Skills

Quarterly Report – Grant Cycle 2, Quarter 8

September 21, 2018

Submitted by:

Grace Sankey-Berman, Reentry Administrator



8th Quarterly report

Quarterly Report - April 1, 2018 – June 30, 2018

Introduction:

Being prepared to work upon release is an important component to successful reentry and how the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services (NDCS) fulfils its mission: Keep people safe. NDCS offers a variety of vocational and life skills training programs.

In 2014, the Nebraska Legislature passed LB 907, which allocated funds for the NDCS to partner with community agencies to provide vocational and life skills training to people while incarcerated, on parole or under probation supervision and for up to 18 months after discharge. The providers apply for a grant and are selected based on specific criteria. These grant-funded programs, along with other vocational programs, provide a variety of services intended to increase employability and reduce recidivism.

The current Vocational and Life Skills (VLS) grants (Grant Cycle 2) were awarded in June 2016. Grantees could begin program design and hiring, effective July 1, 2016. The table below includes data collected during Quarter 8 (April 2018-June 2018).

Number of Individuals Receiving Programming this quarter (April – June 2018)	1359
Types of Programming	Vocational; life skills
Cost per Individual (Average cost per quarter)	\$1,467
Number of Individuals Successfully Completed Programming this quarter	394

Funds awarded:

Grant Cycle 2 includes all of FY 2016-2017 and all of FY 2017-2018. Available funds for Grant Cycle 2 (approximately \$3,500,000 per year) were awarded to the eight organizations below.



Grantee	# Receiving Programming for the QTR	# Successfully Completed for the QTR	Total # Receiving Programming to Date	Total # Successfully Completing Programming to Date	Cost Per Individual to Date
Associated Builders & Cont.	168	73	701	582	\$1,092
Bristol Station	37	9	184	100	\$9,212
Center for People in Need	121	49	507	346	\$2,794
Mental Health Association	330	108	757	541	\$1,469
Metropolitan Community College	424	84	1257	700	\$1,286
Prepared Place	3	0	18	3	\$5,052
ReConnect	261	71	1033	823	\$337
ResCare	15	0	510	345	\$471
TOTAL	1359	394	4967	3440	\$1,467

Summaries of Grant Cycle 2 VLS Programs:

Associated Builders and Contractors

ABC has valuable programs for reducing recidivism with the ability to provide pre-employment training through our safety programs. In addition, we will begin our program by teaching our Core Curriculum, the foundation course for all National Center for Construction Education Research (NCCER) apprenticeship training programs. The Core class will be followed by a building project that will allow the students to experience work based learning hands on applications in carpentry, plumbing, electrical, HVAC, drywall, roofing, finish carpentry and painting. The main goal of the work based learning project is to allow the students to determine their trade specific area of interest. Once they have established their specific trade interest they will enroll in a trade specific training program and complete the classroom portion of apprenticeship training, which allows individuals who are incarcerated to have a valuable background in the trades. This experience will give them the confidence to step back into the workforce upon release from incarceration.

Western Alternative Corrections, Inc. – Bristol Station

Western Alternative Corrections, Inc. (WAC) was founded in 1999 to focus on providing alternatives to incarceration, programming and services for offenders in Nebraska. Bristol Station Residential Reentry Center, owned by Western Alternative Corrections, Inc., is located in Hastings, Nebraska. The 50 bed facility, which is staffed 24-hours a day, 7 days a week, serves male and female residents in a dormitory-like environment. The Bristol Station team is comprised of a Board of Directors, Executive Director, Case Managers, Home Reintegration Specialist and Facility Monitors all committed to the mission of Western Alternative Corrections, Inc.

Bristol Station is based on a reentry model which utilizes evidence-based practices to deliver offender specific programming. Reentry services are guided by the risk, need and responsivity principles, which dictate the degree of individualized services and programming. Programming components and services at Bristol Station include, but are not limited to, validated risk/needs assessments, case management, individualized program planning, vocational assessments, employment readiness and cognitive-behavioral programming such as Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT), transition skills, and relapse prevention. The overall goal remains that each individual will successfully transition back into his or her community. In order to achieve this goal each individual will develop a dynamic transition plan to foster employability skills, obtain and maintain gainful employment, and successfully complete all facets of programming aimed toward lowering recidivism risk.

Center for People in Need - TRADE

The TRADE (Tackling Recidivism And Developing Employability) Program will provide vocational and life skills training and case management services to those transitioning out of the criminal justice system: work release participants, those on felony probation, parolees and individuals who have been discharged from state supervision within the last 18 months. Through a combination of vocational and life skills training and wrap-around services, the TRADE Program will seek to address the array of factors that increase recidivism rates by developing strong support networks which increases the likelihood of employment retention and reduces the likelihood of repeat criminal activity for newly released offenders. Vocational training programs will include: Construction/Carpentry, Forklift/Warehouse, Welding (MIG and TIG), and Basic Computer/Office Professional. Life Skills courses will cover such topics as communication skills, work place harassment, goal setting, teamwork and self-help, financial literacy, renter's rights, resume writing, computer skills and job searching. CCC-L participants will also have the opportunity for continuing education through the People onto Prosperity or P.O.P. program. Ten candidates will be selected each quarter to enroll into a credited Southeast Community College program with 100% tuition assistance through private funding. The initial program will provide 45 free credit hours with the opportunity to re-enroll up to 130 free credit hours total based on a 2.7 GPA or higher. The center also hosts bi-annual career fairs in partnership with Prosper Lincoln and EmployLnk.

Mental Health Association of Nebraska

Mental Health Association of Nebraska will provide programming and services to individuals who have been recently released from the state correctional facilities, or those currently on felony probation/parole. MHA-NE Programs and services to be provided are CARF accredited, and include Employment Support Services (HOPE), a program that provides targeted supported employment services to adults living with severe behavioral health issues. Crisis Respite

services, which will offer a new facility, modeled after the highly successful (KEYA) House. The facility will provide crisis respite and transitional housing for up to 90 days; services will also include 24-hour peer support, self-advocacy education and self-help training. Program staff will work directly with participants in wellness, recovery activities and in developing (WRAP), Wellness Recovery Action Plans, and problem solving skills. The Crisis Diversion, Outreach and Referral (REAL) Program provides pro-active support services to individuals that have been identified as being in need of rapid and intensive support services before they make bad decisions that could lead to re-incarceration. Participation in all MHA-NE programs and services is voluntary and require the individual to take a leading role in the type and scope of services they receive, thereby “owning” their recovery and making success the likely outcome.

Metropolitan Community College’s 180 Re-entry Assistance Program (180 Rap)

Metropolitan Community College’s 180 Re-entry Assistance Program (180 RAP) provides comprehensive work readiness and life skills training to the incarcerated and re-entry populations through credit educational courses and noncredit workshops. Service for the incarcerated population is provided at Community Correctional Center – Omaha, Lincoln Correctional Center, Nebraska Correctional Center for Women, Nebraska Correctional Youth Facility, Nebraska State Penitentiary, Omaha Correctional Center and Tecumseh State Correctional Institution. At MCC’s Fort Omaha Campus building 9, 180 RAP serves the re-entry population with enrollment into credit programming and noncredit life skills workshops. Another goal of the 180 RAP program is to connect participants to survival and gainful employment. This is accomplished through the 180 RAP Job Center where individuals are provided employment support via resume creation, mock interviews and direct job referrals. Staff provides peer mentoring through continual contact and weekly support groups to prepare participants for their successful transition into the workforce and community. The Computer Center is also available to help participants job seek, brush up on digital literacy, study or receive tutoring assistance. The 180 RAP Closet gives participants access to clothing, food and hygiene items six days a week. Metropolitan Community College’s 180 RAP provides a hand up, not a hand out.

Prepared Place

Prepared Place is a two-phase housing and substance abuse treatment program located in Omaha, Nebraska. The first phase consists of 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.

The second phase includes a permanent supportive housing facility, where residents can transition after six months. They can live in an apartment with a roommate or reunite with spouses and children.

ReConnect, Inc.

ReConnect2Success, is a reentry program of ReConnect, Inc., a community based non-profit organizations. ReConnect2Success 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 community. The program places emphasis on employment preparation and retention skills while also helping clients develop comprehensive problem solving and life skills needed to be successful in the workplace, and in life. ReConnect2 Success services include intense case management to help clients address personal issues that impact reentry success, weekly employment readiness and retention workshops, monthly job club where clients meet with local employers, peer mentoring support, daily access to the employment center where clients work alone or one on one with reentry specialist to search and apply online for jobs, vocational training in the construction industry, family reunification and community engagement support.

ResCare Workforce Services

ResCare Workforce Services offers job preparation and job retention services that include employment readiness workshops, supplemental online learning, one-on-one engagement, independent job search and job retention support at the following State Probation Reporting Centers (RC) "hubs": Omaha (serving Papillion RC, via tele services), Grand Island (providing services to Kearney RC, Hastings Service Center (SC), Holdredge Probation Office (PO) and Lexington RC, via tele services), Gering (serving Sydney PO and North Platte RC, via tele services), Norfolk (providing services to Columbus RC, Beatrice SC, Nebraska City RC and Falls City PO, via tele services).

Highlighted Developments

New Grantees Admitted to Program:

During Grant Cycle 2, Quarter 8, the Vocational and Life Skills (VLS) Program received 21 applications from different community programs, desiring to be included in Grant Cycle 3. It was a competitive process. The scoring committee was comprised of representatives from Parole, Probation and NDCS, along with a member of the community. Eight grantees were chosen. Six of them are returning grantees from Grant Cycle 2, plus two new grantees that are education-focused. Below is a list of Grant Cycle 3 grantees, plus summaries of the two newest grantees.

Organization	Amount Awarded	Projected # Served
Associated Builders & Contractors	\$ 925,000.00	880
Western Alternative Corrections, Inc. – Bristol Station	\$ 1,600,000.00	180
Mental Health Association of Nebraska	\$1,225,000.00	1000
Metropolitan Community College	\$ 1,500,000.00	1000
Mid-Plains Community College	\$ 64,500.00	924
ReConnect, Inc.	\$525,000.00	1500
Center for People in Need – TRADE	\$ 1,400,000.00	500
York College	\$ 110,500.00	30

Summaries of new Grant Cycle 3 VLS Programs:

Mid-Plains Community College (MPCC) Access to Workforce Opportunities Program will provide short course trainings to teach marketable skillsets to inmates at the Work Ethic Camp (WEC) in McCook, Nebraska. Short course trainings in Forklift Operator Safety Training, Commercial Driver’s License Preparatory Training, Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and First Aid Training, and Focus Four Hazards Training will be offered by MPCC a la carte and on an ongoing basis to accommodate diverse daily and sentencing schedules of WEC inmates. *MPCC Access to Workforce Opportunities Program* completers will earn certificates of completion and applicative training credentials that when aligned with existing educational, personal development, and vocational training programs offered at WEC, will provide inmates the ability to obtain employment in higher-wage, high-demand jobs following their release.

York College Second Chance Education Program (SCEP) offers inmates at the Nebraska Correctional Center for Women the opportunity to earn an associate’s degree while serving time at the facility in York. Students take two courses at a time each trimester and complete the degree in 3.5 years. SCEP students are treated as traditional York College students as much

as their situation allows. They are taught by full-time YC instructors and never by adjuncts. Students pay a \$50 fee for each course, taking economic responsibility for a portion of the services they receive. The bulk of the funding from NDCS will be used to underwrite tuition and books for the students, with a smaller portion earmarked to fund program evaluation and provide post-release assistance for job searches.

Mental Health Association Featured in Lincoln Journal Star:

During Grant Cycle 2, Quarter 8, one of the VLS programs was featured in the *Lincoln Journal Star*. The story, published in June, featured the Mental Health Association. (**Nebraska prisons playing major role in mental health care:** https://journalstar.com/news/state-and-regional/govt-and-politics/nebraska-prisons-playing-major-role-in-mental-health-care/article_f28ed282-de63-5bf5-89f4-5669b157e17b.html)

Below is a portion of the article:

“Amie Jackson and Tessa Demers committed a lot of low-level crimes before they ended up in prison. They were getting by as well as their mental illnesses would allow, they believed, making it up as they went along, self-medicating with methamphetamine and other drugs, doing what was necessary to support that need.

They lost a lot along the way, including homes, families and freedom. They were in and out of jail, in and out of hospitals, marriages and relationships.

Demers, now 37, landed at the Nebraska women's prison in York several years ago for about 10 months for possession of methamphetamine. Jackson spent nearly three years there beginning in 2011 for possession and distribution of drugs and then violation of parole.

Prison is not easy for a person with mental illness, but it's sometimes where they can get the help and monitoring they need.

Without the needed community mental health services, the prisons have become de facto mental health facilities, said Dr. Harbans Deol, deputy director of health services for the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services.

“We probably have more people who are mentally ill in the prison system than anywhere else,” he said.

At the end of 2017, 2,594 men and 318 women in the prisons, about 56 percent of the total, had at least one mental health diagnosis. Inmates with serious mental illness are estimated to make up 16 percent of the prison population.”

Program Highlights “In their own words”

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE (MCC)

“Metropolitan Community College’s 180 Re-entry Assistance Program (180 RAP) partnered with Omaha Correctional Center (OCC), Henry Doorly Zoo and the Nebraska Wildlife Federation to pilot a project at OCC to plant and grow milkweed. The purpose of OCC Maintenance and the incarcerated population planting various milkweed at OCC was to provide a natural habitat for monarch butterflies, which are becoming increasingly extinct. MCC’s involvement included Amy Sturm, adjunct faculty, creating a special topics course titled, Always Growing. This noncredit course offered basic introduction to conservation practices encouraging the repopulation of monarch butterflies while learning about how to grow as a leader and work in a team. Students were even able to dissect plants to understand their anatomy. Twelve students completed the Always Growing class and six of those students helped design the final landscape project for OCC. The students had planted the milkweed seeds in March and were able to plant them outside in May and the butterflies began arriving soon after. Four MCC students continued to study and earned a Nebraska pesticide applicator’s license to increase their likelihood of employment upon release.”

Diane Good-Collins – Program Director

MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION (MHA)

“On February 28, 2018 a guest checked into Honu Home by the name of Courtney. Courtney has been with us just over six months. When Courtney came to us, he recently was diagnosed with cancer and had been told it was terminal. After many discussions with the MHA peers about how Courtney’s condition will progress and become more and more difficult for him and them, they decided they wanted him to stay at Honu Home.

Courtney has good and bad days. MHA peers along with Courtney have met with hospice to discuss his care in the future and what his wishes are. The only family Courtney has is his elderly mother, who does keep in touch, but MHA peers and a few other friends are his main support. We have worked out details with hospice that we hope allow Courtney to live the rest of his days at Honu Home.

Courtney has a degree in culinary arts and when he is feeling well has taken on a role at the house to teach the men and women how to prepare and cook healthy meals on a low budget. On several occasions, all 12-16 guests have prepared and eaten a meal together. One individual who has done several numbers recently asked me for a notebook so he could write Courtney's recipes and instructions. He said he has only eaten microwavable and boxed meals most of his life and really enjoyed the homemade meal options.

In June 2018, Courtney had a relapse and marijuana was found in his room. The policy of Honu Home is that if you bring illegal substances on the property, you must leave. Courtney owned up to his behavior, reported to his parole officer and did not ever make excuses. If anyone ever had a good excuse, Courtney did. Courtney got a U-Haul and packed his belongings not sure where he was going to go. MHA peers were sad and did not know what to do. We did not want to have other guests thinking they could break the rules and still stay.

MHA peers talked with one another, with Courtney, his parole officer and even had a conversation with a police captain. After careful consideration and agreements with all involved, Courtney stayed.

Things have gone back to normal and he remains an important guest at Honu Home with all his supports in place. Courtney's bad days have overtaken most good days, but he continues to prepare, cook and teach when he can. He is looking forward to a large Thanksgiving Dinner with present and past guests and has already asked for a budget. It will be a great day and no matter how Courtney feels, either he will cook, or we will use the skills he taught us."

Kasey Moyer – Executive Director

BRISTOL STATION

"Mathew entered Bristol Station at the end of February 2018, and when he arrived he was apprehensive about participating in the program. He was referred by his probation officer for ongoing substance abuse issues. He scored moderate (21) on his intake ORAS-CST (risk/needs assessment) and rated his quality of life on the QOLI (Quality of Life Inventory) very low (6). He met with his case manager, Tara, on a weekly basis and developed his program plan and goals. Mathew participated and completed Employment Readiness Group at Bristol Station. He also participated in MRT on a weekly basis. After a few weeks of acclimating to the program, Mathew obtained full-time employment at Nebraska Prime. He continued to rebuild relationships with his family and friends. He attended NA on a regular basis and received mental health services in the community. Mathew developed a budget in his weekly case management meetings and began to save money for his transition out of the program. He eventually obtained his own apartment and began his slow transition to independent living.

In May, Mathew successfully transitioned out of the program at Bristol Station. He made tremendous progress while in the program with regard to managing his medications in a way to not abuse them, developing positive, pro-social relationships, obtaining and maintaining employment and saving money. Mathew returned to Bristol Station each week to participate in MRT. Upon his discharge from the program his risk score (ORAS-CST) decreased to low (10) and he rated his quality of life on the QOLI as high (60), a drastic improvement from his low rating upon his admission to the program. We are incredibly proud of the transformation and progress that Mathew made while in our program!”

Angela LaBouchardiere – Executive Director

CENTER FOR PEOPLE IN NEED - TRADE

Below is e-mail correspondence between Annette McRoy and Mario. Mario completed the program on March 16, 2018 and was released on parole March 20, 2018 back to his hometown of Grand Island, where he went to work for his family. Mario recently reports that his parole is going well, and has maintained contact with Annette. When he first planned to discharge, he was very apprehensive of returning home, and about whether he would be allowed to work for his family. Annette helped him to find other job leads in the area. Thankfully, Mario’s family was able to be a good support system and have welcomed him home.

Matt Hill – Program Manager

“Hi Annette how are you doing? I know it has been awhile since we last talked, but I just wanted to update you on how I am doing. I am currently working with my dad and brother who have their own gutter company. I believe I mentioned that I have also been compliant with my post release probation and all of that is going great. I get my two sons every other weekend and enjoy spending time with them, a 5 year old and a 4 year old can be such a hand full...lol. One last big event in my life, me and my girlfriend soon to be fiancé, are having a baby that is due February of next year. It is too soon to tell if it is a boy or girl, but I pray all goes well. Well hope your doing good Annette.” Mario - Participant

*“Hi Mario,
Good to hear from you! Congrats on your engagement and upcoming baby. Must be exciting. I am very happy to hear that you are doing well with steady work and probation. I knew you would be fine because you wanted success so much and now you are doing it. Be proud of yourself. Keep me posted on everything and know that I am here for you and cheering for your success. Take care,” Annette McRoy -TRADE Employment Developer*

“Thank you so much Annette means a lot to know I have positive support thank you for encouraging me and pushing me!” Mario - Participant

RECONNECT

The office witnessed 38 VLS walk-in clients, 71 individuals participated within eight facilities in the state. We held one Job Club (J. Skinner Baking) and one resource Club (Lincoln/Omaha Food Bank) and six Ready4Work employment readiness workshops.

Star Participants: These are a few individuals that stood out for the quarter and we believe based on trends we see in the current quarter that our efforts of being intentional and utilizing our Proxy Risk Assessment are having an impact on our successful outcomes.

- 21-year-old male, currently on probation participated in our Ready4Work workshop. With continued wrap around services, follow up appointments, calls to monitor the client’s progress and job leads. Client attended our J. Skinner Job Club, he was able to gain employment with this company at a higher than minimum wage in a non-traditional maintenance position. This position will help him to build his job skills and personal development to further his education within the welding field he plans to pursue.
- 25-year male participated in Success Prep while incarcerated. Client came in for our wrap around services to get help with obtaining his Bosnia birth certificate. He was giving information to begin the process along with job leads (one with J. Skinner Bakery). Client gained employment on the overnight maintenance crew and needed help with tools and transportation. Client received \$120 worth of tools and bus tickets. Client is appreciative of the services he has received that will allow him to better his life during reentry.
- 36-year-old male recently paroled after being incarcerated for 11+ years at Tecumseh State Correctional Institution. Client had just started Success Prep and wanted to further gain information on becoming successful after being released. He was aware that Reconnect offers post-release wrap around services. He and his mother came to the office within the first 24 hours of being released with documents showing that he was employed and wanting additional information of other resources in the community. With the support from his family, his mother stated, “she does not have a lot of money but she is making due to keep him on track.” During the visit, Reconnect gifted the young man \$300 to help with work items, identification, food, clothing, and other items that he would be able to use while staying with his sister. We speak with this young man almost every week, giving him additional support.

- 43-year-old male recently paroled. During incarceration he took our Success Prep class and was very gracious. It led him through our doors for additional post-release support services. With everything he has learned, helping to identify who he is, and the steps he needs to take to become successful at reentry, he knows he wants more out of life. Client was supplied job leads, which he immediately began to pursue. During the visit, client went to a few employers in the building and was hired at Vehicle Selling Solutions.
- 61-year-old male is a veteran and inaugural graduate of Douglas County Veteran Drug Court and Success Prep. Client has multiple felony convictions, substance abuse issues and currently battling cancer. Client credits his contact with our program and staff as part of the ingredients to his current success with sobriety and keeping his head on the right track of not returning to prison. Client continues to maintain contact with our program for support and encouragement.

LaVon Stennis-Williams – Executive Director

ASSOCIATED BUILDERS & CONTRACTORS (ABC)

“The greatest highlight for the last quarter was the renewal of the grant for the next two-year cycle. This allows for the continuation of programming for 2019 and 2020. We are just beginning to see parolees, probationers and those who have been released completely from services, take advantage of our training outside of the Nebraska State Correctional facilities. It is the culmination of the work in the facilities. We are thrilled to have students attend the ABC Training Centers and watch them grow and expand as they are hired in the industry.

We are also pleased that we had our first graduates from the Construction Technology and Virtual Welding programs. The built structures were a true example of the knowledge that was gained during training. “

Anne Klute – President

cc: 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 & Grantees



VOCATIONAL AND LIFE SKILLS QUARTERLY REPORT

Quarter 8 (April-June, 2018)

Michael Campagna, Ph.D.
Research Associate
Nebraska Center for Justice Research
mcampagna@unomaha.edu

Katelynn Towne, MA
Research Coordinator
Nebraska Center for Justice Research
ktowne@unomaha.edu



UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT OMAHA

NEBRASKA CENTER FOR JUSTICE RESEARCH

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	2
GRANT CYCLE 2 DATA OVERVIEW	3-5
PARTICIPANT PROGRAM AND DEMOGRAPHIC DATA	6-15
PROGRAM AREA DATA	16-22
APPENDIX 1: PROGRAM SUCCESS OVERVIEW	23
APPENDIX 2: PROGRAM AREA DESCRIPTIONS	24-59

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Vocational and Life Skills Program (VLS) was created by Nebraska Legislative Bill 907 in 2014 with the goals of reducing recidivism and increasing employment for individuals who are incarcerated, have been incarcerated within the prior 18 months, or are under Parole or Probation supervision. Eight programs were funded in Grant Cycle 2, which ran from July 2016-June 2018. The Nebraska Center for Justice Research (NCJR) evaluation was initiated in May 2016 with the primary goal of identifying types of programming and services that best serve the population by reducing recidivism and increasing employment. NCJR provided support to grantees through trainings and site visits as needed, and managed all participant data entered into the online data management system created specifically for VLS. NCJR continues to provide feedback and information to the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services (NDCS) regarding the implementation process and data updates on a monthly and quarterly basis.

Grant Cycle 2 procedures were built by NDCS VLS, program providers, and NDCS reentry using information gathered during the first grant cycle. Lessons learned helped VLS to increase its capacity to provide programming as well as the ability to gather data on participants. VLS continues to update service providers to ensure the best programming is available to Nebraska participants. It also continues to improve its ability to connect reentry resources to one another to better serve participants. The establishment of a reentry advisory council and having an opportunity to speak to Nebraska State Legislators greatly increased the visibility of the VLS programming in the state. This report details evaluation updates and participant data from the entire grant cycle (2). All graphs and tables are current through Quarter 8.

GRANT CYCLE 2 DATA OVERVIEW

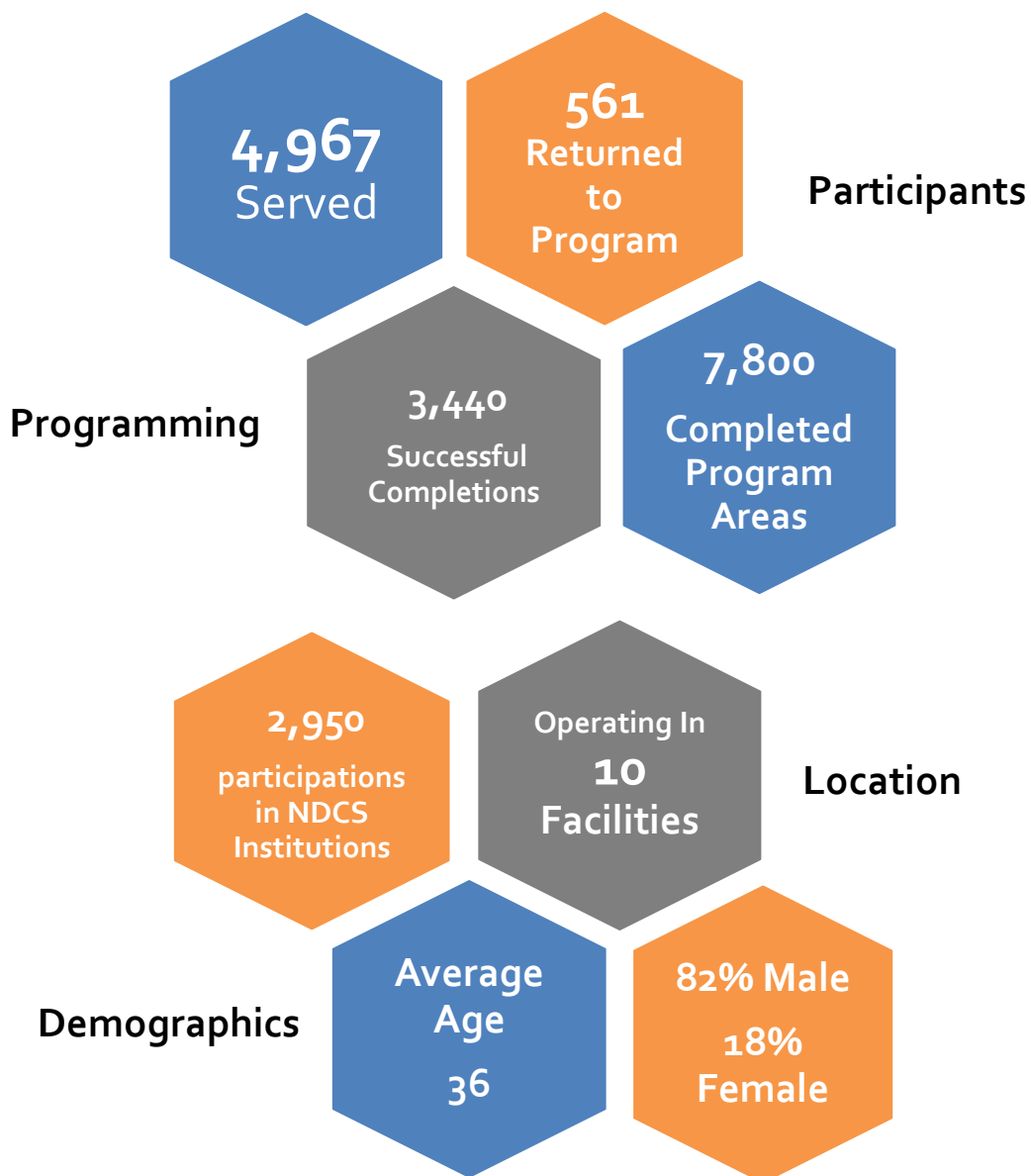
The Vocational and Life Skills initiative continues to grow and serve more participants with higher quality services. There is a marked difference in how services are being provided compared to the first grant cycle, as most programming is being provided to participants prior to reentering the community. Most participants began programming in a correctional or work release facility during Grant Cycle 2. Programs also served participants who have previously “jammed” their time or are on parole or probation. Throughout the grant cycle, service providers continued to expand the reach of services to best serve the VLS population both in facilities and in the community. Because of this, areas addressed by programs were added, as well as locations served. This resulted in an increase in participants served throughout this grant cycle, compared to Grant Cycle 1. Program updates are added to Appendix 2 each quarter to reflect new services provided.

All data presented in this report is current through June 2018. Quarter-specific data includes information on participants from April 2018-June 2018, while Grant Cycle 2 data includes all data on participants from July 2016 through June 2018. The VLS contract with ResCare ended in September 2017. All ResCare program data includes participant information from July 2016 through September 2017. The VLS contract with Prepared Place ended in January 2018. Prepared Place data includes participant information from July 2016 through January 2018. Self-reported employment information is not included in this report, as the Nebraska Department of Labor is now providing employment information on Vocational and Life Skills participants for all employment in Nebraska. This information will be included in supplementary reports and will provide more insight into participant employments and wages during and after program participation for those who have already reentered the community.

GRANT CYCLE 2 DATA OVERVIEW

The Vocational and Life Skills programs continued to grow and serve more participants in Grant Cycle 2. Nearly **82%** of participants are receiving programming in correctional and work release facilities. All programs serve participants in the community in order for participants to receive support after release. Programs also serve participants who have “jammed out” or are under Parole or Probation’s supervision.

GRANT CYCLE 2 DATA HIGHLIGHTS



QUARTER 8 SELECTED PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

□ ABC

11 students have graduated within the last month.

□ Bristol Station

Six individuals have successfully completed their programming, and four new VLS participants have entered the program at Bristol Station. Four Bristol Station residents began the 4-week Basic Welding Training offered by Central Community College.

□ MHA

MHA is almost at full capacity, and participants are finding work immediately following release. They are also growing their team.

□ MCC

Eight individuals have been approved from the Community Corrections Center to join the program. Participants leaving MCC are finding fulltime meaningful employment with opportunities for advancement with the support of the Re-entry Assistance Program.

□ ReConnect

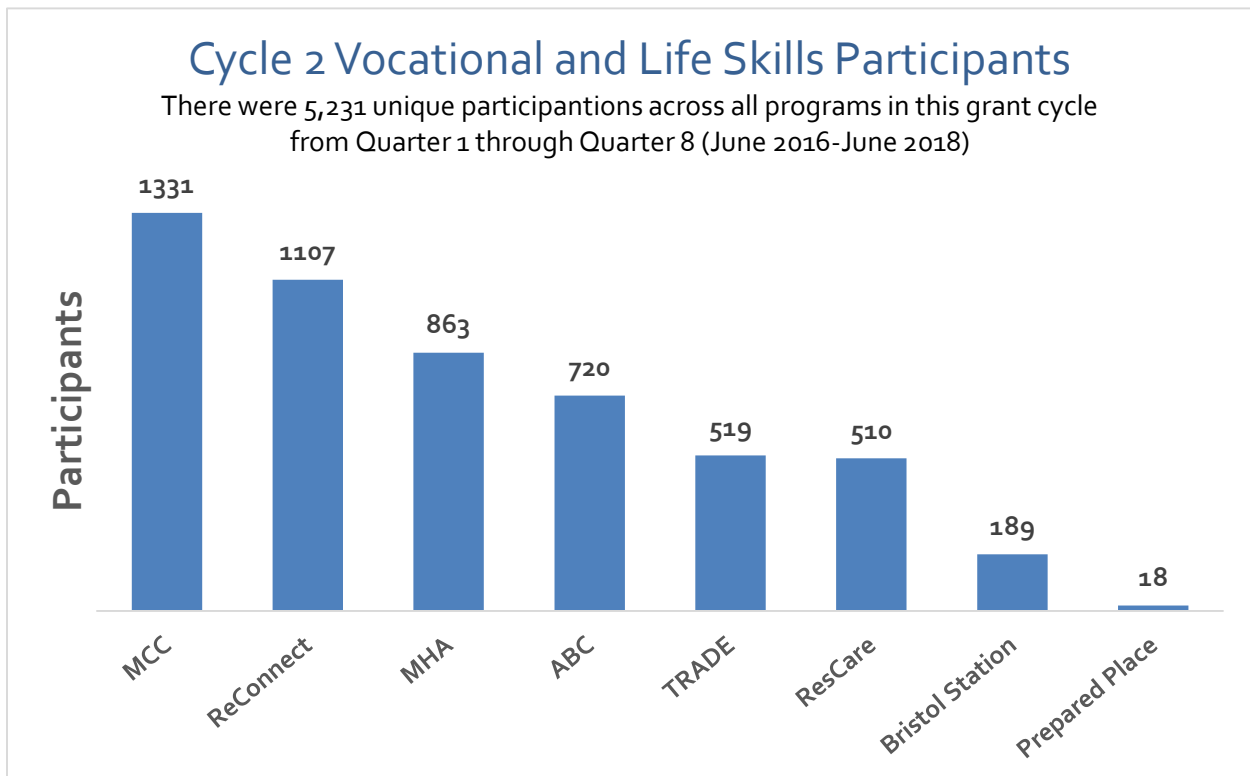
ReConnect is experiencing an increase in employers requesting to participate in their monthly Job Club. Three of ReConnect's clients were hired in advanced positions at Skinner.

□ TRADE

TRADE added welding to their vocational program and made some plant changes to their warehouse for more comprehensive training program. They are also helping participants find long term positions that address concerns of participants regarding physical capabilities.

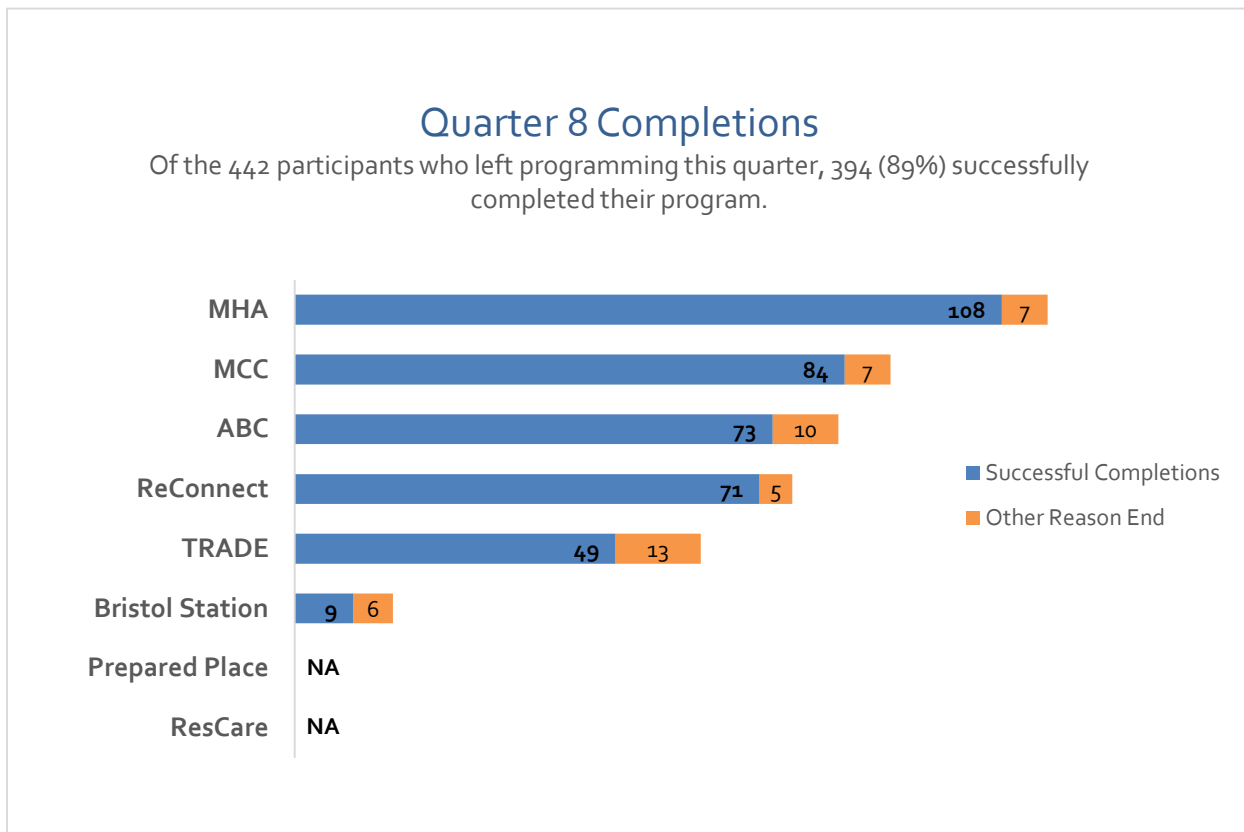
GRANT CYCLE 2, QUARTER 8: OVERALL PARTICIPATION AND COMPLETIONS

This report provides a brief overview of participant data submitted by grantee programs for the entire grant cycle (June 2016-June 2018). Evaluators work with programs on a continuous basis to correct any data issues. Therefore, this data is subject to change as changes are made in the database. Program specific data is available by request.



GRANT CYCLE 2, QUARTER 8: OVERALL PARTICIPATION AND COMPLETIONS

Since the beginning of this grant cycle, **3,440** Vocational and Life Skills participants have successfully completed programming across all eight programs. In the first year of the grant cycle, there were **1,535** successful completions across all programs.¹ In the second year of the grant cycle, there were **1,905** participants who successfully completed. The table below highlights successful completions in Quarter 8 (April-June, 2018).



¹ Previous quarterly successful completion numbers may have changed from earlier reports as participant data is updated continuously based on changes in participation and programming.

QUARTER 8 PARTICIPANTS SERVED

Program	Total Served (Q8) ²	New Participants (Q8)	Successfully Completed (Q8)	Total Participants (Cycle 2)	Total Successfully Completing (Cycle 2)	Cost Per Participant
Associated Builders and Contractors	168	79	73	701	582	
Bristol Station	37	22	9	184	100	
Center for People in Need	121	52	49	507	346	
Mental Health Association	330	116	108	757	541	
Metropolitan Community College	424	149	84	1,257	700	
Prepared Place ³	3	0	0	18	3	
ReConnect	261	107	71	1,033	823	
ResCare ⁴	15	0	0	510	345	
Total	1,359	525	394	4,967	3,440	

DEFINITIONS

TOTAL SERVED

Total served is a count of unique active participants for the quarter. Any participant that does not have an end date to their programming during the quarter is counted as a unique participant served. If the same person is a participant in multiple programs, they are counted once in each program as a unique participant for the quarter they began participating.

NEW PARTICIPANTS

New participants are the subset of the total who were new to the programs this quarter. Participants are counted only once which is reflected in the month they began their participation. Many participants are carried over from the previous grant cycle so their

² All participants are included here if they finished programming in the quarter or they do not have an end date.

³ Prepared Place ended VLS programming in January 2018.

⁴ ResCare ended VLS programming in September 2017.

participation is not reflected in the new participants served for this grant cycle. They are counted in the total served for the quarter and in the successfully completed numbers.

SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED

Participants are considered successful when they meet the individualized plan set up for them upon intake into the programs. Once they meet this threshold, they are exited from the program and marked as successfully completed. Success looks different for each participant and varies across programs as well (see Appendix 1). Because of this, there will be no comparisons between programs based on successful completion numbers. Additional program area data shows the different program areas individuals are participating in along with their status of completion in each program area. Many participants have completed program areas within programs and are still making progress towards successfully completing the program.

TOTAL PARTICIPANTS (CYCLE 2)

The total number of participants served during grant cycle 2 is reported here. Anyone who began programming from July 1, 2016 through the end of the current quarter is included in this total. If the same person is a participant in multiple programs, they are counted once in each program as a unique participant.

TOTAL SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETING (CYCLE 2)

Participants are included in the total successfully completing for the grant cycle if they meet the definition of successful completion mentioned above. This captures anyone who has an ending status of successful completion from the beginning of the grant cycle (July 1, 2016) to the end of the current quarter.

COST PER PARTICIPANT

The cost per participant is calculated by NDCS based on program reimbursements. Cost per individual might be lower because payment for the previous month has not been processed.

PARTICIPANT STATUS

In Grant Cycle 2, Vocational and Life Skills programming became more accessible to individuals inside correctional facilities. Now, most participants begin programming while incarcerated as many programs began offering additional services inside facilities. This change has allowed more participants to receive programming under VLS funding and has created opportunities for participants to be involved in multiple programs during their sentence. Programs continue to offer services in the community to reach participants at other points of supervision and to provide additional programming and support in the reentry process⁵.

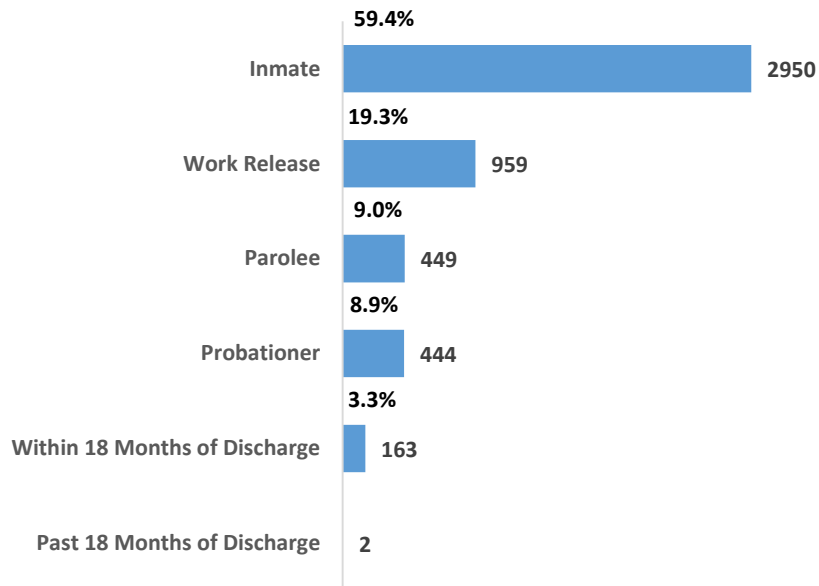
Participant Intake Status by Program						
Program	Inmate	Work Release	Parolee	Probationer	Within 18 Months of Discharge	Total
ABC	591	97	3		10	701
Bristol Station	0	0	170	10	4	184
MCC	867	211	66	61	51	1,256
MHA	295	342	59	10	50	756
Prepared Place	0	0	6	9	3	18
ReConnect	716	155	94	41	27	1,033
ResCare	183	0	13	311	3	510
TRADE	298	154	38	2	15	507
Total	2,950	959	449	444	163	4,965

⁵ There were 561 individuals who returned to a program they had already received services from. The intake status for second program participation included: 323 inmates, 102 work release, 69 parolees, 38 probationers, and 29 within 18 months of release. There were also 45 individuals who returned to the same program for a third time and 4 for a fourth time.

PARTICIPANT STATUS

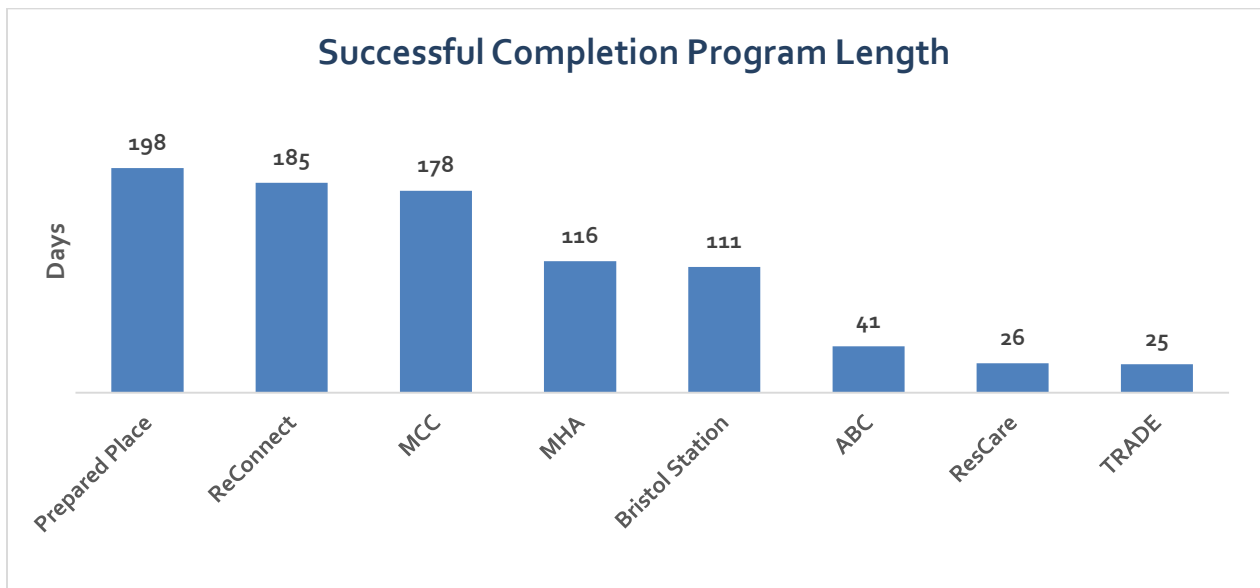
Intake Status

When participants enter programming, they are classified under an intake status that reflects their current supervision level. 79% of participants began programming while in a correctional or work release facility.



REASON PROGRAM ENDED AND AVERAGE LENGTH OF STAY

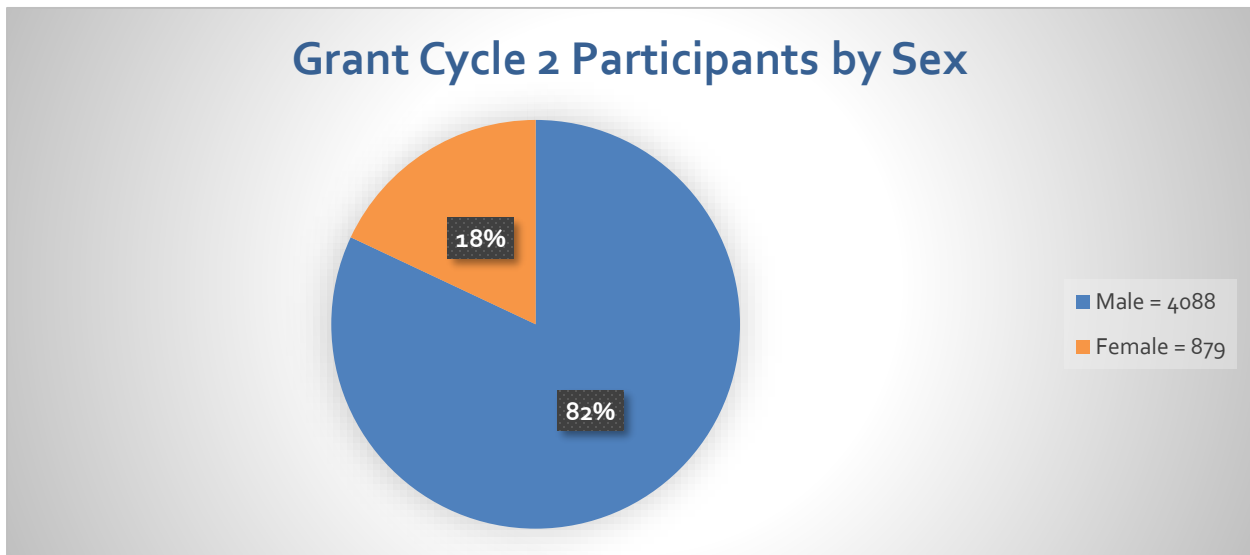
When participants leave the program, program staff indicate the reason for their departure. Participants successfully complete when they meet requirements of their individual plan with the program staff (See Appendix 1). Participants are also closed out if they leave on their own accord (Terminated by Self), the program asks them to leave (Terminated by Program), or they may leave for another reason. The Other category includes Referred to Other Agency, Moved, and Terminated Due to Employment.⁶



⁶ Data on this page represent all first participations across all programs. Participants are unique to each program, but may be duplicated if they are in multiple programs. Second and third program participation information is available by request.

PARTICIPANT DEMOGRAPHICS—SEX

Program staff collect self-reported demographic information from participants in their programs. This demographic information includes information like sex, age, race, ethnicity, marital status and education level. If an individual participated in multiple programs, their demographic information is counted for each participation so the data is based on individual participations and not necessarily individual people.



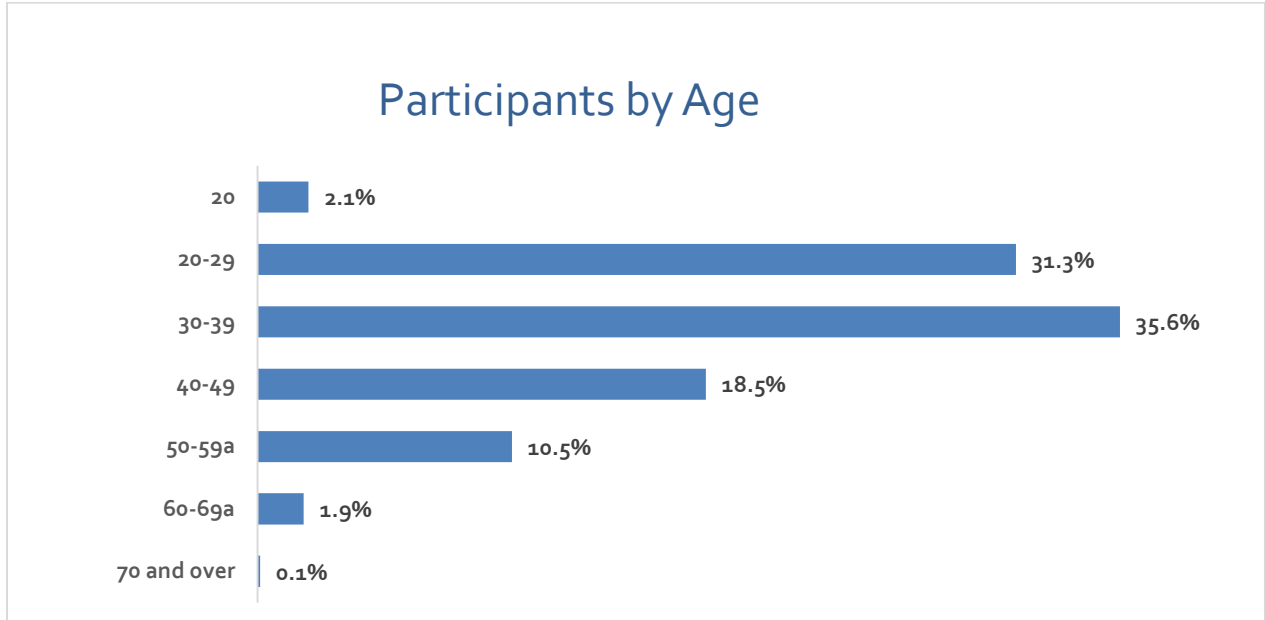
QUARTER 1 THROUGH QUARTER 8 PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS BY SEX

All programs served more males than females through Quarter 8. Metropolitan Community College served the highest numbers of males (1,075) while ReConnect served the highest percentage of males (94.2%). ResCare served both the highest number (210) and the highest percentage (41.2%) of females though their VLS contract ended in September 2017.

Program	# Males	% Male	# Females	% Female	Total Participants
ABC	518	73.9%	183	26.1%	701
Bristol Station	165	89.7%	19	10.3%	184
CFPN—TRADE	436	86.0%	71	14.0%	507
MCC	1,075	85.5%	182	14.5%	1,257
MHA	609	80.4%	148	19.6%	757
Prepared Place	12	66.7%	6	33.3%	18
ReConnect	973	94.2%	60	5.8%	1033
ResCare	300	58.8%	210	41.2%	510
Total	4,088	82.3%	879	17.7%	4,967

PARTICIPANT DEMOGRAPHICS—AGE

Over **66%** of participants served began programming while they were between the ages of 20-39. The average age across all participants is **35.5**. These trends remain unchanged throughout the grant cycle. The following graph shows Vocational and Life Skills participant age distributions.⁷



QUARTER 1 THROUGH QUARTER 8 PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS BY AGE

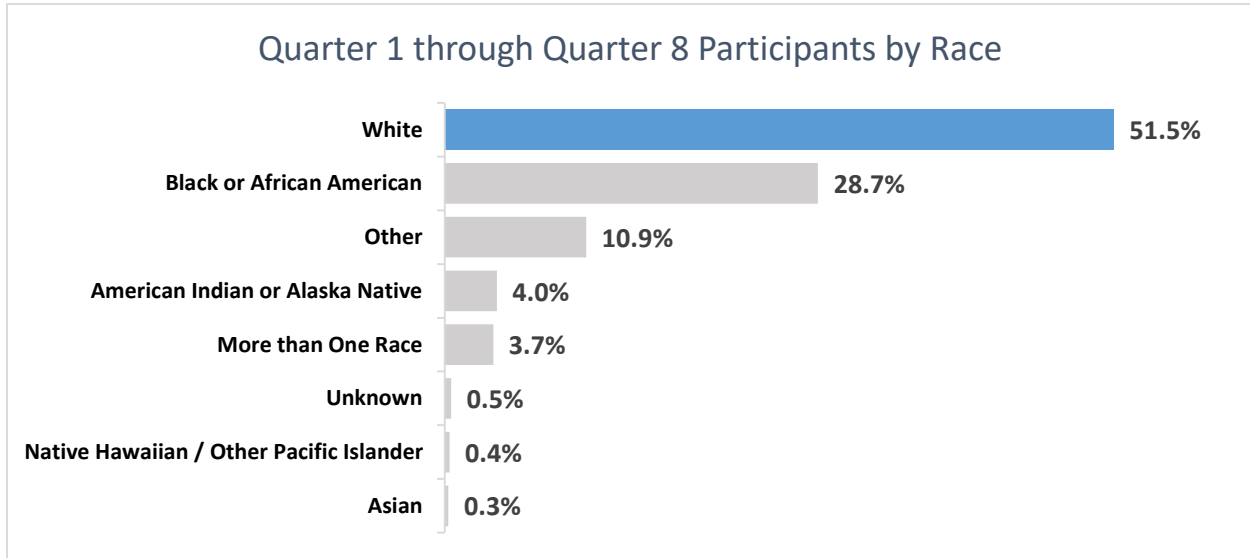
The table below displays the number of participants served in each program by age category. All programs served higher numbers of participants in the 20-29 and 30-39 age categories.

Program	Under 20	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	Over 70	Total
ABC	2	202	270	148	71	6	0	699
Bristol Station	0	66	66	36	14	2	0	184
CFPN—TRADE	1	155	178	97	65	10	0	506
MCC	41	393	450	241	109	20	3	1,257
MHA	2	216	257	148	108	21	3	755
Prepared Place	0	7	3	3	5	0	0	18
ReConnect	35	304	369	178	114	32	1	1,033
ResCare	23	209	174	67	35	1	0	509
Total	104	1,552	1,767	918	521	92	7	4,961

⁷ There were 6 participants who had an incorrect birthdate. They were not included in the age reporting this quarter.

PARTICIPANT DEMOGRAPHICS—RACE

Note: Hispanic or Latino/a is captured as a separate ethnicity variable in the data in addition to the racial categories. There are **539** participants (**12.2%**) listed as Hispanic or Latino/a during this grant cycle. Those that identify as Hispanic or Latino/a are most often represented in the Other (**83.3%**) or White (**16.7%**) racial categories.



QUARTER 1 THROUGH QUARTER 8 PARTICIPANTS BY RACE

Race	ABC	Bristol Station	CFPN-TRADE	MCC	MHA	Prepared Place	ReConnect	ResCareer
White	47.6%	70.1%	44.6%	53.2%	56.1%	61.1%	46.1%	57.8%
Black or African American	26.2%	25.0%	35.7%	29.0%	28.4%	16.7%	34.6%	19.8%
Other	12.8%	0.5%	10.5%	9.7%	7.5%	11.1%	12.6%	11.0%
American Indian or Alaska Native	3.9%	3.8%	4.3%	3.7%	5.0%	5.6%	3.3%	5.9%
More than One Race	9.1%	0.0%	4.3%	4.0%	2.3%	0.0%	2.8%	0.0%
Unknown	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	4.1%
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	0.1%	0.0%	0.4%	0.2%	0.1%	0.0%	0.3%	1.2%
Asian	0.1%	0.5%	0.2%	0.3%	0.5%	5.6%	0.4%	0.2%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

PROGRAM AREA OVERVIEW

Program area participations for Quarter 1 through Quarter 8 (July 2016-June 2018) are presented below. Program staff work with each participant to develop an individualized plan of programming unique to their needs. Many participants are involved in multiple program areas at each program and some program areas offered are not suitable for each participant. It is not necessary for a participant to complete each program area to be considered a successful participant. Some may only complete one program area, while others may participate in multiple areas either back-to-back or simultaneously in order to complete the program. It is only when participants complete the necessary program areas that program staff will mark an individual as successfully completing. This is determined on an individual basis.

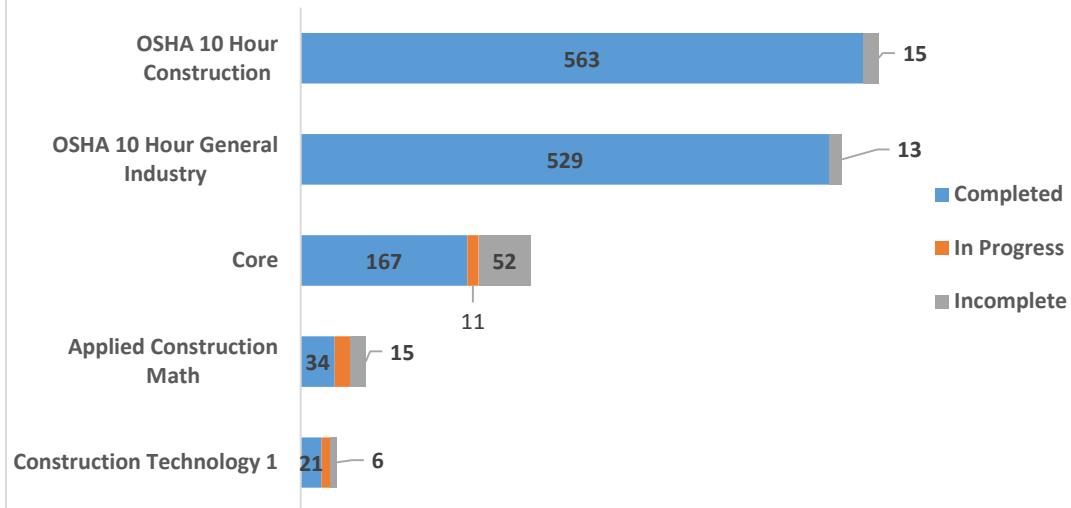
An overview of all program areas each program offers and any updates to program areas is provided in Appendix 2 of this report. Program areas have changed, and in some cases, will continue to change. Therefore, some of the data presented will not match exactly with previous quarterly reports on program areas.

Note: The VLS contract for ResCare ended in September 2017. The program areas listed for ResCare include all participations through that date. The VLS contract for Prepared Place ended in January 2018, and their program areas include everything through that date.

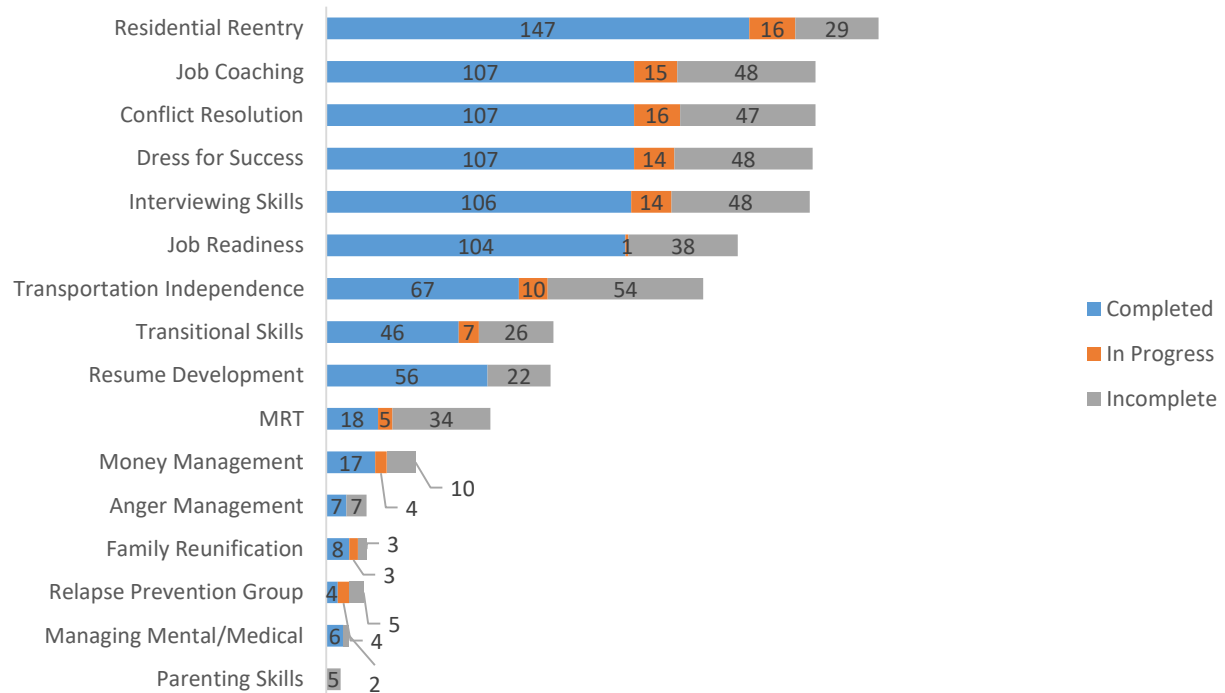
PROGRAM AREAS (QUARTER 1-QUARTER 8)

Associated Builders and Contractors Program Areas

This list includes the top five program areas by participation.

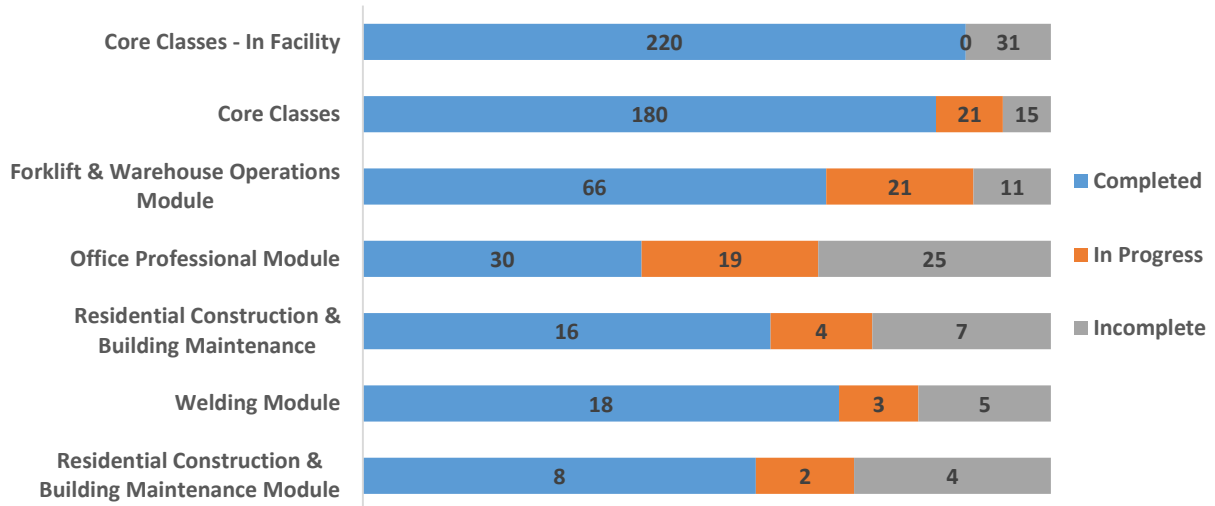


Bristol Station Program Areas

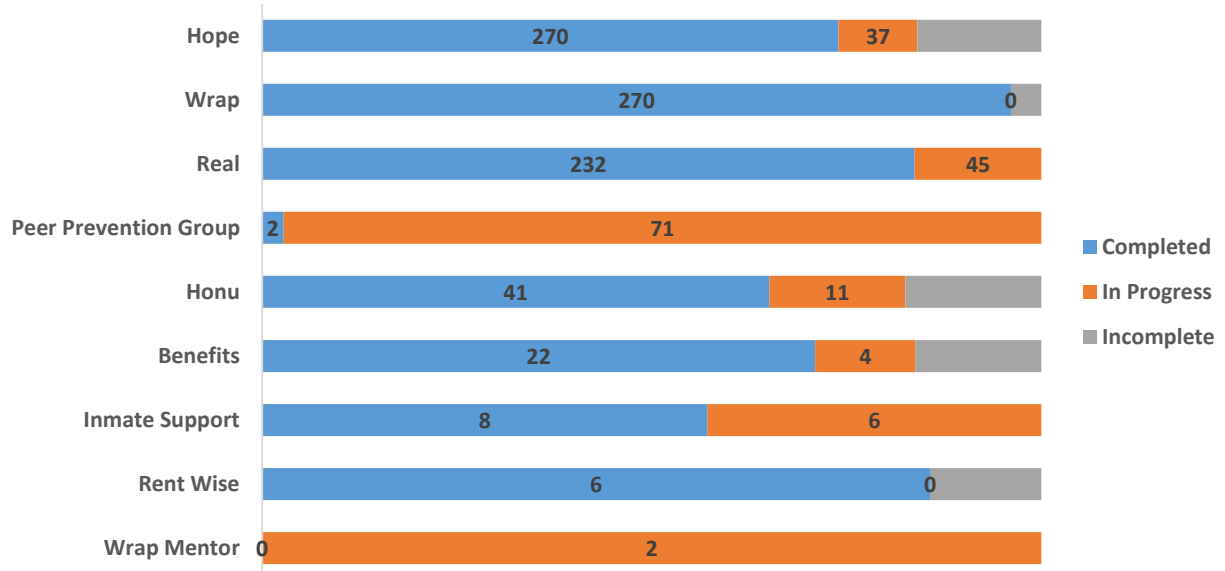


PROGRAM AREAS (QUARTER 1-QUARTER 8)

Center for People in Need - TRADE Program Areas

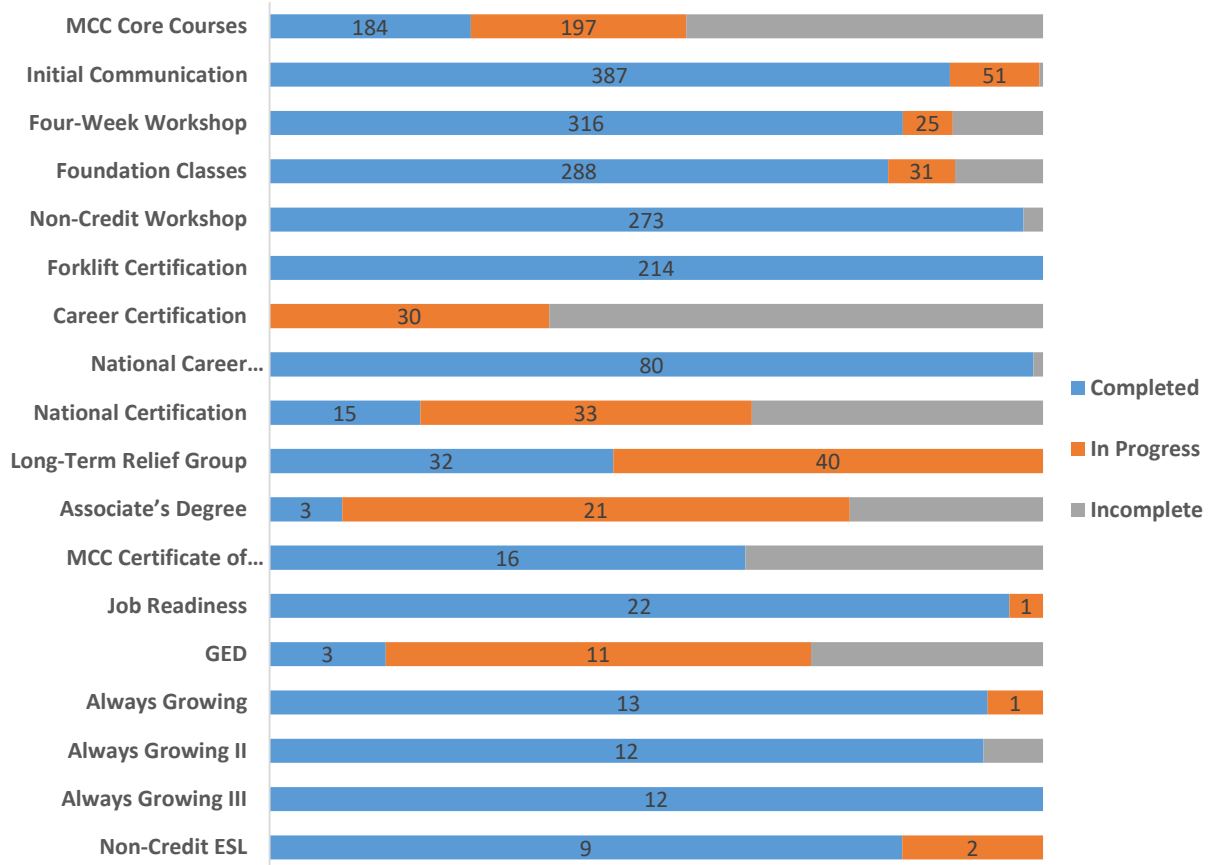


Mental Health Association Program Areas



PROGRAM AREAS (QUARTER 1-QUARTER 8)

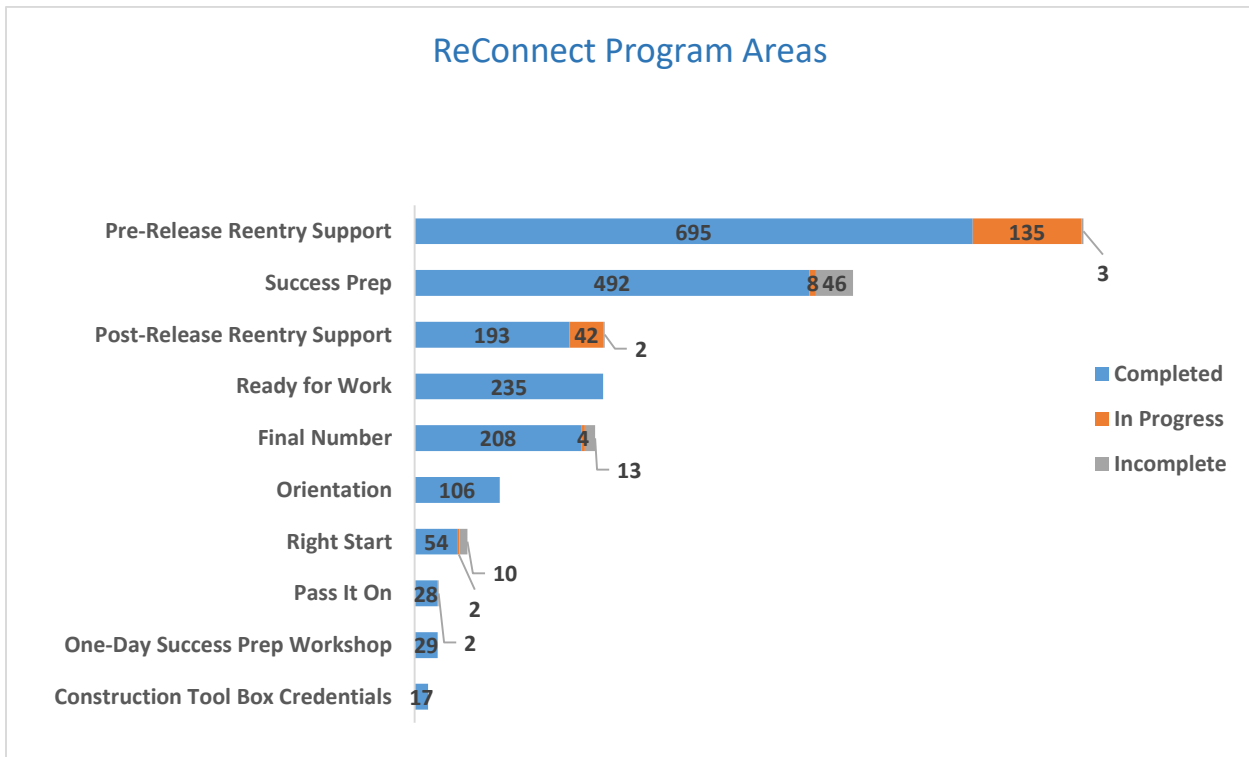
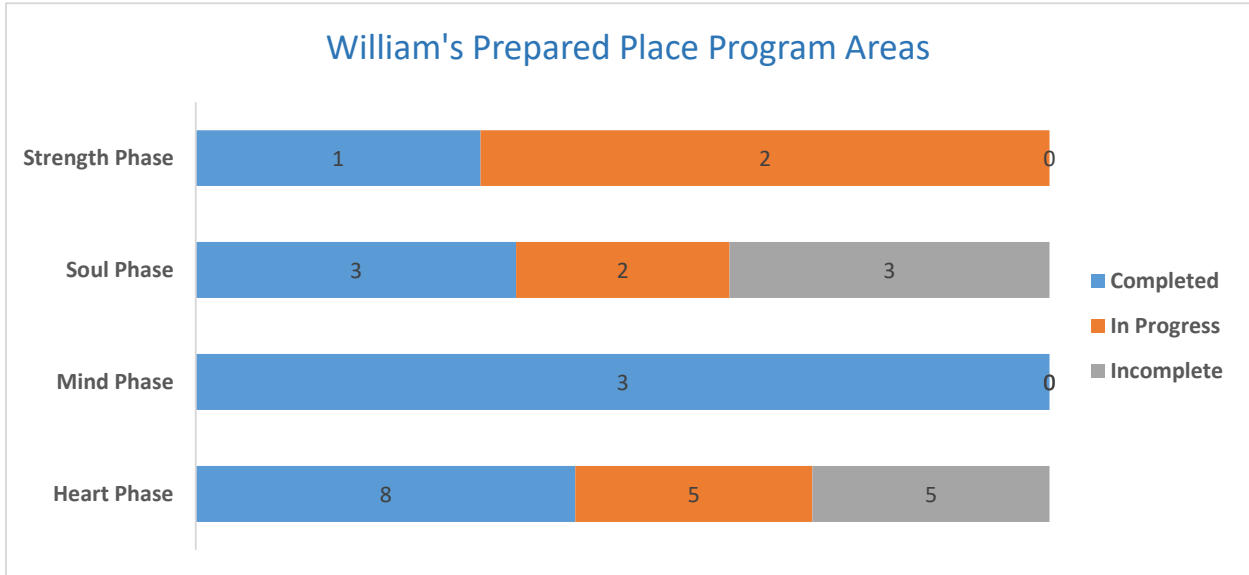
Metropolitan Community College Program Areas



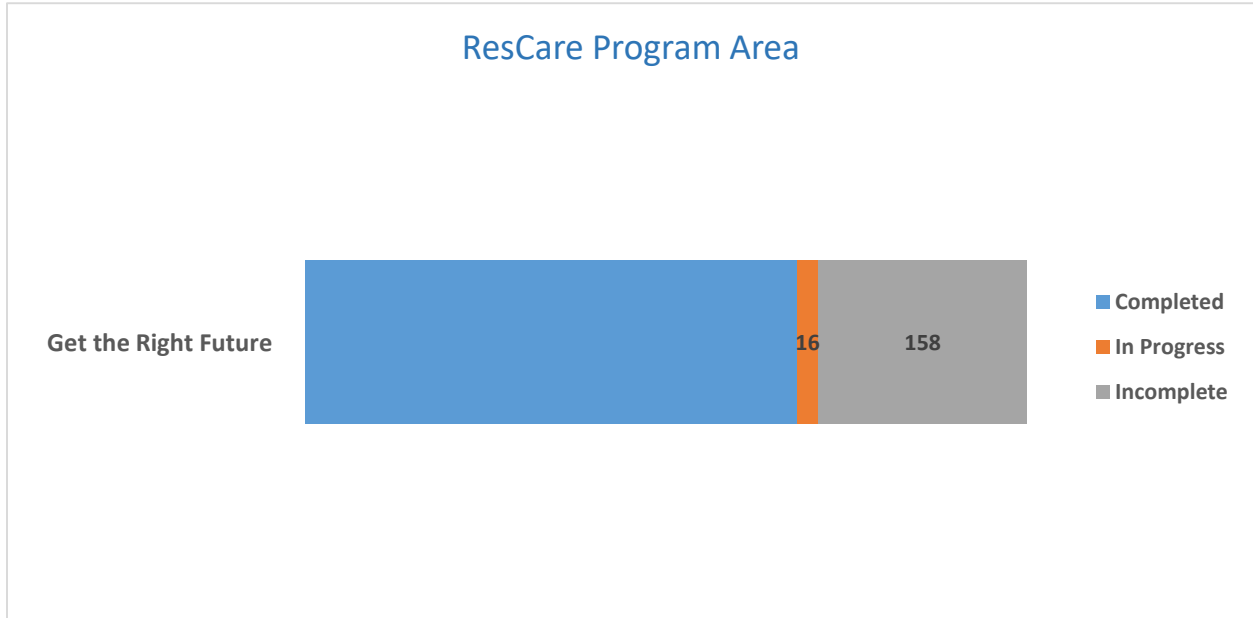
PROGRAM AREAS (QUARTER 1-QUARTER 8)

MCC Program Areas	Completed	In Progress	Incomplete	Grand Total
Non-Credit ESL	9	2	0	11
Always Growing III	12	0	0	12
Always Growing II	12	0	1	13
Always Growing	13	1	0	14
GED	3	11	6	20
Job Readiness	22	1	0	23
MCC Certificate of Completion	16	0	10	26
Associate's Degree	3	21	8	32
Long-Term Relief Group	32	40	0	72
National Certification	15	33	29	77
National Career Readiness Certificate	80	0	1	81
Career Certification	0	30	53	83
Forklift Certification	214	0	0	214
Non-Credit Workshop	273	0	7	280
Foundation Classes	288	31	41	360
Four-Week Workshop	316	25	45	386
Initial Communication	387	51	2	440
MCC Core Courses	184	197	326	707
Grand Total	1,879	443	529	2,851

PROGRAM AREAS (QUARTER 1-QUARTER 8)⁸



⁸ Prepared Place is no longer funded to provide VLS programming after January 2018. Program areas reflect the data at the end of their contract.



⁹ ResCare is no longer funded to provide VLS programming after September 2017. Program areas reflect the data at the end of their contract.

APPENDIX 1: VLS PROGRAM SUCCESS OVERVIEW (UPDATED THROUGH Q8)

Associated Builders and Contractors: Participants are marked as successfully completing programming depending on where they are taking classes and their individual needs. Success is generally captured after completing OSHA 10 Hour Construction and General Industry training while in correctional facilities. Some participants also move on to a core class in facilities or may take additional classes out in the community after release.

Western Alternative Corrections Bristol Station: Every participant's success will look different. The program plan is very individualized based on risk and needs assessments. Each participant has a different path in both the residential side of the program and the vocational and life skills areas and they work with case managers to determine their programming needs.

Center for People in Need (TRADE): TRADE participants in facilities successfully complete once they have finished the Core classes. Those at the work release facility or on parole are successful once the core class is completed and they gain employment. For all other participants, completing Core and one vocational module or securing employment is a successful completion.

Mental Health Association: A participant in the Hope program area is successful after maintaining employment for 90 days. A participant in the Benefits program is successful after all applications and a benefit analysis is complete. A Real participant's success varies as it is a highly individualized program. A participant at the Honu house is successful when he or she is able to transition out of the Honu house. Participants may be involved in one or multiple program areas and will be marked successful after completing their program plan.

Metropolitan Community College (180 RAP): A participant that completes a class, workshop, or other program area is successful based on the individual plan that is set up with staff. Some participants are in long-term educational courses leading to a degree and may be active for years while others may only participate in a short-term training or workshop.

Prepared Place: A successful participant will have gained and maintained employment, completed substance abuse treatment program without reoffending, and will have spent six months in aftercare. **The VLS contract with Prepared Place ended in January 2018.**

ReConnect: A participant is successful on a case-by-case basis. Any participant that has completed Success Prep, Final Number, Right Start, or Pass it On while incarcerated is successfully completed. Participants in programming post-release are successfully completed when they reach 85% of their reentry plan which is developed by the client and staff. If a participant does not contact ReConnect for services for 90 days after finishing a program area, that participant will be completed.

ResCare Workforce Services: A participant is successful if he or she completes all four weeks of the Get the Right Future program or secures employment during the course of the programming. **The VLS contract with ResCare ended in September 2017.**

APPENDIX 2: PROGRAM AREA DESCRIPTIONS (UPDATED THROUGH QUARTER 7)

The following program area descriptions provide information on different services offered in each program. Each area details the services provided, the benefit or result a participant can hope to get from completing the area, the duration of programming, and the locations the program area is offered. Not all program areas or services are offered at all times and participants may not participate in all program areas during their programming. As each participant goes through programming differently based on their individual needs, these descriptions provide more insight into the program area participations reported. Program areas are updated quarterly to reflect what is currently offered.

ASSOCIATED BUILDERS AND CONTRACTORS (ABC)

Overall Program Description: The goal of the program is to provide individuals associated with the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services programs with pre-employment training. ABC offers this training through trade-specific apprenticeship training and work-based learning opportunities to facilitate transition to future careers in the construction industry.

Program Areas

- **NCCER Core Curriculum**
 - **Description:** The NCCER Core Curriculum is a prerequisite to all other Level 1 craft curriculum. The CORE curriculum includes Basic Safety, Introduction to Construction Math, Introduction to Hand Tools, Introduction to Power Tools, Introduction to Construction Drawings, Introduction to Basic Rigging, Basic Communication Skills, Basic Employability Skills and Introduction to Material Handling.
 - **Benefit/Result:** Prerequisite/Certificate/Card
 - **Duration:** 12 weeks attending 2 nights per week
 - **Location:** NSP, CCCL, CCCO, NCCW, TSCI, WEC

- **OSHA 10 Hour Construction**
 - **Description:** This course provides the worker with an overview of the safety applications on a construction site and increases awareness and understanding of governmental regulations and applications to the trade practices. All certificates received are issued directly from the OSHA Training Institute Outreach Program and meet every application to the OSHA requirements currently in place.
 - **Benefit/Result:** Certificate/Card
 - **Duration:** 10 hours
 - **Location:** NSP, CCCL, CCCO, NCCW, TSCI, WEC

- **OSHA 10 Hour General Industry**
 - **Description:** This training program is intended to provide entry-level general industry workers information about their rights, employer responsibilities, and how to file a complaint as well as how to identify, abate, avoid, and prevent job related hazards on a job site. The training covers a variety of general industry safety and health hazards that a worker may encounter. Training should emphasize hazard identification, avoidance, control and prevention, not just OSHA standards.
 - **Benefit/Result:** Certificate/Card
 - **Duration:** 10 hours
 - **Location:** NSP, CCCL, CCCO, NCCW, TSCI, WEC

- **Construction Technology 1, 2, and 3**
 - **Description:** This curriculum will ground the trainee in the basic knowledge and principles of carpentry, masonry, concrete finishing, electrical work, HVAC, and plumbing. He or she will become skilled in different phases of a project from start to finish. Once completing this course, the trainee will be able to interpret construction drawings; perform quality concrete and brickwork; frame walls, ceilings, and floors of a structure; and install the proper wiring and piping for electrical, and plumbing systems.
 - **Benefit/Result:** Certificate/Card
 - **Duration:** 12 weeks per level, 2 nights per week
 - **Location:** NSP, NCCW, TSCI

- **Applied Construction Math**
 - **Description:** Just seeing the word “math” strikes fear and frustration in the heart and mind of most students. Teachers also understand that a math lesson gets the same reception of any other dreaded chore: “eat your Brussel sprouts, take out the garbage, and learn your MATH”. Students and teachers must see the relevance in learning before they will invest the time and commitment needed to master the subject. This book will help you understand the fundamentals of math in a way that is engaging, interesting, and relevant. This book’s unique and real-life approach will help you understand how learning and more importantly understanding math will allow you to reach your personal goals as a student and craft professional.
 - **Benefit/Result:** Certificate
 - **Duration:** 9 weeks 2 nights / week
 - **Location:** NSP, NCCW, TSCI, WEC

- **HVAC**
 - **Description:** HVAC Curriculum is a four level program that will be taught during a 4-year period. Each level will be 26 weeks, 1 day per week and 2.5 hours per day for a total of 80 hours. The increasing development of HVAC (heating and air-conditioning systems) technology causes employers to recognize the importance of continuous education and keeping up to speed with the latest equipment and skills. Hence, technical school training or apprenticeship programs often provide an advantage and a higher qualification for employment. NCCER's program has been designed by highly qualified subject matter experts with this in mind. Our four levels, North American Technician Excellence (NATE) recognized, present theoretical and practical skills essential to your success as an HVAC installer or technician.
 - **Benefit/Result:** Certificate/Card – and ultimately earning license in the trade
 - **Duration:** 1 year per level, 1 night per week
 - **Location:** ABC Training Centers

- **Electrical**
 - **Description:** Electrical Curriculum is a four level program that will be taught during a 4 year period. Each level will be 26 weeks, 1 day per week and 2.5 hours per day for a total of 80 hours. Electricians install electrical systems in structures; they install wiring and other electrical components, such as circuit breaker panels, switches, and light fixtures, and they follow blueprints, the National Electrical Code® and state and local codes. To prepare trainees a career in the electrical field, NCCER offers a comprehensive, 4-level Electrical curriculum that complies with DOL time-based standards for apprenticeship.
 - **Benefit/Result:** Certificate/Card – and ultimately earning license in the trade.
 - **Duration:** 1 year per level, 1 night per week
 - **Location:** ABC Training Centers

- **Drywall**
 - **Description:** Drywall Curriculum is a two level program that is taught during a 2-year period. Each level will be 26 weeks, 1 day per week and 2.5 hours per day for a total of 80 hours. Drywall applicators often install walls and ceilings, as well as place insulation, soundproofing, and fire stopping materials behind and onto those walls and ceilings. They may also apply textures and trims to enhance both the interiors and exteriors of the buildings. The two-level curriculum for Drywall covers such subjects as Thermal and Moisture Protection, Steel Framing, and Acoustical Ceilings.
 - **Benefit/Result:** Certificate/Card
 - **Duration:** 1 year per level, 1 night per week
 - **Location:** ABC Training Centers

- **Carpentry**
 - **Description:** Carpentry Curriculum is a three level program that is taught during a 3-year period. Each level will be 26 weeks, 1 day per week and 2.5 hours per day for a total of 80 hours. Carpenters make up the largest building trades occupation in the industry and those with all-around skills are in high demand. Carpenters are involved in many different kinds of construction activities, from building highways and bridges to installing kitchen cabinets. Carpenters construct, erect, install, and repair structures and fixtures made from wood and other materials. This four-level curriculum covers content such as Building Materials, Cabinet Fabrication, and Advanced Wall Systems.
 - **Benefit/Result:** Certificate/Card
 - **Duration:** 1 year per level, 1 night per week
 - **Location:** ABC Training Centers

- **Masonry**
 - **Description:** Masonry Curriculum is a three level program that is taught during a 3-year period. Each level will be 26 weeks, 1 day per week and 2.5 hours per day for a total of 80 hours. The study of masonry is one of the world's oldest and most respected crafts. Masonry construction existed for thousands of years. The remains of stone buildings date back 15,000 years, and the earliest manufactured bricks unearthed by archaeologists are more than 10,000 years old. These bricks were made of hand-shaped, dried mud. Among the most well-known works of masons are the pyramids of ancient Egypt and Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris. NCCER's three-level curriculum encompasses modules such as Mortar, Metalwork in Masonry, and Estimating.
 - **Benefit/Result:** Certificate/Card
 - **Duration:** 1 year per level, 1 night per week
 - **Location:** ABC Training Centers

- **Plumbing**

- **Description:** Plumbing Curriculum is a four level program that will be taught during a 4-year period. Each level will be 26 weeks, 1 day per week and 2.5 hours per day for a total of 80 hours. Most people are familiar with plumbers who come to their home to unclog a drain or install an appliance. In addition to these activities, however, plumbers install, maintain, and repair many different types of pipe systems. For example, some systems move water to a municipal water treatment plant and then to residential, commercial, and public buildings. Other systems dispose of waste, provide gas to stoves and furnaces, or supply air conditioning. Pipe systems in power plants carry the steam that powers huge turbines. Pipes also are used in manufacturing plants, such as wineries, to move material through production processes. NCCER's four-level curriculum covers topics such as Plumbing Tools, Types of Valves, and Potable Water Treatment.
- **Benefit/Result:** Certificate/Card – and ultimately earning license in the trade.
- **Duration:** 1 year per level, 1 night per week
- **Location:** ABC Training Centers

Overall Program Description: It is the mission of Western Alternative Corrections, Inc. to provide offenders with an opportunity of self-discovery and re-education relating to behavior and thought process. Through the implementation of a two-pronged approach utilizing both behavioral and cognitive systems, offenders begin to reconfigure their perceptions, interpretations and responses to stimuli; thus reinforcing constructive behavior and focus on goals that replace old habits and mindsets with healthier conduct. This treatment philosophy is evident through the service delivery of the company and community based service providers utilized by Western Alternative Corrections, Inc. The result will be an enhancement of community and offender safety, while at the same time empowering offenders to become valuable assets to their families, friends, and employers.

Correctional Case Management Program Areas

- **Residential Reentry**

- **Description:** Bristol Station is based on the Federal reentry model which utilizes evidence-based practices to deliver offender specific programming. Reentry services are guided by the Risk, Need and Responsivity principles which dictate the degree of individualized services and programming. Bristol Station offers a variety of programming components to foster life and vocational skills. Some of the programming components include, but are not limited to Correctional Case Management, Moral Reconciliation Therapy, anger management, transition skills, parenting, job readiness and conflict resolution. Community resources are utilized for substance abuse, mental health and offense-specific treatment.
- **Benefit/Result:** The overall goal remains that each individual will successfully reintegrate with their family and transition back into their community. In order to achieve this goal each individual, in conjunction with their case manager, will develop a dynamic transition plan to foster employability skills, obtain and maintain gainful employment, and successfully complete all facets of programming aimed toward lowering recidivism risk.
- **Duration:** 3-12 Months
- **Location:** Bristol Station Residential Reentry Center, Hastings, NE

- **Program planning and progress**
 - **Description:** Each participant is assigned a case manager for the duration of his/her stay at Bristol Station. The participant meets with the case manager on a weekly basis for the first 6 weeks and then every other week thereafter. The case manager completes the Risk/Need assessment (Ohio Risk Assessment System (ORAS)) and Quality of Life Inventory (QOLI) with the participant which is the basis of the individualized program plan. Upon discharge from the program the case manager completes the ORAS and QOLI as well. Another part of the correctional case management component is the weekly program review team in which the case managers, home reintegration specialist, executive director and parole or probation officer meet to discuss the progress of each participant.
 - **Duration:** Ongoing
 - **Location:** Bristol Station Residential Reentry Center, Hastings, NE

Vocational Program Areas

- **Resume Development**
 - **Description:** Bristol Station utilizes components of the Offender Workforce Development Specialist (OWDS) curriculum for this facet of programming. Participants will attend Employment Skills Group or work one on one with their case manager to develop a functional resume.
 - **Benefit/Result:** With the aid of their resume, participants will have more access to interviews with perspective employers.
 - **Duration:** 1 to 2 weeks
 - **Location:** Bristol Station Residential Reentry Center, Hastings, NE

- **Interviewing Skills**
 - **Description:** Bristol Station utilizes components of the Offender Workforce Development Specialist (OWDS) curriculum for this facet of programming. Participants will attend Employment Skills Group or work one on one with their case manager to develop behavioral interviewing skills, learn how to answer interview questions in an appropriate manner, prepare a narrative to explain their criminal history in an interview, and participate in mock interviews.
 - **Benefit/Result:** Development of effective interviewing skills to increase likelihood of obtaining gainful employment
 - **Duration:** 1 to 3 weeks
 - **Location:** Bristol Station Residential Reentry Center, Hastings, NE

- **Job Readiness**
 - **Description:** Bristol Station utilizes components of the Offender Workforce Development Specialist (OWDS) curriculum for this facet of programming. Participants will attend Employment Skills Group or work one on one with their case manager and will utilize interest profilers, such as ONET, to help identify employment interests which in turn assists in the development of a targeted job search. Participants will obtain all necessary documents required to gain employment (i.e. birth certificate, state identification, driver's license, and Social Security Card). Participants will learn how to fill out job applications on-line and using paper formats. Participants will also be introduced to effective job search strategies.
 - **Benefit/Result:** Participants will be ready to begin their job search in order to find a personally rewarding career. Increased likelihood of obtaining gainful employment.
 - **Duration:** 1 to 3 weeks
 - **Location:** Bristol Station Residential Reentry Center, Hastings, NE

- **Dress for Success**
 - **Description:** Bristol Station utilizes components of the Offender Workforce Development Specialist (OWDS) curriculum for this facet of programming. Participants will work with their case manager to locate local resources for clothing and obtain appropriate clothes for interviews and working conditions.
 - **Benefit/Result:** Participants will have appropriate clothing for interviews and work.
 - **Duration:** 1 week
 - **Location:** Bristol Station Residential Reentry Center, Hastings, NE

- **Conflict Resolution**
 - **Description:** Bristol Station utilizes components of the Offender Workforce Development Specialist (OWDS) curriculum for this facet of programming. Participants will attend Employment Skills Group or work one on one with their case manager to learn proper techniques in dealing with supervisors and fellow co-workers when conflict arises in the work place.
 - **Benefit/Result:** Participants will be able to appropriately address stressors and communicate in the workforce in order to minimize the risk of losing their employment.
 - **Duration:** On going for the duration of their stay at Bristol Station.
 - **Location:** Bristol Station Residential Reentry Center, Hastings, NE

- **Job Coaching**
 - **Description:** Bristol Station utilizes components of the Offender Workforce Development Specialist (OWDS) curriculum for this facet of programming. Participants will work one on one with their case manager to learn techniques of maintaining their employment.
 - **Benefit/Result:** Participants will be able to recognize and utilize techniques of personal communication to ensure career goal enrichment. Participants will also learn how to go about appropriately leaving a place of employment.
 - **Duration:** On going for the duration of their stay at Bristol Station.
 - **Location:** Bristol Station Residential Reentry Center, Hastings, NE

Life Skills Program Areas

- **MRT**
 - **Description:** Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT) is a systematic treatment strategy that seeks to decrease recidivism among juvenile and adult criminal offenders by increasing moral reasoning. MRT is a "systematic, cognitive-behavioral, step-by-step treatment strategy designed to enhance self-image, promote growth of a positive, productive identity, and facilitate the development of higher stages of moral reasoning." MRT systematically focuses on seven basic treatment issues:
 - confrontation of beliefs, attitudes and behaviors
 - assessment of current relationships
 - reinforcement of positive behavior and habits
 - positive identity formation
 - enhancement of self-concept
 - decrease in hedonism and development of frustration tolerance
 - development of higher stages of moral reasoning
 - **Benefit/Result:**
 - MRT is designed and developed to target issues specific to an offender population.
 - MRT has shown to reduce the recidivism rate of offenders by between 30% and 50% for periods up to 20 years after release
 - MRT improves offender compliance to rules in an institution or while under supervision in the community
 - MRT will increase offenders' moral reasoning, decrease dropout rates, increase sense of purpose and reduce antisocial thinking and behavior
 - **Duration:** MRT is delivered in weekly open-ended groups, which allows for maximizing resources. There are 12 steps in the MRT curriculum.
 - **Location:** Bristol Station Residential Reentry Center, Hastings, NE

- **Family Reunification**

- **Description:** The Family Reunification course utilizes the journaling program titled; Getting it Right, Contributing to the Community, Personal Growth by The Change Companies. Participants will be assigned homework and the last session of the family reunification class would involve the participants' family attending.
- **Benefit/Result:** Increased positive communication with family, development and/or repair of family relationships and development of a positive support system.
- **Duration:** The group will be facilitated by a Bristol Station employee and would be offered for a total of four one hour sessions.
- **Location:** Bristol Station Residential Reentry Center, Hastings, NE

- **Parenting Skills**

- **Description:** Bristol Station utilizes two different curriculums for parenting. The curriculum utilized for the participant would be based on the needs of the participant based on the risk/need assessment. Bristol Station utilizes 24/7 Dad™ & Parenting Wisely. The 24/7 Dad™ program, offered through the National Fatherhood Initiative, is the most comprehensive fatherhood program available. Individuals having the need for additional parenting skills/training outlined in their Individual Program Plan (IPP) will be referred to community agencies for this support service.
- **Benefit/Result:** Development of parenting skills
- **Duration:** Parenting Wisely, offered through Family Works, Inc., is eight hours of classroom time and the course would be set up in four, two hour sessions.
- **Location:** Bristol Station Residential Reentry Center, Hastings, NE

- **Transitional Skills**
 - **Description:** Bristol Station utilizes The Change Companies, Interactive Journaling product, Transition Skills Program. The group will be facilitated by WAC Staff and will be no larger than 12 participants. There are multiple journaling sections that focus on a different topic relevant to re-entry. The sections are:
 - Realistic expectations
 - Healthy relationships
 - Managing your time
 - Handling social influences
 - Roadblocks in transition
 - Thinking for a change
 - Authority figures
 - Managing your anger
 - Your safety net
 - **Benefit/Result:** Participants work to develop key skills that help them make responsible choices and avoid future incarceration.
 - **Duration:** It will be designed so that residents can join the group at any point in the process which generally takes approximately nine weeks. The group will meet for no less than one hour and will be scheduled to compliment the offenders work hours.
 - **Location:** Bristol Station Residential Reentry Center, Hastings, NE

- **Money Management**
 - **Description:** Participants will work independently with their assigned case manager utilizing the "Basic Money Management" workbook. The curriculum will address challenges with the management of finances and making healthy financial choices.
 - **Benefit/Result:** Development of a working budget and development of financial responsibility.
 - **Duration:** Ongoing
 - **Location:** Bristol Station Residential Reentry Center, Hastings, NE

- **Relapse Prevention**
 - **Description:** Bristol Station will utilize The Change Companies', evidence-based, interactive journaling product, Relapse Prevention. Relapse Prevention will provide group participants with the tools needed to identify the pattern of relapse and interrupt that pattern before they slip back into criminogenic behaviors.
 - **Benefit/Result:** Each participant will identify personal relapse warning signs and develop a relapse prevention plan that will help in maintaining motivation for responsible living and sobriety.
 - **Duration:** 6 to 8 weeks
 - **Location:** Bristol Station Residential Reentry Center, Hastings, NE

- **Anger Management**
 - **Description:** Bristol Station will utilize The Change Companies', evidence-based, interactive journaling techniques that apply Motivational Interviewing principals, cognitive-behavioral strategies and the behavior change model to address anger and the triggers.
 - **Benefit/Result:** Participants will develop frustration tolerance skills, anger reducing techniques in order to make changes in their thinking, feelings and behaviors.
 - **Duration:** 4 to 6 Weeks
 - **Location:** Bristol Station Residential Reentry Center, Hastings, NE

- **Managing Mental/Medical**
 - **Description:** Bristol Station utilizes community resources for mental health needs. Participants are referred by their assigned case manager to ensure continuity of care or to establish care.
 - **Benefit/Result:**
 - **Duration:**
 - **Location:**

- **Health**
 - **Description:** Bristol Station utilizes community resources for health needs. Participants are referred by their assigned case manager to ensure continuity of care or to establish care.
 - **Benefit/Result:**
 - **Duration:**
 - **Location:**

- **Problem Solving**
 - **Description:** Bristol Station will utilize The Change Companies' Communication Skills, evidence-based, interactive journaling techniques that will address three problem areas for participants: effective communication skills, anger management, and healthy relationships.
 - **Benefit/Result:** Development of appropriate problem solving techniques and skills.
 - **Duration:** 6 weeks
 - **Location:** Bristol Station Residential Reentry Center, Hastings, NE

- **Time Management**

- **Description:** Participants will work with their case manager to assist in identifying and practicing good time management techniques.
- **Benefit/Result:** Participants will utilize good time management techniques to maximize their efficiencies and minimize unhealthy down time.
- **Duration:** Ongoing
- **Location:** Bristol Station Residential Reentry Center, Hastings, NE

- **Transportation Independence**

- **Description:** Participants will work one on one with their case managers to obtain and maintain a reliable mode of transportation.
- **Benefit/Result:** Participants will have obtained a vehicle or other mode of transportation that is suitable to their needs.
- **Duration:** 1 to 6 months
- **Location:** Bristol Station Residential Reentry Center, Hastings, NE

Overall Program Description: MHA-NE programs and services are designed to work together to provide people living with severe behavioral health issues with meaningful and effective "wrap-around" support services. This holistic approach provides program participants with the ability to access the services they need as they need them.

Program Areas

- **HOPE**
 - **Description:** Supported employment programs help people find competitive jobs that are based on the person's preferences and abilities.
 - Eligibility is based on an individual's choice. Employment specialists coordinate plans with the treatment team if desired by participant.
 - Competitive employment is the goal. The focus is community jobs that pay at least minimum wage or better. The job search starts immediately.
 - There are no requirements for completing extensive pre-employment assessment and training or intermediate work experiences.
 - Follow-along support is continuous. Choices and decisions about work and support are individualized based on the person's preferences, strengths, and experiences.
 - **Benefit/Result:** Employment
 - **Duration:** 90 Days
 - **Location:** Honu, Region V, Community

- **REAL**
 - **Description:** REAL provides ongoing community-based support services to participants including advocating and supporting participants wishing to find their own housing, referral and assistance obtaining other community services, interpersonal and conflict resolution skills, and helping inmates prepare for discharge back into the community. Some of the REAL program services include:
 - Assistance in finding and maintaining safe, affordable and adequate permanent housing of their choice
 - Assistance over-coming barriers and challenges
 - Community integration activities
 - Support groups
 - Community education on reentry
 - Acquiring basic life needs (food, clothing, personal hygiene products)
 - System navigation (behavioral and physical health services)
 - Other assistance as identified by the participant
 - **Benefit/Result:** Housing and Public Assistance
 - **Duration:** Varies by Participant Need
 - **Location:** In Community, Region V, Facilities, Honu House, Keya House

- **Honu**
 - **Description:** HONU Home provides participants with 90 days of transitional housing in a safe, stable and supportive environment along with:
 - 24/7 peer support, wellness and recovery education to help them manage their behavioral health issues, life skills training including tenant education (RentWise), communication and interpersonal skills, navigating the community, transportation and other activities identified by the participant, warm line where anyone can call in and access a friendly and supportive person to talk to, basic life needs - food, clothing, personal hygiene products, accessing healthcare, healthcare system navigation, and community/social integration activities
 - **Benefit/Result:** Transitional Living
 - **Duration:** Up to 90 days
 - **Location:** Honu House

- **Keya**
 - **Description:** Keya is a short-term stay facility for participants transitioning to treatment facilities or other housing. Participants complete Wellness Vision and Action Plan and participate in group events.
 - **Benefit/Result:** Keeps participants out of ER and expensive treatment centers
 - **Duration:** Up to five days
 - **Location:** Keya House

- **Benefits**
 - **Description:** The comprehensive benefits program is designed to help individuals who receive social security benefits be able to make informed choices when they return to work. Often times, benefits are affected by income from work. Beneficiaries receiving Social Security Disability Insurance and/or Supplemental Security Income receive a written benefits analysis that is tailored to the individual participant's benefits situation and stated work goal. The Benefits Specialist will provide education about applicable work incentives. Follow-up services are provided at regular scheduled intervals and at critical touch points which are identified at the initial meeting. Beneficiaries can receive assistance in communicating with the Social Security Administration, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, General Assistance, Housing or any other public assistance. The Benefits Specialist promotes, teaches, and emphasizes benefits literacy.
 - **Benefit/Result:** Documentation/Income/Housing/Other Public Assistance
 - **Duration:** Varies based on need
 - **Location:** Region V

- **Inmate Support**
 - **Description:** Peer and social support for those individuals still incarcerated.
 - **Benefit/Result:** Support
 - **Duration:** Varies by Participant Need
 - **Location:** NDCS Facilities

- **Rent Wise**
 - **Description:** RentWise is a six module curriculum that helps individuals prepare to be successful renters. Participants in the group receive a RentWise Workbook and Organizer.
 - **Modules include:** Communication and Conflict Resolution, Managing Money, Finding a Place to Call Home, Getting Through the Rental Process, Taking Care of Your Home, and When You Move Out. The workbook contains the six modules and the organizer provides a place for renters to store rental records such as leases and letters to and from the landlord. The workbook also includes twelve worksheets and a resource guide. The groups are held in the community. The workshop is held one day a week for six weeks and each session is an hour and a half in length. Participants will receive a certificate at the completion of the course that they can show to landlords that they have a desire to be good tenants.
 - **Benefit/Result:** Certificate
 - **Duration:** Six Weeks
 - **Location:** In Community, Region V

- **Day Guest**
 - **Description:** The Day Guest program is for previous or new corrections participants who may only utilize Keya or Honu for the day. The Day Guest option is for people who can't or don't want to find sitters for the 5 day respite stay at Keya or who just need to get support for a few hours.
 - **Benefit/Result:** Short-term peer support
 - **Duration:** Up to 1 Day
 - **Location:** Keya or Honu

- **WRAP**

- **Description:** WRAP has been proven to be a highly effective education tool that provides participants with the opportunity to individually craft their own wellness program. MHA-NE was instrumental in bringing WRAP to Nebraska in 2005. All staff have participated in WRAP workshops, and MHA currently has two advanced (Train the Trainer) and 12 group facilitators on staff.
 - **The key elements of a WRAP Plan include:**
 - **Wellness Toolbox:** This is a listing of things the participant has done in the past, or could do, to help them stay well, and also things they could do to help them feel better when they are not doing well.
 - **Daily Maintenance Plan:** Helps the participant recognize those things which they need to do to remain healthy. The three elements of the plan include 1.) A description of yourself when you are well; 2.) The Wellness Tools you know you must use every day to maintain your wellness; and 3.) A list of things you might need on any day to stay well.
 - **Identifying Triggers and an Action Plan:** Triggers are external events or circumstances that may produce very uncomfortable emotional or psychiatric symptoms, such as anxiety, panic, discouragement, despair, or negative self-talk.
 - **Identifying Early Warning Signs and an Action Plan:** Early warning signs are internal and may or may not arise in reaction to stressful situations. In spite of a person's best efforts to take care of themselves, they may begin to experience early warning signs, subtle signs of change that indicate they may need to take further action.
 - **Identifying When Things Are Breaking Down and an Action Plan:** Sometimes a person experiences feelings and behaviors that indicate he or she needs to take immediate action to prevent his or her mental health from worsening. When the consumer writes the action plan, he or she prepares for times when things are breaking down by listing actions that will reduce symptoms.
 - **Crisis Planning:** Similar to a medical advanced directive, the crisis plan gives the person the opportunity to identify how they would like to be treated when a crisis occurs. Although not recognized as a legal document in Nebraska, many law enforcement and emergency services personnel will honor it wherever possible.
 - **Post Crisis Planning:** A prepared course of action to help the person regain their mental wellness, identifying preferred care and support personnel, course of treatments and medications.
- **Benefit/Result:** Action Plan
- **Duration:** 8 Weeks
- **Location:** Honu House, NDCS Facilities

Overall Program Description: MCC currently provides an extensive array of education and work readiness training both within area correctional facilities and to individuals re-entering society.

Program Areas

- **Initial Communication**
 - **Description:** Meet with students to discuss career planning, program determination, scholarship information, registering for classes and training, financial aid/funding information, conduct assessments, create educational plans and assist students with community resources referrals.
 - **Benefit/Result:** Help students determine a career pathway and/or access immediate employment or community resources. Initial communication helps to determine program participants' next steps.
 - **Duration:** Varies
 - **Location:** OCC, CCC-O, NCYF, TSCI, NCCW, MCC (Re-Entry)

- **Forklift Certification**
 - **Description:** Comprehensive training for population to gain forklift certification
 - **Benefit/Result:** Receipt of Certificate of Completion and possible employment
 - **Duration:** 1 day
 - **Location:** MCC's Fort Omaha Campus or South Omaha Campus

- **OSHA: One-day training**
 - **Description:** Comprehensive training in mandated job safety requirements and guidelines
 - **Benefit/Result:** Receipt of OSHA certification and possible employment
 - **Duration:** 1 week or 4 weeks (1 week for 10 hour; 4 week for 30 hour)
 - **Location:** OCC, MCC

- **Non-Credit Workshops**
 - **Description:** Life skills training and education
 - **Benefit/Result:** Receipt of Certificate of Completion, acquire life skills and possible employment
 - **Duration:** 1 – 2 days
 - **Location:** OCC, CCC-O, NCYF, TSCI, NCCW, MCC (Re-Entry)

- **National Certification – Certified Production Technician, Manufacturing Skills Standards Council**
 - **Description:** Participants complete four courses in safety, quality practices and measurement, manufacturing processes and production and maintenance awareness. After successfully passing four assessment tests, participants receive a national certification.
 - **Benefit/Result:** Opportunities for gainful employment in manufacturing
 - **Duration:** 1 quarter to 1 year (depending on location of participant)
 - **Location:** OCC, MCC

- **GED**
 - **Description:** Noncredit study to prepare for official GED testing (high school equivalency)
 - **Benefit/Result:** Acquisition of official GED
 - **Duration:** Dependent on skill level of participant
 - **Location:** MCC

- **Non-Credit ESL**
 - **Description:** Noncredit course offering basic introduction to the English language by those whose second language is English
 - **Benefit/Result:** Building language skills in order to communicate more effectively
 - **Duration:** Dependent on skill level of participant
 - **Location:** OCC, MCC

- **Foundation Classes**
 - **Description:** Credit classes: WORK 1400 Employability Skills and WORK 0900 Intro to Microcomputers
 - **Benefit/Result:** These are the core classes for the program and give participants skills to succeed in other MCC courses. They develop life skills, as well.
 - **Duration:** 1 quarter
 - **Location:** OCC, MCC, NCCW, NCYF, TSCI

- **3 MCC Core Courses**
 - **Description:** Completion of any 3 college credit courses
 - **Benefit/Result:** college credit
 - **Duration:** 9 months or longer
 - **Location:** OCC, NCYF, NCCW, TSCI, CCC-O, MCC

- **MCC Certificate of Completion - noncredit**
 - **Description:** Issued to program participants who complete MCC noncredit workshops or trainings
 - **Benefit/Result:** Helps participants to build life skills
 - **Duration:** Ongoing
 - **Location:** OCC, NCYF, NCCW, TSCI, CCC-O, MCC

- **MCC Certificate of Completion – credit (Diversified Manufacturing)**
 - **Description:** Participants who complete four core diversified manufacturing courses receive a certificate from MCC and have an opportunity to receive a national certification
 - **Benefit/Result:** Participants will be introduced to various employers with gainful employment opportunities
 - **Duration:** 1 quarter to 1 year (depending on location of participant)
 - **Location:** OCC, MCC

- **Career Certificate:** Professional Skills, Financial Studies, General Management, Customer Service Representative, Manufacturing Process Operations, Residential Carpentry, General Construction/Remodeling
 - **Description:** Participants complete an average of 28-32 focused credit hours
 - **Benefit/Result:** Participants achieve a career certificate and may continue on to the next stackable credential
 - **Duration:** 1 year – 2 years (depending on location of participant)
 - **Location:** OCC, MCC

- **Associate degree**
 - **Description:** Any one of the 100+ associate degree programs offered at MCC
 - **Benefit/Result:** Receipt of an associate degree
 - **Duration:** Dependent on student commitment and schedule
 - **Location:** OCC, NCYF, NCCW, TSCI, MCC

- **Long Term Relief**
 - **Description:** Group created to support individuals who have been incarcerated for over 10 years and/or served multiple sentences with the purpose of increasing knowledge of current technology, referrals to community resources for transition preparation and to build peer support.
 - **Benefit/Result:** Successful transition to community and healthy relationships
 - **Duration:** Ongoing or self-terminated
 - **Location:** CCC-O and MCC

- **ACT National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC)**
 - **Description:** The NCRC measures and certifies essential work skills needed for job success. It is widely used by employers, educators, workforce developers, and others to provide evidence that job seekers have the skills employers are looking for. During this course, participants will have an opportunity to participate in NCRC testing. The testing consists of three assessments: Applied Mathematics, Locating Information, Reading for Information.
 - **Benefit/Result:** Certificate
 - **Duration:** 3 Hours
 - **Location:** OCC, NCCW, TSCI, MCC, NCYF, CCCO

- **Always Growing (also Always Growing II and Always Growing III)**
 - **Description:** Noncredit course that offers basic introduction to conservation practices encouraging the repopulation of the Monarch butterflies while learning about how to grow as a leader and work on a team. The course includes hands-on activities.
 - **Benefit/Result:** The population will learn about conservation practices, basic horticulture and leadership skills, in tandem.
 - **Duration:** Three (3) Four-Week Sessions
 - **Location:** OCC

- **Orientation**
 - **Description:** Participants fill out all necessary paperwork, including the Participant Enrollment Form, Holland Code worksheet, and other college paperwork. Participants will leave with an appointment with the lead coach to register for classes, if necessary. Orientations are for any person who has not previously taken classes with us.
 - **Benefit/Result:** Ability to participate in 180 RAP.
 - **Duration:** One Hour
 - **Location:** MCC

- **Job Readiness**
 - **Description:** Participants meet with Employment Specialist to create resumes, sign up for an email address, write turnaround and cover letters, submit job applications, transport to and from job interviews and job fairs, and any other necessary service to help participants become job ready. The Employment Specialist also works with the Department of Labor to increase chances of employment.
 - **Benefit/Result:** Resume, Letters, Applications, often job placement
 - **Duration:** One Hour (many often schedule multiple appointments)
 - **Location:** MCC

Four-Week Workshops

- **Welding**
 - **Description:** Noncredit training and credit education
 - **Benefit/Result:** Skilled laborers for entry level welding employment upon release
 - **Duration:** 4 weeks to 11 weeks
 - **Location:** OCC

- **Keyboarding**
 - **Description:** Introduction to keyboarding and keyboard skill building
 - **Benefit/Result:** Able to navigate keyboard and utilize technology more efficiently
 - **Duration:** 4 weeks
 - **Location:** OCC

- **Mastering Soft Skills: Time Management**
 - **Description:** Enables participants to explore the value of time and diagnosing time management issues in personal planning as well as workplace.
 - **Benefit/Result:** Improve personal development and gain employability skills
 - **Duration:** 4 weeks
 - **Location:** OCC

- **Mastering Life Skills: Decision Making**
 - **Description:** Assists students in the study of identification and choice determination of alternatives based on the values and preferences as it relates to individual decision making
 - **Benefit/Result:** Achieve maximum results in personal and employment related areas
 - **Duration:** 4 weeks
 - **Location:** OCC

- **Mastering Soft Skills: Goal Setting**
 - **Description:** Participants explore personal capabilities and effective goal setting strategies along with relationship skills.
 - **Benefit/Result:** Establishing steps in a timeline in which goals and objectives are accomplished
 - **Duration:** 4 weeks
 - **Location:** OCC

- **Mastering Soft Skills: Relationship Building**
 - **Description:** Participants reengineer attitude and understand its influence on behavior as it relates to mastering soft skill strategies in the workplace and in general.
 - **Benefit/Result:** Enhanced holistic development of participants and improved employability skills
 - **Duration:** 4 weeks
 - **Location:** OCC

- **Note Taking and Listening**
 - **Description:** Four-week workshop where participants will explore various note-taking strategies and develop mind maps that assist in retention and application of information in the classroom and in general.
 - **Benefit/Result:** Completion Certificate
 - **Duration:** Four Weeks
 - **Location:** OCC

- **Communication Skills**
 - **Description:** Effective communication skills, including listening and responding.
 - **Benefit/Result:** Healthy communication skills as well as the opportunity to take college credit courses
 - **Duration:** Four Weeks/1.5 hours each week
 - **Location:** NCYF

- **Conflict Resolution**
 - **Description:** Appropriate conflict resolution for different situations
 - **Benefit/Result:** Effective ways to deal with conflict, the opportunity to take college credit courses
 - **Duration:** Four Weeks/1.5 hours each week
 - **Location:** NCYF

- **Practical Skills**
 - **Description:** Problem solving solutions for today's youth
 - **Benefit/Result:** Learning to utilize positive behaviors for life choices.
 - **Duration:** Four Weeks/1.5 hours each week
 - **Location:** NCYF

- **Choices**
 - **Description:** Teaches healthy behavior choices for a productive life.
 - **Benefit/Result:** Learning to utilize positive behaviors for life choices.
 - **Duration:** Four Weeks/1.5 hours each week
 - **Location:** NCYF

- **Relationship Building**
 - **Description:** This four-week noncredit course is designed to enable participants to reengineer attitude and understand its influence on behavior as it relates to mastering soft skill strategies in the workplace and in general. Participants will explore personal capabilities and effective goal setting strategies along with relationship skills. Communication and problem-solving abilities will be investigated to enhance holistic development of participants and improve their employability skills.
 - **Benefit/Result:** Soft Skills
 - **Duration:** Four Weeks
 - **Location:** OCC

- **Financial Empowerment**
 - **Description:** This course designed by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau introduces students to the tools needed for answering financial questions and overcoming barriers/concerns regarding their present and future financial needs. 9 modules will explore the areas of setting goals and planning for large purchases, saving for emergencies, tracking and managing income, paying bills and other expenses, budgeting, dealing with debt, understanding credit reports, money services, card and loans, and protecting their money.
 - **Benefit/Result:** Certificate of Completion
 - **Duration:** Four Weeks
 - **Location:** OCC

Overall Program Description: Our organization's mission and the objectives of ReConnect2Success, our reentry program, relates to increasing public safety and reducing recidivism by helping men and women returning from prison gain skills, connect with resources, and grow their capacity to become self-sufficient so they are no longer vulnerable to engaging in behaviors that cause them to reoffend or prey on the community. Our program's primary purpose is to help increase the reentry success rate of returning men and women by providing them with the support to help them reach their full potential while recognizing the concerns of public safety.

Program Areas

- **Orientation/Pre-Release Reentry Support/Post-Release Reentry Support/Ready for Work**
 - **Description:**
 - ReConnect2Success (R2S) is a comprehensive reentry program that provides support and services to help clients navigate reentry barriers with focus on employment.
 - Client is referred to program by parole, probation, community partners, or voluntary walk-in.
 - Client participates in **Orientation** Workshop that focuses on helping client identify and address overall reentry barriers and develop a reentry plan.
 - Client must complete the Orientation Workshop to participate **Ready4 Work**-Job and Career Readiness workshop to prepare clients for the world of work with emphasis on employment readiness and job retention skills.
 - Client participates in **Reentry Support** to help client manage reentry plan, meet reentry goals and effectively utilize available community resources
 - **Benefit/Result:** To help clients begin to develop skills to make them more successful in the labor market
 - **Duration:** Workshop plus ongoing support. In 4-6 weeks, we hope to have participants employed.
 - **Location:** ReConnect2Success Office

- **One-Day Success Prep Workshop**
 - **Description:** Life Skills Program offered only once while visiting WEC facility
 - **Benefit/Result:** Certificate
 - **Duration:** One day
 - **Location:** WEC

- **Success Prep**
 - **Description:** Success Prep is a 5-week life skills program offered in LCC, NSP, TSCJ, CCCO, OCC, and NCYF. Client enrolls in the class or is assigned to the class. Intake is completed during the first class, and participant becomes a client. Upon completion of Success Prep, Client may participate in pre-release reentry support. Client is assisted with developing transition and reentry plan, provided career and educational resources upon request and helped with identifying community resources for help upon release. Client is encouraged to engage with R2S upon release.
 - **Benefit/Result:** To help clients examine thinking skills and begin preparing for reentry and to help them look at their prison sentence as a positive experience for growth
 - **Duration:** 5 weeks with follow up support
 - **Location:** NDCS facilities

- **Final Number**
 - **Description:** The purpose of Final Number to prepare participants to take advantage of opportunities provided in prison to make this their final number. Client participates in Final Number, a two-week workshop. Upon completion, client is encouraged to enroll in Success Prep. Client may begin requesting reentry support and participate in Reentry Support Programming and will begin receiving help to develop reentry planning, explore job and career options, and hone life skills.
 - **Benefit/Result:** Help clients to shift their thinking regarding prison so they can take advantage of all opportunities to make this their final number. Also prepares clients to participate in Success Prep.
 - **Duration:** 2 weeks
 - **Location:** DEC only

- **Construction Tool Box Credentials**
 - **Description:** Provides training that leads to what the profession refers to as portable credentials in the construction industry.
 - **Benefit/Result:** To help participants gain entry level industry recognized credentials to maximize their opportunities for employment
 - **Duration:** 40 hours – 5 Days
 - **Location:** ReConnect2Success Office

- **Right Start**
 - **Description:** Right Start focuses on utilizing participant's Holland Code to identify job/occupational interests based on the Code and helps clients identify occupations/jobs based on their skills, interests, and experiences. This includes a career interest assessment and participants will be given the Holland Self- Directed Search Assessment, along with information and best practices for conducting an effective job search that will lead to employment in an area that matches their interest based on their Holland Code. Participants will then be instructed on how to use the US Dept. of Labor to identify occupations in the context of their criminal background, educational and skill level. ReConnect, Inc. will purchase five Occupational Outlook Handbooks and leave at CCCO for check out by participants.
 - **Benefit/Result:** Holland Code and ability to use the Department of Labor to identify occupations.
 - **Duration:** 3 week workshop
 - **Location:** CCCO

- **Pass It On**
 - **Description:** Beginning in September, ReConnect, Inc. will offer Pass It On, an intense 5-week Life Skills program that strictly focuses on personal development in terms of resiliency, problem solving, and communication. The unique feature of Pass it On is it targets men serving lengthy sentences up to life and prepares them to help change the culture of prison by developing themselves through inform education and self-development and it also teaches them facilitation skills so what they learn they may teach to others. Pass it On was developed to meet the needs of the men who participated in Success Prep, and liked the class, but failed to see how the class could help them because of the length of their sentences. Once the participants finish the course, they will go on to facilitate the course to further growth and development.
 - **Benefit/Result:** Pro-Social Skills
 - **Duration:** Five Weeks
 - **Location:** TSCI

Overall Program Description: ResCare's purpose is to assist people to achieve their highest level of independence, and this philosophy guides the nearly 50,000 employees of ResCare in every one of its lines of business. In our existing Nebraska reentry program, this purpose is expressed by RWS through our commitment to understanding each ex-offender's needs, addressing their unique barriers to employment, and offering them the post-incarceration support and motivation they need to move forward in their lives.

Program Areas

Get the Right Future/Pathway (includes the following components)

- **Weekly Job Search**
 - **Description:** Research local job listings and apply for positions as appropriate
 - **Benefit/Result:** Identify employment opportunities that are available. Gain meaningful employment.
 - **Duration:** 4 weeks
 - **Location:** Omaha, Norfolk, Gering

- **Master Application**
 - **Description:** Document that contains job seeker's skills, employment history, education and reference information
 - **Benefit/Result:** Accurate and complete employment applications with little need for research
 - **Duration:** 1 day
 - **Location:** Omaha, Norfolk, Gering, NCCW, NSP

- **Turnaround Letter**
 - **Description:** Letter to employer that describes the job seeker's conviction and subsequent personal and professional growth
 - **Benefit/Result:** Job seeker shares conviction information in a positive manner
 - **Duration:** One Day
 - **Location:** Omaha, Norfolk, Gering, NCCW, NSP

- **Resume PRO**
 - **Description:** ResCare online resume generator
 - **Benefit/Result:** professional and complete resumes in various styles that uses key words for recruitment search engines
 - **Duration:** 1 day
 - **Location:** Omaha, Norfolk, Gering, NCCW

- **NE WORKS Resume**
 - **Description:** Complete set of employment tools for job seekers including employment opportunities, resume posting, education, training, and labor market information
 - **Benefit/Result:** Networking, job opportunities, labor market education
 - **Duration:** over 4 weeks
 - **Location:** Omaha, Norfolk, Gering

- **Cover Letter Template**
 - **Description:** Provides a personalized introduction of the job seeker and position-specific skills, education, and employment history
 - **Benefit/Result:** Allows job seeker to tailor relevant skills and abilities directly related to the employment opportunity
 - **Duration:** 1 day
 - **Location:** Omaha, Norfolk, Gering, NCCW, NSP

- **2 Mock Interview & Turn Talk**
 - **Description:** Simulated job interview to prepare job seeker for future interviews
 - **Benefit/Result:** Reduces stress and anxiety related to interviewing. Provides feedback to the job seeker to prepare for future employer interviews. Provides accountability and opportunity to disclose conviction and share how conviction has positively impacted professional and personal growth.
 - **Duration:** 2 days
 - **Location:** Omaha, Norfolk, Gering, NCCW, NSP

- **Community Service (2 days)**
 - **Description:** voluntary work to help an organization
 - **Benefit/Result:** Opportunity for job seekers to provide service to the community to build mutual trust and respect. Allows job seeker to practice soft skills. Provides opportunity to observe and provide feedback regarding soft skills.
 - **Duration:** 2 days
 - **Location:** Norfolk

- **4 (minimum) ResCare Academy Certificates**
 - **Description:** online courses to close skill gaps and strength skill sets to prepare job seekers for employment
 - **Benefit/Result:** enhance and gain additional job readiness skills, soft skills and marketable skills. Job seeker demonstrates competency by a score of 80% or higher on learning test and receives a certificate of achievement
 - **Duration:** 4 weeks
 - **Location:** Omaha, Norfolk, Gering, NCCW

Overall Program Description: TRADE’s mission is to provide comprehensive services and opportunities to support low-income, high needs families and individuals as they strive to lift themselves out of poverty and achieve economic self-sufficiency. This is done by assisting other human service agencies that are providing for the social and economic needs of low-income, high needs families and individuals, providing for the emergency, basic needs of families through delivery of direct services, actively advocating for systemic changes through federal, state and local policy makers, developing and supporting educational programs, increasing job training, and improving computer skills for low-income workers.

Program Areas

- **Core Classes**
 - **Description:** The Core Schedule is held over a two-week period with participants spending four hours in class, five days a week. Core classes currently consists of the following: Effective Communication, Conflict Resolution, Workplace Etiquette, Personal Finance, Healthy Relationships, OSHA general industry, Basic Computers, Victim Impact, Workplace Diversity, and Relapse Prevention, Job prep (master application, resume, turnaround letter).
 - **Description as of 10/12/17:** The Core Schedule is held over a two-week period with participants spending four hours in class, five days a week. Core classes currently consists of the following: resume building, turnaround letter, cover letter, application checklist, and mock interviews.
 - **Benefit/Result:** Positive Workplace Attitudes and Behaviors, as well as personal responsibility. OSHA general 10-hour safety card, master application, resume, turnaround letter, communication workshop certificate.
 - **Duration:** Two Weeks, schedule varies when provided in facilities
 - **Location:** Center for People in Need, NSP*, LCC* (*Relapse prevention, OSHA not offered in facilities)

- **Family Support**
 - **Description:** The Center for People in Need provides yearlong case management and a multitude of community based support programs. These other support services include: daily food programs, emergency utility assistance, low income bus passes, healthcare enrollment and general assistance enrollment, city wide resource handbook, six major client give away events per year to include, back to school, and holiday specific events. Trade graduates earn bonus points through program participation to be used for household items such as, kitchenware, bedding, furniture, clothing, and cleaning supplies.
 - **Benefit/Result:** Support to overcome barriers to success
 - **Duration:** Indefinite based on federal low-income qualifications
 - **Location:** Center for People in Need

- **Office Professional Module**
 - **Description:** This training encompasses a wide variety of occupations that continues to be in growth distribution mode for the foreseeable future. There are a wide variety of occupations that fall under the heading of Office and Administrative Support Occupations. Example occupations are customer service representative, administrative assistants, retail salespersons and managers, insurance processing and claims clerks, dispatching and distribution workers to names a few. Our skill-building courses include but are not limited to the following topics: typing and keyboarding for business professionals, computer training, customer service training and business telephone etiquette, Microsoft Office software education and training. Each lesson will build on the lesson before it, utilizing a combination of classroom training and hands on scenarios in office settings.
 - **Description as of 10/12/17:** includes the above AND a Life Skills portion that is made up of budgeting, personal finance, communication, assertiveness, self-confidence, goal setting, and getting things done.
 - **Benefit/Result:** Technology and customers service skills, competency profile, certified typing test, and completion certificate
 - **Benefit/Result as of 10/12/17:** benefit above AND certificates for each individual life skill.
 - **Duration:** Six Weeks
 - **Location:** Center for People in Need

- **Forklift & Warehouse Operations Module**
 - **Description:** This training provides participants with skills in warehouse and dock safety, proper lifting techniques, handcart and pallet jack handling, pallet loading and stacking and inventory control. Successful program participants receive forklift certification, preparing them to enter directly into warehouse/forklift employment.
 - **Description as of 10/12/17:** includes the above AND a Life Skills portion that is made up of budgeting, personal finance, communication, assertiveness, self-confidence, goal setting, and getting things done.
 - **Benefit/Result:** Warehouse operation and workplace safety knowledge, forklift certification card
 - **Benefit/Result as of 10/12/17:** benefit above AND certificates for each individual life skill.
 - **Duration:** Six Weeks
 - **Location:** Center for People in Need

- **Welding Module**
 - **Description:** This training provides participants with skills in MIG welding techniques, vertical, horizontal, and pipe welding. Participant will also be provided with skills and techniques in grinding, Steele band saw cutting, and plasma cutting, preparing them to enter directly into welding/metal fabrication employment.
 - **Description as of 12/12/17:** includes the above AND a Life Skills portion that is made up of budgeting, personal finance, communication, assertiveness, self-confidence, goal setting, and getting things done.
 - **Benefit/Result:** Welding/Metal fabrication skills and knowledge, National welding safety certification.
 - **Benefit/Result as of 12/12/17:** benefit above AND certificates for each individual life skill.
 - **Duration:** minimum Three weeks/ Maximum Six Weeks
 - **Location:** Center for People in Need

- **Residential Construction & Building Maintenance**
 - **Description:** Construction carpentry skills training provides trainees with knowledge and skills in the use of carpentry tools and materials, rough carpentry and framing, exterior finishing, and interior finishing. The training will cover the use of hand tools, portable power tools, stationary power tools, wood and wood products, fasteners, blueprint reading and building codes, building layout, floor framing, wall and ceiling framing, the use of scaffolds and ladders, roof framing, windows and doors, interior finish, insulation and wall finish, and stair framing and finish. Training will occur in both the classroom and in the construction lab. Contextualized instruction will be used for construction carpentry skills.
 - **Description as of 10/12/17:** includes the above AND a Life Skills portion that is made up of budgeting, personal finance, communication, assertiveness, self-confidence, goal setting, and getting things done.
 - **Benefit/Result:** Equipment safety, workplace safety, skills for construction industry, competency profile, completion certificate
 - **Benefit/Result as of 10/12/17:** benefit above AND certificates for each individual life skill.
 - **Duration:** Six weeks; **Location:** Center for People in need
 - **Location:** Center for People in Need

PREPARED PLACE

Overall Program Description: Hope of Glory Ministries brings restoration and hope to homeless and addicted individuals in the Greater Omaha Area by providing family support, housing, employment, spiritual support, and substance abuse counseling services. Our purpose is to assist individuals and families to attain self-sufficiency through spiritual awareness programs, rehabilitation programs, life skills, career development and job training. Hope of Glory's Prepared Place program is a transitional living facility offering prisoner re-entry supportive services and substance abuse treatment, serving men and women who would otherwise be homeless during their transition from incarceration, on parole, or under supervision of State/ Federal Probation back into the community. Our mission directly aligns with the NDCS's call for non-profit community-based organizations to provide life skills training that prepares such individuals for and results in meaningful employment. The mission statement embodies our systemic approach, attending not only life skills, career development and job training, but also by providing basic needs supports for family, housing, spiritual and substance abuse counseling. **Note:** William's Prepared Place rebranded to Prepared Place in March 2017.

Program Areas

- **Heart Phase**
 - **Description:**
 - Two month minimum & four month maximum
 - 90 days restriction
 - Assigned to counselor
 - Intake screening paperwork completed
 - CD evaluation completed
 - 30-day treatment plan
 - Review and demonstrate understanding of rules, policies, and guidelines
 - **Benefit/Result:** Transition to Soul Phase
 - **Duration:** Two-four months
 - **Location:** Prepared Place

- **Soul Phase**
 - **Description:**
 - Two month minimum & four month maximum
 - Adapt to the program's community, principles and environment
 - Demonstrate acceptance of the program's principles and culture
 - Gain employment or participate in community service
 - Regular completion of power statements, gratitude lists, daily inventory
 - Weekly budget completed
 - **Benefit/Result:** Transition Certificate
 - **Duration:** Two-four months
 - **Location:** Prepared Place

- **Mind Phase**
 - **Description:**
 - Two month minimum & four month maximum
 - Advanced participation actions
 - Service work completed
 - Role model for new program members
 - Community give back
 - Relapse prevention plan completed
 - **Benefit/Result:** Transition to strength phase
 - **Duration:** Two-four months
 - **Location:** Prepared Place

- **Strength Phase**
 - **Description:**
 - Aftercare actions
 - Confirm pre-discharge/discharge plan
 - Floor leader
 - **Benefit/Result:** Graduation certificate
 - **Duration:** Two-four months
 - **Location:** Prepared Place