

prison entrepreneurship

program

RE-ENTRY SCHOLARSHIPS

pep.org

Former NFL Coach Tom Landry once said, "A coach is someone who tells you what you don't want to hear, who has you see what you don't want to see, so you can be who you have always known you could be."

This wisdom resonates deeply with us at PEP as we empower individuals on their journey from incarceration to full reintegration into society. Our approach transcends the ordinary yard markers of traditional re-entry programs.

We do not just prepare our participants for the "game" of life after release; we stand shoulder to shoulder with them on the field. Our post-release services are one cornerstone to our remarkable 90+% success rate, and serve as the essential and reliable bridge that guides our participants toward achieving a middle-class life.

The core elements of our Re-entry Services package are:

Encouraging Executive Volunteers: These catalysts for transformation breathe life, hope and confidence into participants.

Wisdom: Our Life Caddies, all very experienced PEP staff, are returning citizens themselves and offer invaluable guidance and advice throughout the re-entry process.

Housing: Our transition homes, free for the first two weeks, are much more than simply beds. They are strategic assets that protect and nurture the PEP culture of character built inside and create the strong sense of community to launch our men with strength into their new life.

Employment: Our extensive network of employer relationships fast-tracks our participants to gainful employment.

Documents: We provide crucial assistance in obtaining state IDs and birth certificates, enabling legal employment. Public Assistance: We connect participants to essential services such as food stamps, healthcare, and vision care, fostering well-being and economic stability.

Education: Our volunteer-led weekly classes cover a range of personal and professional topics while building a sense of community among participants and volunteers.

PEP's intensive case management support extends for 90 days post-release, with ongoing assistance continuing for at least a year to ensure successful reintegration and sustained personal growth. These services drive speed to employment – less than 25 days after release for more than 13 years running – an average hourly starting wage of almost \$17 in 2023, and a remarkable two-thirds reduction in recidivism.

Expected growth of PEP's OnLine participant pipeline next year is directly increasing our need for another 100 Re-entry Scholarships.

Our cost per participant for re-entry services currently stands at \$4,000. However, our growth trajectory will unlock economies of scale leading to a reduction in the cost per participant to \$3,000 per graduate served, and a key budget requirement for \$300,000 to provide the 100 new Scholarships we need.