

# Re-entry Training Programs

## Overview

Established in 1999 through the passage of Ballot Measure 68, Oregon Corrections Enterprises (OCE) is a semi-independent organization, whose administrator reports to the director of the Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC). OCE plays an important role in carrying out Ballot Measure 17, the constitutional mandate to engage male and female adults in custody (AICs) in meaningful work. ***By statute, OCE is funded solely through the sales of its products and services.***

The mission of OCE, in partnership with DOC, is to promote public safety by providing AICs with meaningful work experience in a self-sustaining organization. OCE plays an important role in implementing DOC's Oregon Accountability Model (OAM). The OAM is a cohesive strategy to reduce recidivism and influence AICs to make effective changes, leading to better outcomes. Through the development of positive work ethics and job skills, OCE assists AICs in their transition to realizing their potential as productive citizens, creating positive outcomes, while contributing to society and their families.

## People, Programs, and Services

The history of the Oregon prison system has included using AIC labor to meet operational needs, while providing various work and training opportunities for the AIC population. In keeping with state mandates and national trends, Oregon Corrections Enterprises, as part of the Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC), has incorporated training curricula into its work programs which are designed to help develop work skills in preparation for community re-entry. The emphasis is to maintain OCE manufacturing and service operations, while enabling participants in OCE programs to train using evidence-based practices.

Overseeing this effort is the People, Programs, and Services Unit. A vital element of the unit's work is the re-entry preparation component of the Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI) and Work Skills Certification programs. Whether BOLI or Work Skills Certification program,

applicants must meet the following criteria to be eligible for program participation:

- 1) six months clear conduct; 2) no positive urinalysis tests in the preceding twelve months; 3) possess a high school diploma, GED certificate, or be in the process of obtaining a GED within a specified period of time; and 4) be compliant with all other institution programming.

## Work Skills Certification (WSC)

Similar to the Federal Job Corps model, participating AICs gain entry-level experience with technical and industry-specific skills as well as develop pro-social skills and work ethic. They learn decision-making, social interaction, teamwork, reliability, and accountability. The programs strive to duplicate a real-world experience to prepare AICs for job readiness on the outside.

OCE administers industry-recognized Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI) training programs. Through these programs, qualified AICs develop the skills and attitudes needed to enhance their opportunities to secure employment upon release.

## Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI)

Partnering with Oregon BOLI and the DOC Work-Based Education team, OCE began offering BOLI training programs in 2015. These training programs combine a curriculum with a minimum of 2000 hours of hands-on training as well as 135 hour of related classroom training. Upon completion of all program requirements, those enrolled receive a certificate issued by the U.S. Department of Labor. This certificate is recognized nationwide and does not carry the stigma of training while incarcerated, thus reducing one the hurdles faced by those have served their time inside the walls.

## Re-entry

The goal for work and training participation is to build AICs' confidence and skills in preparation for re-entry into their community. OCE works in partnership with

DOC to share information and programs in order to develop the most effective use of resources in preparing AICs for re-entry. OCE is also represented in a variety of community based re-entry committees consisting of state and local community leaders and employers who, in concert with the Governor's Re-entry Council, develop plans to provide release assistance to AICs.



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