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Workforce Alliance Receives \$1.4 Million U.S. DOL Grant For Adult Ex-Offender Re-Entry Program

*Pathway Home grant will serve adults transitioning from
New Haven Correctional Center*

NEW HAVEN, Conn. – June 30, 2021 – Workforce Alliance is one of only four workforce boards in the country to receive a Pathway Home grant from the U.S. Department of Labor. The \$1.4 million grant will support the Greater New Haven Pathway Home Project and assist in the reintegration, employment, and long-term self-sufficiency of adult ex-offenders in the 30 municipalities in the South Central Workforce Region.

“Workforce Alliance has a long history of leadership supporting career opportunities for people transitioning from the criminal justice system through our Next Steps for Re-Entry program,” said Bill Villano, President & CEO of Workforce Alliance. “This funding allows us to reinvigorate our programming and provide a ‘one-stop’ location for ex-offenders to receive services in the region.”

Under the grant, the Greater New Haven Pathway Home Project will serve 150 adults transitioning from the New Haven Correctional Center (NHCC) back home to South Central Connecticut. Over the next 3.5 years the project will improve rates of employment, earnings, industry credential attainment and skills while reducing recidivism.

Since 2003, Workforce Alliance has made more than 2,100 placements into employment through its [Next Steps for Re-Entry program](#). Workforce Alliance successfully established an American Job Center within the Whalley Avenue facility in 2016 and served over 200 inmates before COVID-19 forced the program’s suspension. Pathway Home also integrates with the Reentry Welcome Center (RWC) in New Haven opened in February 2021 to provide a “one-stop” location for ex-offenders to receive reentry services in the region.

Many ex-offenders transition to the New Haven Correctional Center within the last 6 months of their sentence. Pre-release workforce services available to NHCC inmates through the New Haven Pathway Home Project will include a needs assessment, case management, Individual Development Plans, job-readiness workshops and job preparation. Post-release services will leverage best practices from previous U.S. DOL investments and include short-term pre-apprenticeship training in demand-driven industries including manufacturing and building trades as well as paid work experience and on-the-job training.

Workforce Alliance has established re-entry program partnerships with the City of New Haven, CT Department of Corrections, Project M.O.R.E., Columbus House, Now Counseling, New Haven Legal Assistance, John J. Driscoll United Labor Agency, Gateway Community College, EASTCONN and re-entry friendly employers like Aerotek, Cable Management, Iron Workers Union and Penn Globe. A Next Steps for Re-Entry program [video overview is available here](#).

In all, U.S. DOL awarded more than \$85.5 million in grants this week, \$60.9 million for 22 Pathway Home grants that will support expanded services to eligible, incarcerated individuals in state correctional facilities and local jails prior and post-release to help eliminate the gap between release and enrollment into re-entry programs that lead to employment.

About Workforce Alliance

Workforce Alliance is the policy and oversight organization responsible for creating a comprehensive, community-wide response to the challenges of building a highly skilled workforce in South Central CT, which comprises 30 towns. Board members include business owners, local elected officials, education and community leaders in order to meet changing local needs and shifting national economic and workforce trends. Workforce Alliance oversees four American Job Center South Central CT locations in New Haven, Meriden, Middletown and Hamden. For more information visit workforcealliance.biz

South Central CT includes 30 towns: Bethany, Branford, Chester, Clinton, Cromwell, Deep River, Durham, East Haddam, East Hampton, East Haven, Essex, Guilford, Haddam Hamden, Killingworth, Madison, Meriden, Middlefield, Middletown, Milford, New Haven, North Branford, North Haven, Old Saybrook, Orange, Portland, Wallingford, West Haven, Westbrook and Woodbridge.

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