

ACE OF FLORIDA
CONFERENCE
OCTOBER 2020

A BRIDGE TO THE FUTURE:
ADULT LITERACY FROM
PRISON TO
PROSPERITY

Presented by Jeffrey Abramowitz, JD



Never judge a book by its' cover.



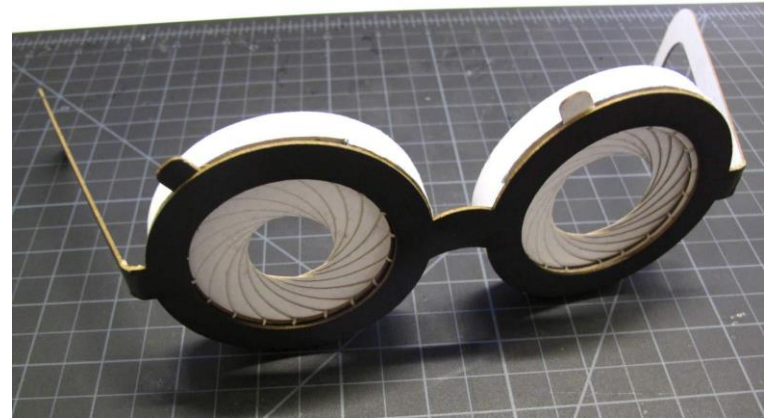

Jevs
HUMAN SERVICES®
Making hope happen.®

COABE
COALITION ON ADULT BASIC EDUCATION



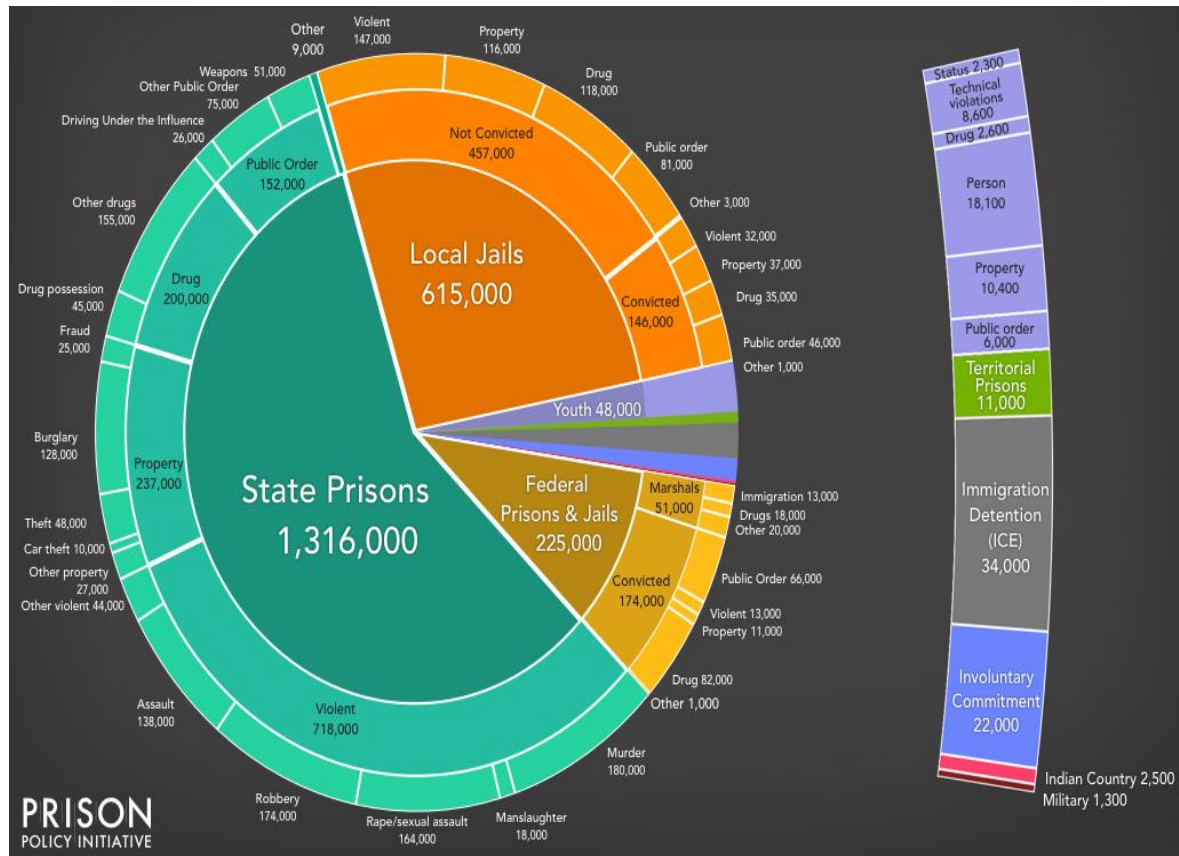
I believe:

We need to see the world
with different glasses.



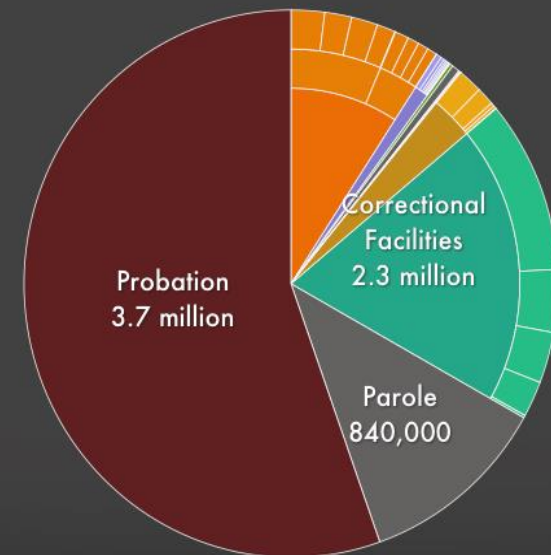
“If you change the way you look at things,
the things you look at change.”

The Whole Pie



Incarceration is just one piece of the much larger system of correctional control

The U.S. justice system controls almost 7 million people, more than half of whom are on probation.



There are over 44,000 barriers to employment, education, housing, loan borrowing and licensing, among many other categories.

47% of all current jobs are at risk for automation or other technology-based elimination

Low literacy levels cost the US economy \$2.2 trillion per/year in GNP (

70-100 MILLION

People are in the national criminal record database!



The unemployment rate for formerly incarcerated people stands at:

27%

That is higher than peak unemployment during the great depression!

(8.4% today)

"Laying the Groundwork: How States Can Improve Access to Continued Education for People in the Criminal Justice System".



I Believe: **The Answer**

Education & Skill Training &
Innovation

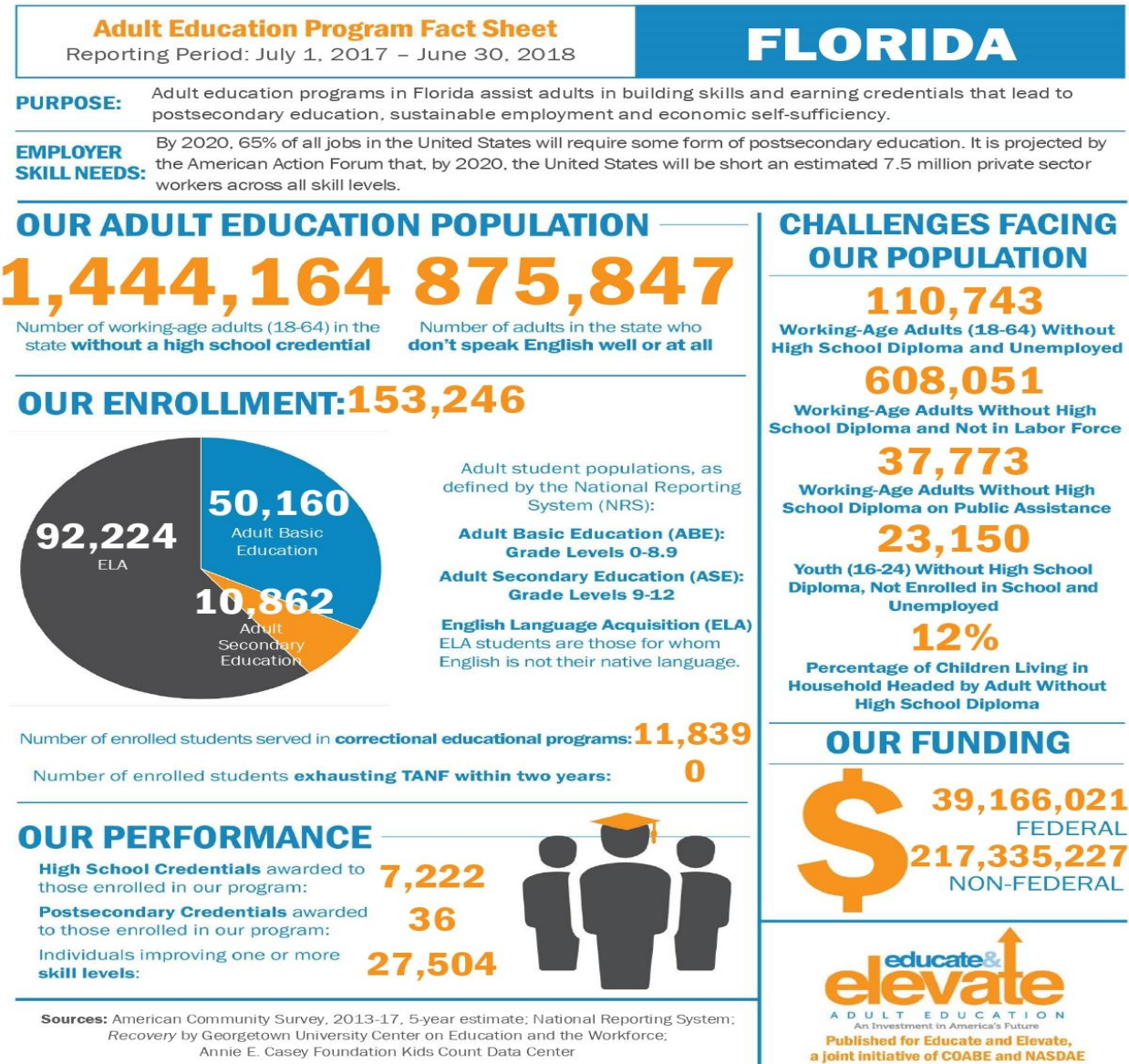


Why education/skill development and a career pathway matter!

- **Low skilled adults are 8X more likely to be incarcerated**
- **Providing “ANY” form of educational programming in prison provided a 43% “BETTER” chance of not going back**
- **By 2020, 63% of all US jobs will require education beyond high school**

Just the facts:

- https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1DsRw_sdmonrFQJ75CY04ymw_McM32F32





THE “PREGAME” (Pre & Reentry)

THE
EQUIPMENT

THE GAME
PLAN

THE TEAM

THE
EXECUTION

VICTORY:
Generational
Impact

The Whole Game (of Trick Plays)

Wrap Around Services

Transitional Housing

Education

Skill
Training/Employment

Basic Needs:
Identification, clothing,
transportation

Medical & Addiction
Support

Legal Support

COVID 19 Behind & Beyond the Walls



When G-d hands
you lemons, you
need to make
lemonade.

<https://www.themarshallproject.org/2020/05/01/a-state-by-state-look-at-coronavirus-in-prisons>

THE EQUIPMENT:

Education &
Training Hold
the Key

DIGITAL LITERACY

SKILLS, TRAINING AND
EXPERIENCE

EDUCATION
(GED/ESL/COLLEGE)

OCCUPATIONAL TRAINING

**(Not just about how to have a career,
but how to keep one!)**



Innovation!

Digital literacy behind
the walls

Virtual reality training

Employer
Partnerships

Creative funding

The Play Book

Thinking (Being) Outside the Cell

Restoring
Education and
Learning Act
(REAL Act)

Active Employer
Engagement in
Education &
Training



Upskilling

TRAINING
(Skills/licensing/
ITA)

Innovation & Creativity In a COVID19 World

*Navigating Reentry... Into The
Workplace*

Pathways to Prosperity




jevs
HUMAN SERVICES®
Making hope happen.®

And the winner is...



Reentry Innovation In a COVID19 World

Looking Forward
PHILADELPHIA



Seeing the
world with
different
glasses





- “I see the world not as it is,
but as I hope it will be.”
- Jeffrey Abramowitz, JD

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THANK YOU!!