ACE OF FLORIDA CONFERENCE OCTOBER 2020

Making the Invisible Visible: Literacy Behind & Beyond the Prison Walls







Making hope happen.®

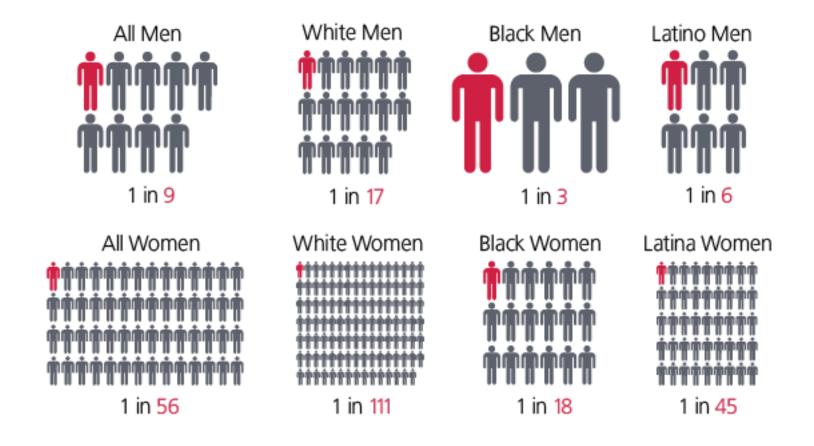


Presented by Jeffrey Abramowitz, JD

Let's Start With:

Are we asking the right question?

LIFETIME LIKELIHOOD OF IMPRISONMENT OF US RESIDENTS BORN IN 2001



113 MILLION

(1/2 of the Adults in the US)

People have an immediate family member who have been incarcerated.

A person without data is just another person with an opinion- Albert Einstein

636,000 CITIZENS ARE RELEASED EACH YEAR

(25,000 IN PHILADELHIA – 1 County)

MORE THAN 2/3 OF THOSE RELEASED WILL BE REARRESTED WITHIN 3 YEARS.

1/2 WILL GO BACK TO PRISON

Disability in our prison system:

Federal & state jails/prisons are home to 3 times as many people with mental health conditions as currently reside state hospitals!

- 1 out of 5 inmates have a serious mental illness
- (@60% of all inmates suffer from some form of behavioral, physical, or mental disorder)

The Consequences

43% of people living in homeless shelters have a disability

Unemployment rate is 3x that of national average

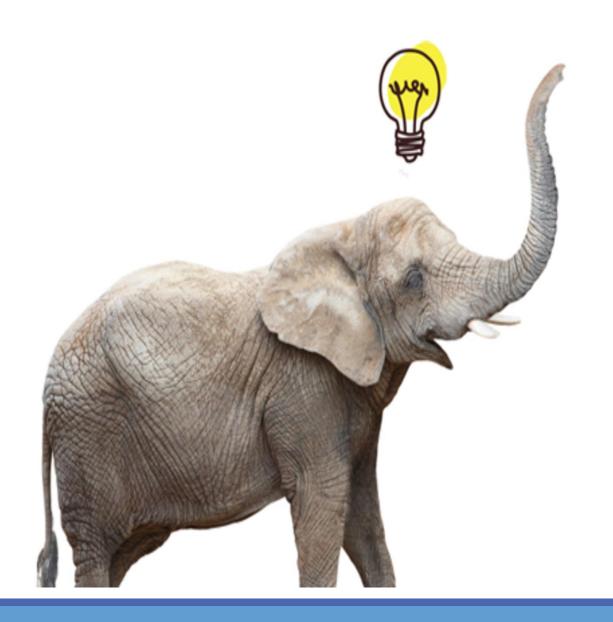
Disabled make 63 cents for every dollar paid to workers without a disability

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."





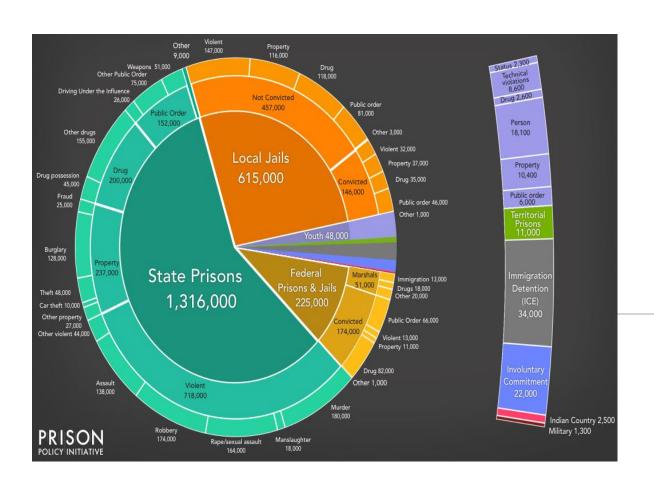


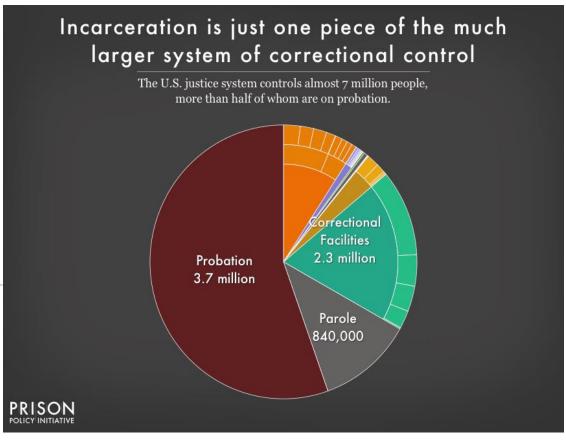


Literacy Behind the Walls



The Whole Pie







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



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".

Just the facts:

https://drive.google.com/drive /folders/1DsRw sdmonrFQJ75 CY04ymw McM32F32

Adult Education Program Fact Sheet

Reporting Period: July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018

FLORIDA

PURPOSE:

Adult education programs in Florida assist adults in building skills and earning credentials that lead to postsecondary education, sustainable employment and economic self-sufficiency.

EMPLOYER SKILL NEEDS:

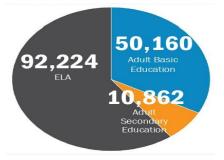
By 2020, 65% of all jobs in the United States will require some form of postsecondary education. It is projected by the American Action Forum that, by 2020, the United States will be short an estimated 7.5 million private sector

OUR ADULT EDUCATION POPULATION

Number of working-age adults (18-64) in the state without a high school credential

don't speak English well or at all

OUR ENROLLMENT: 153,246



Adult student populations, as defined by the National Reporting System (NRS):

Adult Basic Education (ABE): Grade Levels 0-8.9

Adult Secondary Education (ASE): Grade Levels 9-12

English Language Acquisition (ELA) ELA students are those for whom English is not their native language.

Number of enrolled students served in correctional educational programs: 11.839

Number of enrolled students exhausting TANF within two years:

OUR PERFORMANCE

High School Credentials awarded to 7,222 those enrolled in our program:

Postsecondary Credentials awarded to those enrolled in our program:

Individuals improving one or more skill levels:

Sources: American Community Survey, 2013-17, 5-year estimate: National Reporting System; Recovery by Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce; Annie E. Casey Foundation Kids Count Data Center

CHALLENGES FACING **OUR POPULATION**

110.743

Working-Age Adults (18-64) Without **High School Diploma and Unemployed**

Working-Age Adults Without High School Diploma and Not in Labor Force

School Diploma on Public Assistance

Youth (16-24) Without High School Diploma, Not Enrolled in School and Unemployed

Percentage of Children Living in **Household Headed by Adult Without High School Diploma**

OUR FUNDING

39,166,021 217,335,227 NON-FEDERAL





*I Believe:*The Answer

Education & Skill Training & Innovation

The Whole Picture

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

DIGITAL LITERACY

THE GLASSES REQUIRED:

Education & Training Hold the Key

SKILLS, TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE

EDUCATION

(GED/ESL/COLLEGE)

OCCUPATIONAL TRAINING

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



Digital literacy behind the walls

Virtual reality training

Employer Partnerships

Creative funding

Innovation!

Making the Invisible Visible

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







And the winner is...



Reentry Innovation In a COVID19 World







 "I see the world not as it is, but as I hope it will be."

Jeffrey Abramowitz, JD

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THANK YOU!!

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