

ACE OF FLORIDA
CONFERENCE
OCTOBER 2020

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



Presented by Jeffrey Abramowitz, JD

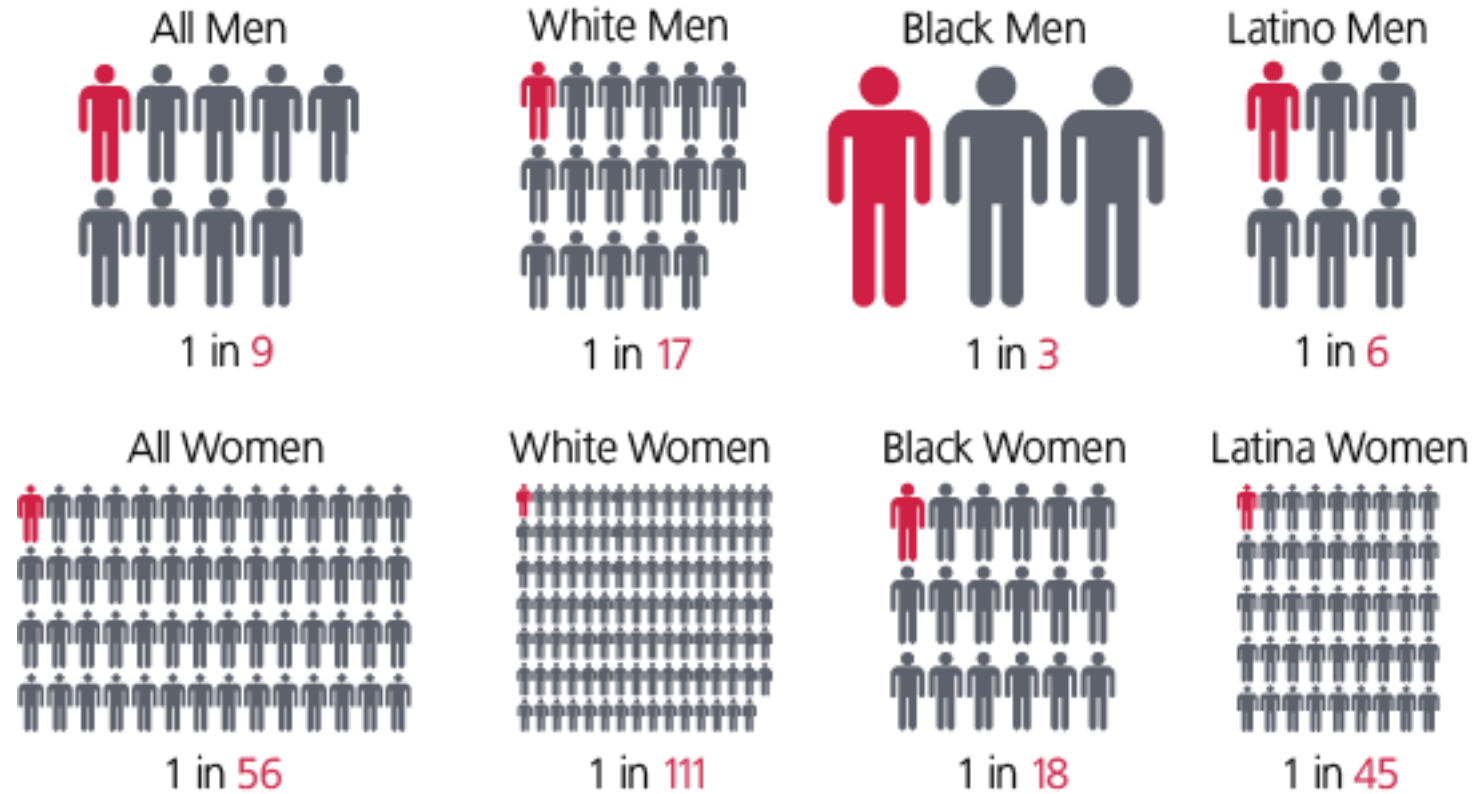
Let's Start With:

WHY...

Are we asking the right question?

A solid blue horizontal bar at the bottom of the slide.

LIFETIME LIKELIHOOD OF IMPRISONMENT OF US RESIDENTS BORN IN 2001



113 MILLION

People have an immediate family member who have been incarcerated.

(1/2 of the Adults in the US)

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

636,000 CITIZENS ARE RELEASED EACH YEAR

(25,000 IN PHILADELPHIA – 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)

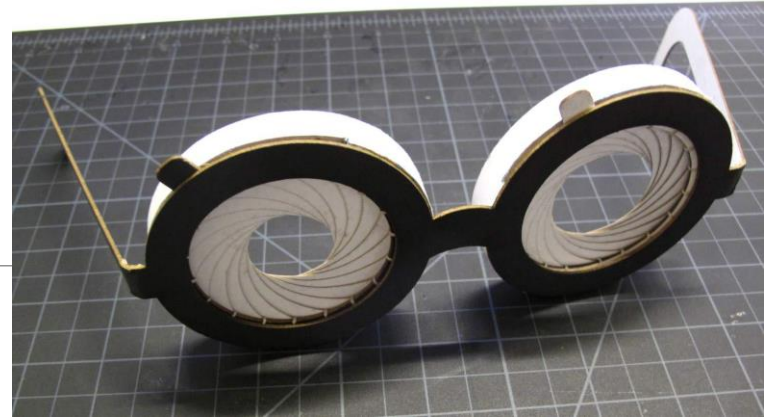
The Consequences

43% of people living in homeless shelters have a disability

Unemployment rate is 3x that of national average

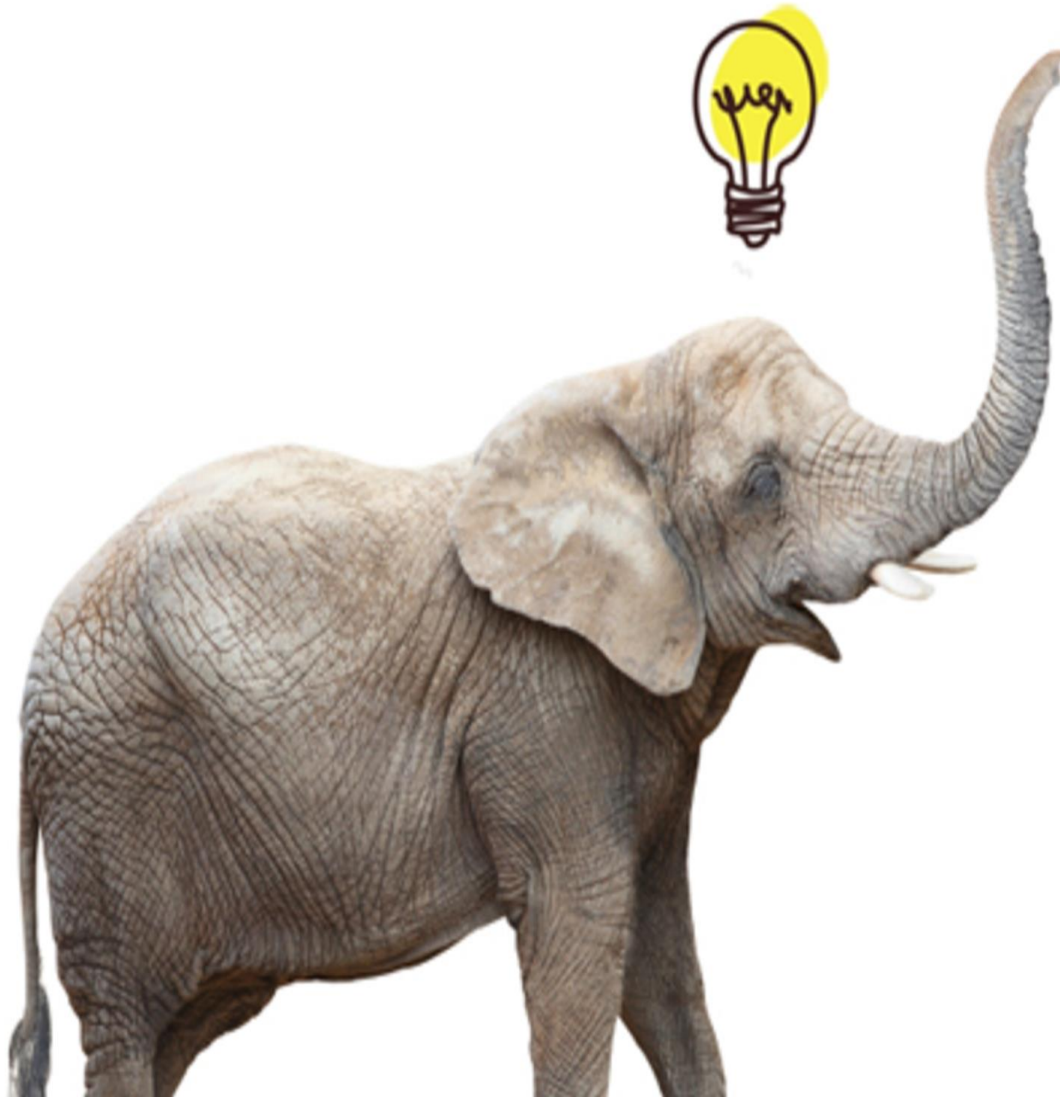
Disabled make 63 cents for every dollar paid to workers without a disability

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.”




Jevs
HUMAN SERVICES®
Making hope happen.®

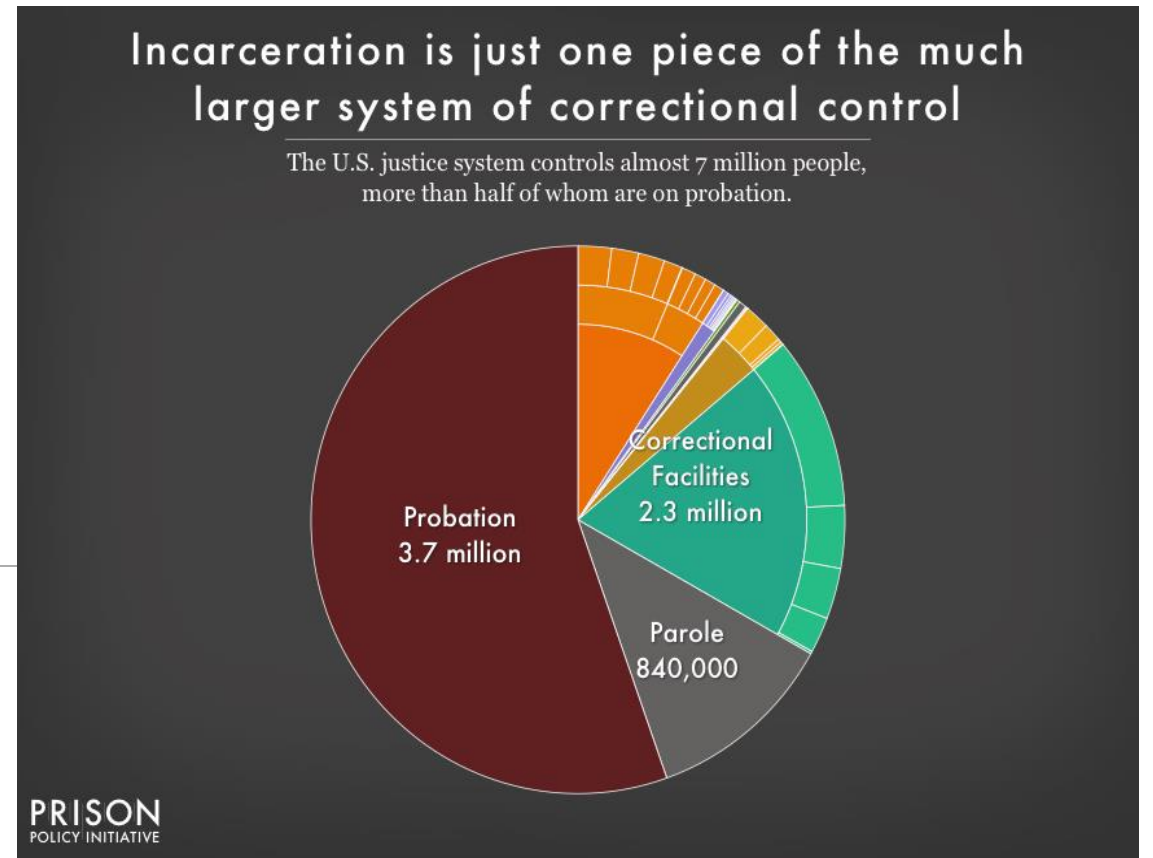
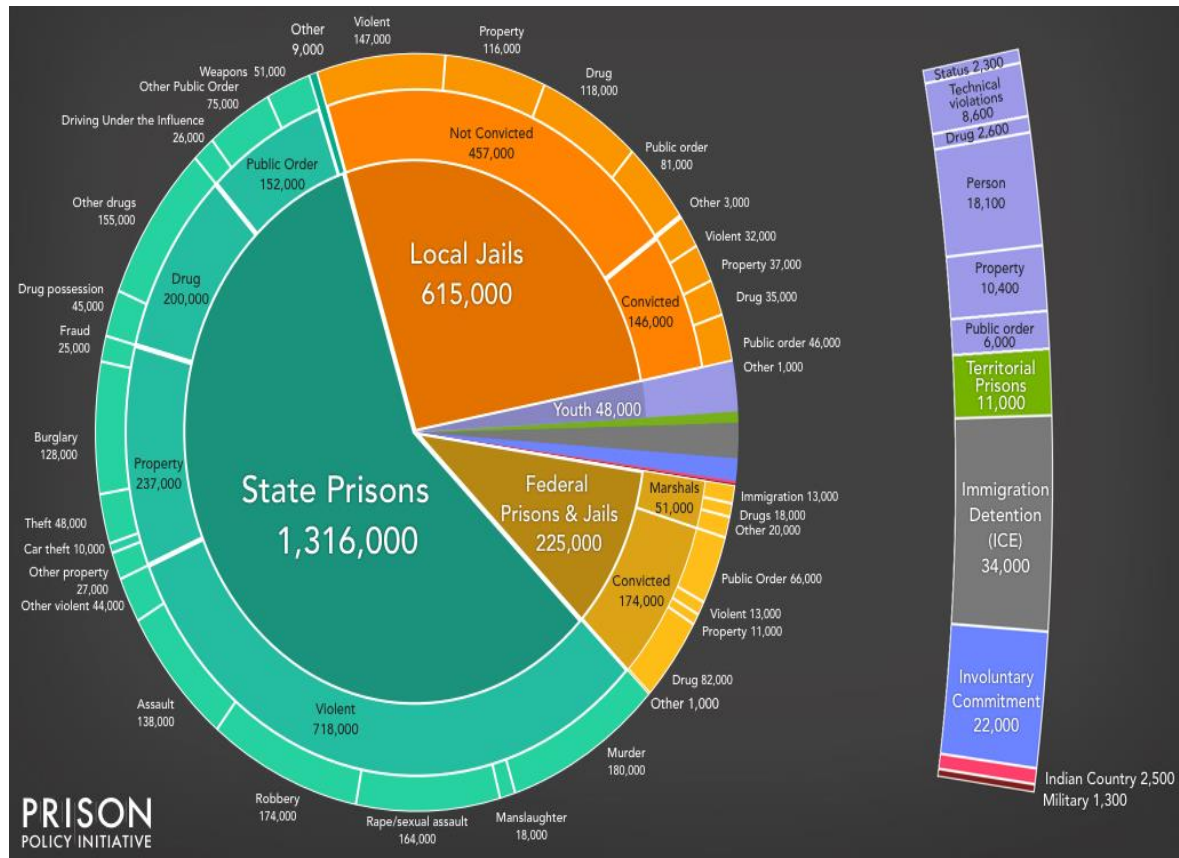
COABE
COALITION ON ADULT BASIC EDUCATION



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



Literacy After Release

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%

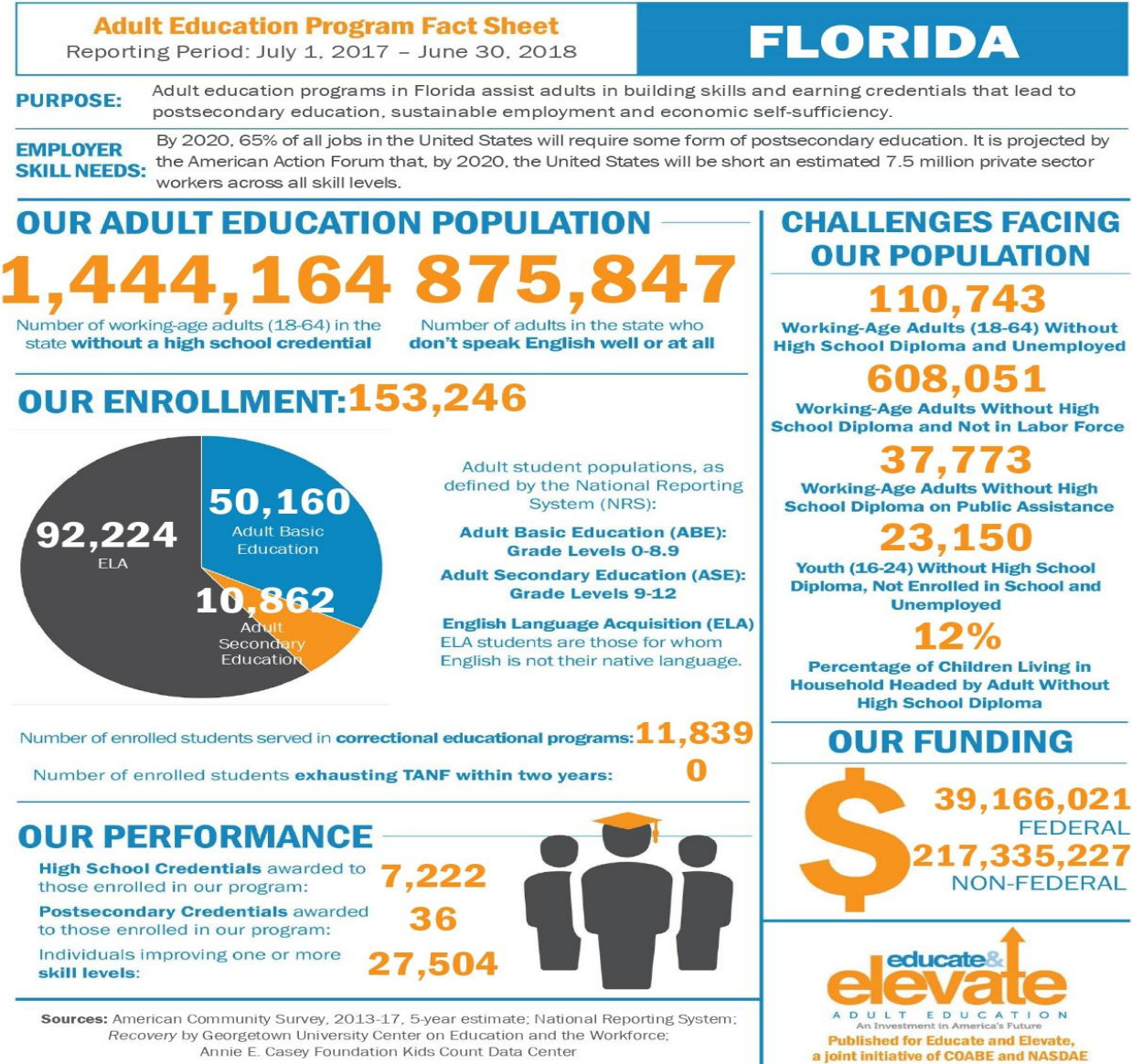
That is higher than peak unemployment during the great depression!

(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_sdmonrFQJ75CY04ymw_McM32F32





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>

THE GLASSES REQUIRED:

**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

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

Looking Forward
PHILADELPHIA



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

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THANK YOU!!