

Memorandum of Understanding
Between Opportunity Resource Services & Tarrant County Sheriff's Office

Purpose

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is initiated to define the parameters of an enhanced working relationship between Opportunity Resource Services (ORS) and the Tarrant County Sheriff's Office. The mutual intention of this partnership is to set up a holistic support system for incarcerated students, enabling them to access resources and support from second-chance education and employment programs. These programs, funded by the Bureau of Justice Administration through the Second Chance Act, aim to equip these individuals with the tools and knowledge essential for a smooth transition into society.

The services offered under this program will encompass assistance with acquiring necessary credentials for employment, mentorship, and employment placement services during the pre-release and post-release stages. Special attention will be directed towards individuals released into the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex area. This MOU will come into effect from the onset date of the grant award.

Roles & Responsibilities:

Opportunity Resource Services (ORS):

1. Oversee the implementation and delivery of education and employment programs approved by Tarrant County Sheriff's Office.
2. Provide approved resources and materials for students.
3. Facilitate mentoring and coaching sessions for students.
4. Support employment placement processes before and after release.
5. Coordinate with Tarrant County Sheriff's Office staff for seamless service delivery.

Tarrant County Sheriff's Office:

1. Provide necessary nonmonetary support and logistics to implement the programs within the correctional facilities.
2. Coordinate with ORS to ensure students have access to receive prerelease programming.
3. Aid in monitoring and evaluating the program by collecting independent participant feedback that can be shared with ORS.

Facilities Access:

1. ORS staff will have limited access to the correctional facilities during specified hours, which will be communicated and agreed upon in advance but are subject to change.
2. Should ORS not be able to conduct program activities within correctional facilities, an explanation and timeline will be provided.
3. With prior approval, equipment & supplies will be allowed to facilitate program services.

Data Elements & Performance Measures:

The aforementioned entities will collaborate on:

1. Establishing standardized performance measures to gauge the effectiveness and impact of grant activities.
2. Regularly reviewing and analyzing participant feedback to refine and enhance the program for better outcomes.
3. This MOU solidifies the commitment of both entities to work collaboratively for the benefit of the incarcerated population, aiming for their successful reintegration into society.

Scope of Services:

Under the provisions of this MOU, ORS will provide:

1. **Credential Assistance:** ORS will facilitate processes that assist incarcerated students in obtaining the essential credentials required for successful employment.
2. **College & Trade Program Admission Assistance:** ORS will support students in identifying and applying for regionally accredited colleges and trade programs. The focus will be on affordable programs at not-for-profit institutions that offer credentials of value that will lead to gainful employment.
3. **Financial Aid Assistance & Improved Financial Literacy:** ORS will assist with applying for Second Chance Pell and accessing financial aid by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), including navigating student loan repayment programs to help more incarcerated individuals become eligible for federal student aid.
4. **Mentoring & Networking:** ORS will establish mentoring programs that provide guidance, support, and networking opportunities for incarcerated students, connecting them to industry professionals.
5. **Employment Placement & Career Readiness:** Assistance will be provided to secure employment opportunities before and after release, ensuring a seamless reintegration into the community.
6. **Supplemental Support Services:** ORS will provide assistance connecting students to resources for housing, transportation, counseling, academic tutoring, and technology support.

Target Audience

This program is specially designed for individuals in custody with Tarrant County Sheriff's Office who will be reintegrating into the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex area.

Duration

This MOU shall be active from the beginning of the grant award. At the end of the grant term, both parties can review and decide on the continuation or alteration of the terms outlined in this MOU.

Review and Amendments

This MOU is subject to review on at least an annual basis or as deemed necessary by either party. Any amendments or modifications to the MOU will be done in writing and signed by the designated representatives of both parties.

Signatures

Notwithstanding any other provision of this MOU, the parties agree and understand that Tarrant County Sheriff Bill Waybourn, his successors in office, or his designees may, in their sole discretion, deny entry into the jail at any time to any agent of ORS. Either organization may terminate the MOU upon 60 days written notice without penalties or liabilities.

By signing below, both parties agree to the terms and conditions outlined in this Memorandum of Understanding.

For Opportunity Resource Services:

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Name (Printed): _____

Title: _____

For Tarrant County Sheriff's Office:

Signature: Bill E. Waybourn Date: 4-1-24

Name (Printed): Bill E. Waybourn

Title: Sheriff

SIGNED AND EXECUTED this _____ day of _____, 2024.

COUNTY OF TARRANT
STATE OF TEXAS

Tim O'Hare
County Judge
Tarrant County Commissioners Court

APPROVED AS TO FORM: 3-22-24

DeL. H. H.
Criminal District Attorney's Office*

*By law, the Criminal District Attorney's Office may only approve contracts for its clients. We reviewed this document as to form from our client's legal perspective. Other parties may not rely on this approval. Instead those parties should seek contract review from independent counsel.