

TEXAS

Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, TX 78711
P: 512.463.2000
I: <http://gov.texas.gov/>

Attorney General's Office
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REENTRY RESOURCES & ASSISTANCE

There are many government and nonprofit agencies that offer programs and services designed to enhance the post-release success of those returning to society after a term of incarceration. The agencies and organizations listed in this section were compiled as a starting point to assist those searching for assistance.

National Reentry Resource Directories

There are many national resource directories designed to assist individuals, families and communities in the reintegration process. As resources change frequently, the following is only a brief sampling of what may be available on a national level.

- American Civil Liberties Union, *Prisoners' Assistance Directory*
https://www.aclu.org/files/assets/2012_prisoners_assistance_directory.pdf
- Fair Shake Reentry Resource Center, *Reentry Packet*
http://www.fairshake.net/pdf/reentry_document_packet.pdf
- Federal Bureau of Prisons, *Employment Information Handbook*
http://www.bop.gov/resources/pdfs/emp_info_handbk.pdf
- Federal Bureau of Prisons, *National Directory of One-Stop Career Centers*
<http://www.nicic.gov/files/folders/4338/download.aspx>
- Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders, *Resources for Prisoners and Ex-Offenders in New England*
<http://www.glad.org/uploads/docs/publications/resources-for-prisoners-and-ex-offenders-in-ne.pdf>
- Inside Book Project, *National Resource Guide*
http://insidebooksproject.org/s/IBP-ResourceGuide_February2015.pdf
- Naljor Prison Dharma Service, *Resource Directory for Prisoners*
<http://naljorprisondharma.org/pdf/Resource%20Directory%20for%20Prisoners.pdf>
- Prison Book Program, *National Prisoner Resource List*
<http://www.prisonbookprogram.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/NPRL.pdf>

Local Reentry Resource Directories

In many communities, government and nonprofit agencies have developed reentry-specific resource directories to help individuals and their families locate community-based service providers. The following links provide access to directories available in your state.

<http://www.csgjusticecenter.org/reentry-services-directory>

<http://www.csgjusticecenter.org/nrrc>

National & Local Reentry Service Providers

There are many agencies throughout the United States that provide services to assist individuals, families, and communities with navigating the challenges of community reintegration. Services offered vary by agency and the availability of funding resources. If an agency does not provide the specific services or assistance you're looking for, request a referral to another agency that may be better equipped to meet your specific needs.

Fair Shake

Fair Shake Fair Shake is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to reducing recidivism rates through personal and community focused ownership and engagement opportunities for inmates and former felons. Through an interactive blend of electronic tools, reentry awareness and community building, Fair Shake encourages released prisoners, and all reentry stakeholders, to participate in the successful reintegration of formerly incarcerated people back into society. To learn more about Fair Shake and the resources available, contact them directly for a complimentary copy of their exclusive 98+ page Reentry Packet.

National Contact:

Fair Shake

P.O. Box 63

Westby, WI 54667

P: 608.634.6363

I: <https://www.fairshake.net>

E: outreach@fairshake.net (TRULINCS Friendly)

Additional Resources:

Fair Shake, Ready-to-Print Reentry Packet

https://www.fairshake.net/pdf/reentry_document_packet.pdf

Fair Shake, Ownership Manual

https://www.fairshake.net/pdf/8.5X11_ownership_manual.pdf

Federal Reentry Services Hotline | 877.895.9161

In April 2016, the U.S. Department of Justice in collaboration with the Federal Bureau of Prisons launched a new reentry services hotline to provide assistance to recently released individuals. This hotline is staffed by inmates employed by Federal Prison Industries (UNICOR) who are specially-trained to provide assistance to recently released federal inmates as they navigate various reentry challenges and seek community resources. For immediate assistance, please call 877.895.9196 to speak with a trained representative.

National H.I.R.E. Network

Established by the Legal Action Center, The National Helping Individuals with Criminal Records Re-enter through Employment Network is both a national clearinghouse for information and an advocate for policy change.

National Contact:

National H.I.R.E. Network

225 Varick Street

New York, NY 10014

P: 212.243.1313

I: <http://www.hirenetwork.org>

Additional Resources:

National H.I.R.E. Network, Information & Assistance Clearinghouse

<http://www.hirenetwork.org/clearinghouse>

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Association of X-Offenders, Inc.

<http://www.xoffenders.org>

The Association of X-Offenders, Inc. provides self-help support groups, information, referrals, mentoring, and religious ministry.

Local Contact:

Association of X-Offenders, Inc.

219 East William Joel Bryan Parkway, P.O. Box 3785

Bryan, TX 77805

P: 979.775.9200

Bridging the Gap Ministries

<http://www.bridgingthegap.com>

Bridging the Gap Ministries is a nonprofit organization that provides multiple services to the previously incarcerated and their families.

Local Contact:

Bridging the Gap Ministries

P.O. Box 131747

Tyler, TX 75713

P: 903.539.6797

Citizens United for Rehabilitation of Errants

CURE, Citizens United for Rehabilitation of Errants is a national nonprofit prison advocacy organization with state and special interest chapters throughout the United States. Local and special interest chapters provide assistance to ex-offenders on a limited basis within their respective service areas.

Local Contact:

Citizens United for Rehabilitation of Errants

P.O. Box 372

Burleson, TX 76097

P: Not Provided

Crime Prevention Institute

The Crime Prevention Institute provides post-release services including supportive resources, job placement services, employment monitoring and incentives, follow-up and information and referral services.

Local Contact:

Crime Prevention Institute
Targeted Project Re-Enterprise
8401 Shoal Creek Boulevard
Austin, TX 78763
P: 512.502.9704

Diocese of Beaumont Criminal Justice Ministry
<http://www.dioceseofbmt.org>

The Diocese of Beaumont offers an extensive selection of programs and services to recently released ex-offenders and their families through their Criminal Justice Ministry.

Local Contact:

Diocese of Beaumont Criminal Justice Ministry
P.O. Box 3948
Beaumont, TX 77704
P: 409.838.0451

Encompassing Reentry Ministries and Outreach
<http://www.prisonministry.net>

The Encompassing Reentry Ministry and Outreach program provides services to previously incarcerated individuals and their families.

Local Contact:

Encompassing Reentry Ministries and Outreach
P.O. Box 851587
Mesquite, TX 75185
P: Not Provided

Exodus Ministries, Inc.

<http://www.exodusministry.4t.com>

Exodus Ministries, Inc. provides aftercare and transitional services to people with criminal records by providing a place to live, employment training and placement, life skills and transportation.

Local Contact:

Exodus Ministries, Inc.
4630 Munger Avenue, #10
Dallas, TX 75204
P: 214.827.3772

Goodwill Industries of Dallas

<http://www.goodwilldallas.org>

Goodwill Industries provides training, skill development and work opportunities for people with disabilities and other barriers to employment.

Local Contact:

Goodwill Industries of Dallas
2800 North Hampton Road
Dallas, TX 75112
P: 214.638.2800

Goodwill Industries of Houston

<http://www.goodwillhouston.org>

Goodwill Industries of Houston offers assistance to individuals with criminal records who are referred to them by the Texas Rehabilitation Commission or Texas Workforce Commission. Instruction in soft skills, such as resume writing, interview techniques, and workplace responsibilities is given. Basic computer skills as well as basic accounting and finance techniques are taught. Job training for employment at Jiffy Lube is also available.

Local Contact:

Goodwill Industries of Houston
2030 Westheimer
Houston, TX 77098
P: 713.699.6311

Goodwill Industries of Southeast Texas and Southwest Louisiana

<http://www.goodwillbmt.org>

Goodwill Industries provides training, skill development and work opportunities for people with disabilities and other barriers to employment.

Local Contact:

Goodwill Industries of Southeast Texas and Southwest Louisiana
460 Wall Street
Beaumont, TX 77701
P: 409.838.9911

HoustonWorks USA

<http://www.houstonworks.com>

HoustonWorks USA is the largest operator of workforce centers in the Houston and greater Harris County region. These centers provide local access to job search and programs for adults 18 years and older. Three youth centers have been established within the Fifth Ward, Third Ward, and East End communities to address the unique job search concerns of youth between the ages of 14 and 25. Training is available in career fields such as healthcare, business, computers and education.

Local Contact:

HoustonWorks USA
600 Jefferson, Suite 900
Houston, TX 77002
P: 713.654.1919

MASS | (Mothers [Fathers]) for the Advancement of Social Systems, Inc.

<http://www.massjab.org>

Mothers [Fathers] for the Advancement of Social Systems, Inc. is a nonprofit organization that provides support services for individuals released from Texas State Prison. Services include, but are not limited to, assisting individuals in securing housing, employment, counseling, and any necessary support that eases reentry transition. In addition, Mothers [Fathers] for the Advancement of Social Systems, Inc. provides help with freeing innocent individuals who have been imprisoned.

Local Contact:

MASS | (Mothers [Fathers]) for the Advancement of Social Systems, Inc.
3737 Atlanta Street
Dallas, TX 75215
P: 214.421.0303

Mercy Heart

<http://www.mercyheart.org>

Mercy heart is a faith-based organization that assists families and children of the confined through and beyond the transition of incarceration towards mental, emotional, material and spiritual well-being.

Local Contact:

Mercy Heart
4805 Northeast Loop 820
Fort Worth, TX 76137
P: 817.514.0290

Morning Star Jail & Prison Ministry
<http://www.morningstar-baptist.org>

The Morning Star Jail & Prison Ministry is a service of Morning Star Baptist Church dedicated to providing services for previously incarcerated individuals and their families.

Local Contact:

Morning Star Jail & Prison Ministry
2251 El Paso
Grand Prairie, TX 75051
P: Not Provided

Saints of Christ Prison Ministry

The Saints of Christ Ministry is a faith-based program that offers services to recently released offenders and their families.

Local Contact:

Saints of Christ Prison Ministry
P.O. Box 111275
Houston, TX 77293
P: 281.449.2703

Welcome Home House

Welcome Home House is a recovery program for parolees that includes a structured drug free environment.

Local Contact:

Welcome Home House
921 North Peak Street
Dallas, TX 75204
P: 214.887.5204

Federal Residential Reentry Centers

Residential Reentry Centers, formerly known as Community Confinement Centers, are the Federal Bureau of Prisons' means of transitioning prisoners back into society. The general purpose of Residential Reentry Center placement is to assist those with transitioning needs in establishing a foothold in the community before being discharged from custody.

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Salvation Army
1726 Butternut
Abilene, TX 79604
P: 915.677.1408
McCabe Center CSC
1915 East Martin Luther King

Austin, TX 78702
P: 512.322.0925

Bannum Inc., Beaumont, Texas
1310 Pennsylvania
Beaumont, TX 77701
P: 409.835.7575

Reality House
405 East Washington
Brownsville, TX 78520
P: 956.541.2771

Bannum, Inc.
2801 South Port
Corpus Christi, TX 78405
P: 361.879.0047

Correctional Systems, Inc.
402 West Chapin Street
Edinburg, TX 78539
P: 956.383.0663

Dismas Charities, CSC
7011 Alameda Avenue
El Paso, TX 79915
P: 915.781.1122

Volunteers of America
2710 Avenue "J"
Fort Worth, TX 76105
P: 817.429.1087

Volunteers of America
2710 Avenue "J"
Fort Worth, TX 76105
P: 817.429.1087

Liedel Sanction Center
1819 Commerce Street
Houston, TX 77002
P: 713.224.0984

Volunteers of America
800 West Wintergreen Road
Hutchins, TX 75141
P: 972.225.5472

Bannum Place
2920 East Saunders
Laredo, TX 78041
P: 956.712.8783

Bannum, Inc.
2920 East Saunders
Laredo, TX 78041
P: 956.712.8783

CCC Dismas Charities
709 EAST 49th Street
Lubbock, TX 79404
P: 806.747.5055

Dismas Charities CSC
24 Industrial Loop
Midland, TX 79701
P: 915.686.9188

Crosspoint CSC
420 Baltimore Street
San Antonio, TX 78215
P: 210.225.0864

County Rehabilitation Center
313 Ferrell Place
Tyler, TX 75702
P: 903.593.3131

Salvation Army CSC
500 Fourth Street
Waco, TX 76703
P: 254.756.7271

PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION & DOCUMENT RESOURCES

Proper identification is an important part of any currently or previously incarcerated individual's community reintegration plan. Identification is required to open a bank account, take a driver's test, or get a job. For information about how to obtain proper identification, contact the following agencies.

Birth Certificate

A birth certificate provides proof of when and where you were born. A certified copy of your birth certificate can be useful when proving identify in certain situations, such as applying for a driver's license, identification card, social security card, health benefits, U.S. passport, or general assistance programs.

Application forms, fee schedules and specific eligibility requirements may be obtained by contacting the Office of Vital Records and Statistics in the state where the event occurred or by visiting <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/w2w/>.

State Contact:

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Department of State Health Services

Texas Vital Records

P.O. Box 12040

Austin, TX 78711

P: 512.776.7111

I: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/w2w/texas.htm>**Driver's License or Identification Card**

To apply for a current driver's license in your state of residence, and identification card, or an instruction permit, you may present a copy of an expired driver's license, instruction permit, or state identification card.

If you do not have one of the documents listed above, you must usually present one primary and one secondary document from your states approved document list. The primary document must contain your full legal name (first, middle, and last) and the month, day, and year of birth regardless of the state applying to. Each state has its own rules and regulations which can be learned by contacting them directly at the address below.

State Contact:

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Texas Department of Public Safety

Driver License Division

P.O. Box 4087

Austin, TX 78773

P: 512.424.2600

I: <http://www.dps.texas.gov>**Social Security Card**

Social Security is part of almost everyone's life, no matter what your age or social standing. If you have never applied for a social security card and are over the age of 12, you are required to apply in person and provide at least two documents to prove age, identity, and U.S. citizenship or current lawful work-authorized immigration status. To apply for a replacement card, you are required to provide one document to prove your identity. You may request an application form and local office information from the address below.

National Contact:

U.S. Social Security Administration

Office of Public Inquiry

6401 Security Boulevard

Baltimore, MD 21235

P: 800.772.1213

I: <http://www.socialsecurity.gov>

Additional Resources:

U.S. Social Security Administration, Application for a Social Security Card - Form SS-5

<http://www.socialsecurity.gov/online/ss-5.pdf>

U.S. Passport (Book and Card)

A valid U.S. passport is required to enter and leave most foreign countries. The Passport Services Office provides information and services to American citizens about how to obtain, replace, or change a passport. One's ability to apply for and obtain a U.S. passport is not automatically restricted as a result of a criminal conviction. However, as a condition of probation or supervised release, your ability to travel may be restricted. (Note: Individuals who owe more than \$2,500.00 in child support arrears may be restricted from receiving a U.S. passport.)

For additional information about how to obtain a new or replacement U.S. passport (book or card), visit www.travel.state.gov/passport or call the National Passport Information Center at 877.487.2778 and speak with a trained specialist.

National Contact:

National Passport Processing Center
P.O. Box 90155
Philadelphia, PA 19190
P: 877.487.2778

Additional Resources:

U.S. Department of State, U.S. Passport Application - Form DS-11
<http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/212239.pdf>

EMPLOYMENT & CAREER DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES

Today's job market is vast and forgiving. Individuals with criminal histories should be honest, realistic and focused when it comes to finding and securing employment. There are many employment related resources and tools available to those who wish to succeed. The following resources were selected as an introduction to the programs and services available to assist job seekers with obtaining gainful employment regardless of their background.

State Department of Labor Office

The State Department of Labor provides direct oversight of employment, training and career exploration delivery systems for individuals entering and reentering the workforce with a specific jurisdiction.

State Contact:

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Texas Workforce Commission
101 East 15th Street
Austin, TX 78778
P: 512.463.2829
I: <http://www.twc.state.tx.us>

State and Regional Offices of Apprenticeship

The U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Apprenticeship and Training provides oversight of state apprenticeship and training programs. Apprenticeship programs are a combination of on-the-job training and related instruction in which workers learn the practical and theoretical aspects of a highly skilled occupation.

State Contact:

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U.S. Department of Labor
Employment and Training Administration
Office of Apprenticeship
300 East 8th Street, Suite 914
Austin, TX 79701
P: 512.916.5435
E: goodson.dennis@dol.gov

American Job Center Website & Locations

American Job Centers provide a full range of assistance to job seekers in one convenient location. The following website is coordinated and administered by your state with guidance and funding provided by the U.S. Department of Labor under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

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<http://www.twc.state.tx.us/twc.html>

[Insert .PDF Document Here]

State Labor Market Information Office

The State Department of Labor's Labor Market Information Office provides a wide range of labor market information from regional wages for specific occupations to statistics on employment within a specific geographic area.

State Contact:

TEXAS

Texas Workforce Commission
Labor Market Information
9001 North IH-35, Suite 103A
Austin, TX 75753
P: 512.491.4800
I: <http://www.tracer2.com>

State and Specialized Job Bank Websites

Job Banks provide internet access to a wide range of job opportunities within a specific geographic area or occupational cluster.

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<https://wit.twc.state.tx.us/workintexas/wtx?>

State Federal Bonding Program Coordinator

The Federal Bonding Program provides fidelity bonding insurance coverage of between \$5,000 and \$25,000 to individuals with criminal histories and other high-risk job applicants to protect employers from loss or theft due to employee dishonesty.

State Contact:

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Texas Workforce Commission
Bonding Services Coordinator
101 East 15th Street, Room 440-AT
Austin, TX 78778
P: 512.463.9647
E: fidelity.bonding@twc.state.tx.us

Additional Resources:

U.S. Department of Labor, Federal Bonding Program: Answers to Questions about Fidelity Bonding
<http://www.bonds4jobs.com/assets/brochure.pdf>

UNICOR Bonding Program

Initiated in February 2006, the UNICOR Bonding Program provides a \$5,000 fidelity bond for employed ex-federal prisoners who worked in federal prison Industries (UNICOR) for at least six months during their incarceration. For additional information, contact the national UNICOR bonding specialist directly.

National Contact:

Federal Bureau of Prisons
Federal Prison Industries (UNICOR)
320 First Street, NW
Washington, DC 20534
P: 202.305.3972

Additional Resources:

U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Prisons, UNICOR's Federal Bonding Program Toolkit
<http://www.bop.gov/resources/pdfs/toolkit.pdf>

State Work Opportunity Tax Credit Coordinator

The Work Opportunity Tax Credit is a tax credit to reduce the federal tax liability of private sector employers. It is intended to be used as an incentive for employers to hire individuals with criminal histories and other target groups.

State Contact:

TEXAS

Texas Workforce Commission
Work Opportunity Tax Credit Coordinator

101 East 15th Street, Room 202-T
Austin, TX 78778
P: 512.305.9602
E: norma.martinez@twc.state.x.us

Minimum Wage Laws

Minimum wage laws in the United States are complicated and have many exceptions and variations. There are both federal and state minimum wage laws, yet each state sets its own minimum wage level, which may be higher or lower than the federal minimum wage. In general, where federal and state laws have different wage rates, the higher standard applies. State minimum wage data is available online at, <http://www.dol.gov/whd/minwage/america.htm>.

State Minimum Wage Rate: \$9.00 (Effective January 2016)
National Minimum Wage Rate: \$7.25 (Effective July 2009)

National Contact:
U.S. Department of Labor
Wage and Hour Division
200 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20210
P: 866.487.9243
I: <http://www.dol.gov/esa/whd/flsa/>

ADVOCACY & LEGAL RESOURCES

This section provides information and resources for anyone interested in gaining a better understanding of their criminal history and how it may impact their lives life beyond incarceration.

Criminal Record Repositories

Federal and state law enforcement agencies maintain criminal record repositories of criminal arrests, arraignments and convictions within their specific jurisdictions. Criminal record repositories should be contacted to ensure the accuracy of the information contained within a record and to identify who is legally entitled to access such records.

National Contact:
National Crime Information Center
1000 Custer Hollow Road
Clarksburg, WV 26306
P: 304.625.2000
I: <http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/background-checks>

State Contact:

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Texas Department of Public Safety
Access and Dissemination Bureau

Crime Records Service
P.O. Box 15999
Austin, TX 78761
P: 512.424.2474
I: <https://records.txdps.state.tx.us>

Legal Assistance & Information

If you need an attorney to advise or represent you, ask friends or family for recommendations. You can also contact the Lawyer Referral Service of your state bar association. Websites such as <http://www.abalawinfo.org> and <http://www.nolo.com> can help with answers to general legal questions. If you cannot afford a lawyer, you may qualify for free legal help from a Legal Aid or Legal Services Corporation office. These offices generally offer legal assistance for such things as landlord-tenant relations, family matters, Social Security, welfare, and workers' compensation. If the Legal Aid office in your area does not handle your type of case, it may refer you to other local, state, or national organizations for assistance.

National Contact:
National Legal Aid and Defender Association
1140 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 900
Washington, DC 20036
P: 202.452.0620
I: <http://www.nlada.org>

National Contact:
Legal Services Corporation
333 K Street, NW, 3rd Floor
Washington, DC 20007
P: 202.295.1500
I: <http://www.lsc.org>

Bar Associations

Bar associations are associations of lawyers. There are bar associations at the state and national level which accredit law schools and provide oversight of legal professionals within a specific geographic area. Bar associations provide the public with information about the law, courts and resources for legal issues. Upon request, many bar associations will provide assistance and referral information to those individuals without access to publically accessible legal resources.

National Contact:
American Bar Association
321 North Clark Street
Chicago, IL 60654
P: 312.988.5000
I: <http://www.americanbar.com>

State Contact:

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The State Bar of Texas

1414 Colorado

Austin, TX 78701

P: 512.463.1463

I: <http://www.texasbar.com>

Collateral Consequences

Defined as penalties imposed automatically or authorized but not automatically required to be imposed, collateral consequences are laws and regulations that serve as barriers to employment, housing, and other services that are essential to an individual's stability in the community. The American Bar Association has created a directory of state-specific collateral consequences entitled, National Inventory of the Collateral Consequences of Conviction which can be searched online at,

<http://www.abacollateralconsequences.org/>.

Voter Felony Disenfranchisement

There are millions of Americans prohibited from voting due to laws that disenfranchise individuals convicted of felony offenses. Felony disenfranchisement rates vary by state, as states institute a wide range of disenfranchisement policies. If you are interested in identifying what the official voting policy is within your state, please contact the voting authority listed below.

State Contact:

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Texas Secretary of State

Elections Division

P.O. Box 12060

Austin, TX 78711

P: 800.252.8683

I: <http://www.sos.state.tx.us>

Sex Offender Registries

Federal and state sex offender registries maintain and coordinate the registration of individuals convicted of certain sexual offenses within a specific jurisdiction. Registries may also provide registered sex offenders with information regarding their legal obligations under applicable laws and assist with understanding or addressing any issues related to offense classification. Each jurisdiction maintains its own sex offender registry according to both state and federal law. The Dru Sjodin National Sex Offender Public Website (NSOPR) which is available at, <http://www.nsopw.gov>, provides the public with access to sex offender data nationwide. For state specific information and assistance, contact the agency listed below.

State Contact:

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Texas Department of Public Safety

Sex Offender Registration

P.O. Box 4143

Austin, TX 78765
P: 512.424.2800
I: <https://records.txdps.state.tx.us>

VETERAN RESOURCES & ASSISTANCE

Veterans play a vital role in ensuring the strength of the United States by dedicating their lives to the safety and security of its citizens. Veterans and their dependents are entitled to a wide range of services and benefits based on their level and duration of service.

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs administers federal benefits for veterans and their families. Some programs include home loans, life insurance, financial assistance, job training, and health resources.

National Contact:
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
1722 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20421
P: 800.827.1000
I: <http://www.va.gov>

Additional Resources:

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Federal Benefits for Veterans, Dependents and Survivors
<http://publications.usa.gov/USAPubs.php?PubID=1050>

Health Care for Re-entry Veterans

The Health Care for re-entry Veterans Program is designed to address the community reentry needs of incarcerated veterans. A critical part of the Health Care for Re-entry veterans Program is providing information to veterans while they are incarcerated so they may plan for reentry themselves. To support this, programs administrators across the United States have developed state-specific resource guides which identify steps that veterans can take prior to their release.

National Contact:
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Office of Public & Intergovernmental Affairs
Homeless Veterans Program
810 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20420
P: 202.461.7384
I: <http://www.va.gov/homeless/index.asp>

Additional Resources:

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Health Care for Re-entry Veterans Specialist
<http://www.va.gov/homeless/reentry.asp>

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Health Care for Re-entry Veterans Guides

http://www.va.gov/homeless/reentry_guides.asp

Military Handbooks

Military Handbooks was launched with one simple goal - to give the Military community the very best information available about pay, benefits, retirement planning, education benefits, career decisions, and much more! And to provide it in a series of straightforward, easy-to-understand handbooks - for free! For more information visit, <http://www.militaryhandbooks.com>.

National Archives and Records Administration

Service members who have been discharged from military service and certain other interested parties are entitled to request, obtain and review personnel files stored at the National Archives and Records Administration. Records contained at the National Archives and Records Administration are an excellent means of proving military service for government program eligibility and in many instances can be used as identification when proving identity.

National Contact:

National Personnel Records Center

Military Personnel Records

1 Archives Drive

St. Louis, MO 63138

P: 314.801.0800

I: <http://www.narca.gov>

Additional Resources:

National Personnel Records Center, Request for Military Personnel Records - Standard Form 180

<http://www.archives.gov/research/order/standard-form-180.pdf>

TRANSPORTATION RESOURCES

Reliable transportation is vital to any successful reintegration plan. Whether it's a personal vehicle that you own, public transportation, or carpooling with friends and colleagues, transportation plays an important role in everyone's life.

National Driver Register

The National Driver Register was created to improve traffic and transportation safety by providing a nationwide database of problem drivers that assists state driver licensing agencies in identifying these individuals and assists employers in making hiring and certification decisions. To request a personal file check, contact the agency below.

National Contact:

National Driver Register

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE

Washington, DC 20590

P: 888.327.4236

I: <http://www.nhtsa.gov>

Additional Resources:

National Driver Register, NDR Personal File Check Request Form

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<http://www.apta.com/resources/links/unitedstates/Pages/TexasTransitLinks.aspx>

American Public Transportation Association

The American Public Transportation Association is a membership organization, representing rapid rail, and motor bus systems and manufacturers, suppliers, consulting firms and citizens. To locate public transportation options in your community, visit the "United States Local and State Transit Links" section of their website at, <http://www.apta.com/resources/links/Pages/default.aspx>.

FAMILY & RELATIONSHIP RESOURCES

The resources listed within this section were chosen for their ability to provide individuals with the tools and resources necessary to build healthy and productive relationships. Time spent separated from family and friends should be utilized to strengthen and enhance the relationship whenever possible.

Office of Child Support Enforcement

The Child Support Enforcement Program is a federal, state, and local efforts to locate parents, their employers and/or their assets; establish paternity if necessary; and establish and enforce child support orders. The Office of Child Support Enforcement has created a series of resources on how to modify a child support order in each jurisdiction. For specific information, please contact the office below for assistance.

National Contact:

Administration for Children and Families

Office of Child Support Enforcement

370 L'Enfant Promenade, SW

Washington, DC 20447

P: 202.401.9373

I: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/css/resource/reentry>

State Contact:

TEXAS

Texas Office of the Attorney General

Child Support Division

P.O. Box 12017

Austin, TX 78711

P: 800.252.8014

Additional Resources:

Office of Child Support Enforcement, Child Support Enforcement Handbook

https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/programs/css/child_support_handbook_with_toc.pdf

Office of Child Support Enforcement, Guide to Changing a Child Support Order

https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/programs/css/changing_a_child_support_order.pdf

The National Resource Center on Children and Families of the Incarcerated

The mission of the National Resource Center on Children and Families of the Incarcerated at Rutgers University is to raise awareness about the needs and concerns of children of the incarcerated and their families. If you would like information about programs and services available in your area, please visit the Directory of Programs Serving Children and Families of the Incarcerated available at,

<http://www/nrcfci.cambden.rutgers.edu/>.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS & RESOURCES

The pursuit of an academic course of study such as a high school diploma, General Educational Development diploma or post-secondary degree are important tools in the process of successfully reentering society and today's workforce.

Academic Programs

Community colleges, four-year colleges, and universities provide individuals with the opportunity to pursue an academic course of study. Most academic programs don't prepare for a specific job or profession. Instead, they are designed to provide a variety of skills to assist with succeeding in whichever career is chosen after graduation.

Community Colleges: To locate a community college in your area visit the American Association of Community Colleges' website at <http://www.aacc.nche.edu> and select the heading entitled "Find Your Community College."

Four-Year Colleges & Universities: To locate a four-year college or university in your community, visit, <http://www.collegeboard.com> and select the heading entitled "College Boards Free College Search Tool."

Advanced Degrees: The Princeton Review provides information on graduate programs across the United States through their website at, <http://www.princetonreview.com>.

Additional Resources:

U.S. Department of Education, Taking Charge of Your Future: Get the Education and Training You Need <http://www.edpubs.gov/document/ed005354p.pdf?ck=450>

High School Equivalency Program

The General Educational Development (GED) testing program was developed to give U.S. and Canadian citizens who have not graduated from high school the opportunity to demonstrate the level of achievement normally acquired through the completion of a traditional high school course of study. For additional information about the GED, call 800.626.9433 to find the nearest GED Testing Center or to locate your jurisdiction's GED Testing administrator, visit, <http://www.gedtestingservice.com/testers/ged->

[testing-administrator](#). Additionally, you may contact the address below for questions regarding your specific circumstances (e.g. transcript requests, duplicate certificates, etc.).

State Contact:

TEXAS

Texas Department of Education
GED Testing Program
1701 North Congress Avenue, CC350
Austin, TX 78701
P: Not Provided

Vocational Rehabilitation

Vocational Rehabilitation, a state-supported division of services, assists individuals with disabilities who are pursuing meaningful careers. Vocational rehabilitation assists those individuals to secure gainful employment commensurate with their abilities and capabilities through local job searches and awareness of self-employment and telecommuting opportunities. In addition to Vocational rehabilitation, some states have separate agencies service individuals who are blind and visually impaired.

National Contact:

U.S. Department of Education
Rehabilitation Services Administration
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202
P: 202.245.7468

I: <http://www.jan.wva.edu/sbses/vocrehab.htm>

State Contact:

TEXAS

Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services
4900 North Lamar Boulevard
Austin, TX 78751
P: 800.628.5115
I: <http://www.dars.state.tx.us>

Federal & State Student Financial Assistance

Federal student aid comes from the federal government - specifically, the U.S. Department of Education. Federal student aid is financial assistance for eligible students to pay for education expenses at an approved postsecondary school (e.g. college, vocational school, and graduate school). In addition to federal student aid, many state and local governments have student financial assistance options (e.g. scholarships, loans, and grants) that may be applied to reduce the overall financial burden to students within a specific community or geographic area. Contact the addresses below for more information.

National Contact:

Federal Student Aid Information Center

P.O. Box 84
Washington, DC 20044
P: 800.433.3243

I: <http://www.studentaid.ed.gov>

State Contact:

TEXAS

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
1200 East Anderson Lane
Austin, TX 78711
P: 512.427.6101
I: <http://www.thecb.state.tx.us>

Additional Resources:

U.S. Department of Education, Federal Student Aid for Incarcerated Individuals
<http://www.studentaid.ed.gov/students/attachments/siteresources/IncarcFAQ.pdf>

U.S. Department of Education, Funding Your Education: The Guide to Federal Student Aid
<http://www.publications.usa.gov/USAPubs.php?PubID=2274>

GENERAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Federal and state assistance programs are generally designed to assist people who need a job, housing, public assistance, and other services. Each program has different standards for participation with low income being the most common requirement. There are no government assistance programs exclusively for ex-offenders.

Benefits.gov

Benefits.gov was launched in an effort to provide citizens with easy, online access to government benefit and assistance programs. Accessible at <http://www.benefits.gov>, the site's core function is the eligibility prescreening questionnaire or "Benefit Finder." Answers to the questionnaire are used to evaluate a visitor's situation and compare it with the eligibility criteria for more than 1,000 federally-funded benefit and assistance programs. Benefits.gov is unable to respond to specific scenarios or provide personalized advice. For additional government information, individuals are encouraged to call USA.gov's National Contact Center at 800.333.4636, Monday through Friday, 8:00 am to 8:00 pm (EST), to speak with an information specialist, or visit them online at <http://www.usa.gov>.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance

The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance is a government-wide compendium of federal programs, projects, services, and activities that provide assistance or benefits to the American public. It contains financial and non-financial programs administered by departments and agencies of the federal government. As a basic reference of federal programs, the primary purpose of the catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance is to assist users identifying programs that meet specific objectives of the applicant, and to obtain general information on federal assistance programs. The Catalog of Federal Domestic

Assistance may be searched online at, <http://www.cfd.gov> or downloaded at, http://www.cfd.gov/downloads/CFDA_2015.pdf.

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

Administered and coordinated at the federal level by the U.S. department of Health and Human Services, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families is a federal assistance program that provides financial assistance and services to low-income individuals and families with children under the age of 18 who meet specific program eligibility requirements. Individuals who believe they may be eligible for services through Temporary Assistance for Needy Families are encouraged to contact their local American Job Center for additional information and eligibility requirements.

National Contact:

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201
P: 877.696.6775

Emergency Relief

There have been many changes to the welfare system and the availability of welfare from the federal government is severely limited. Emergency Relief programs are cash and in-kind assistance programs financed and administered entirely by the state, county, or locality in which they operate. Emergency Relief programs are likely to serve disabled, elderly, and otherwise unemployable individuals and children or families with children. There are no national laws that require state governments to provide Emergency Relief or to establish uniform rules across the state of Emergency Relief is provided. Individuals who believe they may be eligible for Emergency Relief are encouraged to contact their local American Job Center for additional information and eligibility requirements.

2-1-1 United Way

2-1-1 is the national abbreviated dialing code for free access to health and human service information and referral. 2-1-1 is an easy-to-remember and universally recognizable number that makes a critical connection between individuals and families seeking services or volunteer opportunities and the appropriate community-based organizations and government agencies. 2-1-1 makes it possible for people to navigate the complex and ever-growing maze of human service agencies and programs. For additional information about the services offered by 2-1-1, please dial 211 from any telephone or visit them online at <http://www.211.org/services/reentry>.

HOUSING ASSISTANCE RESOURCES

Housing information may be obtained from your community's local Department of Housing. For those individuals who do not have access to local information, contact any of the agencies listed below for assistance identifying appropriate housing options.

Community Action Partnership

Community Action Partnership provides services to reduce the effects of poverty in many communities throughout the United States. Many provide energy assistance, winterization, housing, and emergency shelter services.

National Contact:

Community Action Partnership
1140 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 1210
Washington, DC 20036
P: 202.265.7546
I: <http://www.communityactionpartnership.org>

Goodwill Industries

Goodwill Industries is a nonprofit organization with hundreds of locations nationwide that provide job training, housing assistance and shelter services to people who are trying to overcome physical, emotional and developmental disabilities, poverty and other challenges.

National Contact:

Goodwill Industries - National headquarters
15810 Indianola Drive
Rockville, MD 20855
P: 800.644.3945
I: <http://www.goodwill.org>

Homeless Shelter Directory

Homeless shelters are a form of temporary housing for homeless individuals and families. Homeless shelters sometimes provide other services, such as soup kitchens, and job skills training. The Homeless Shelter Directory is a web-based application with access to referral information nationwide. Homeless Shelter Directory may be searched online at, <http://www.homelesshelterdirectory.org>.

Sober Housing

Soberhouses.com is a quick and reliable source of information for referrals into treatment programs, detoxification centers, halfway houses, and sober houses. The mission of Soberhouses.com is to provide a user friendly, free access site for professionals and individuals to locate much needed resources. Soberhouses.com can be searched online at, <http://www.soberhouses.com>.

The Salvation Army

The Salvation Army through its many national locations provides shelter services and housing vouchers to individuals in need of assistance. They may also assist with meals and other essential needs. Adult Rehabilitation Centers, a service of the Salvation Army provide substance abuse treatment services within a structured therapeutic environment.

National Contact:

The Salvation Army - National Headquarters
615 Slaters Lane, P.O. Box 269

Alexandria, VA 22313

P: 800.728.7825

I: <http://www.salvationarmyusa.org>

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

The U.S. department of Housing and Urban Development's public housing program was established to provide decent and safe rental housing for eligible low-income families, the elderly, and persons with disabilities. Public housing is limited to low-income families and individuals. A housing agency determines program eligibility based on, 1) annual gross income; 2) whether you qualify as elderly, a person with a disability or as a family; and 3) U.S. citizenship or immigration status. A criminal conviction does not automatically limit program eligibility.

National Contact:

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

415 7th Street, SW

Washington, DC 20410

P: 202.708.1112

I: <http://www.hud.gov>

State Contact:

TEXAS

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Dallas Field Office

525 Griffin Street, Suite 860

Dallas, TX 75202

P: 214.767.8300

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Houston Field Office

1301 Fannin, Suite 2200

Houston, TX 77002

P: 713.718.3199

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Lubbock Field Office

1205 Texas Avenue, Suite 511

Lubbock, TX 79401

P: 806.472.7265

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

San Antonio Field Office

615 East Houston Street, Suite 347

San Antonio, TX 78205

P: 210.475.6806

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Housing Service

Rural Housing Service offers two types of homeownership loans - guaranteed and direct loans. The purpose is to provide financing - with no down payment and at favorable rates and terms - either through a direct loan with Rural Housing Service or with a loan from a private financial institution which is guaranteed by Rural Housing Service. These loans are for the purchase, construction, rehabilitation, or relocation of a dwelling and related facilities for low or moderate income rural persons.

National Contact:

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Rural Housing Service
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250
P: 202.692.0090
I: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>

State Contact:

TEXAS

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Rural Housing Service
101 South Main, Suite 102
Temple, TX 76501
P: 254.742.9700
I: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/tx>

Office of fair Housing and Equal Opportunity

The U.S. department of Housing and Urban Development's Office of fair Housing and Equal Opportunity enforces federal laws and establishes policies that ensure all Americans have equal access to the housing of their choice. Individuals who believe they have been the victim of housing discrimination are encouraged to file a complaint.

National Contact:

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Office of fair Housing and Equal Opportunity
451 7th Street, SW, Room 5204
Washington, DC 20410
P: 202.708.4252
I: <http://www.hud.gov/offices/fheo>

APPEARANCE, CLOTHING & HOUSEWARES

An individual's clothing, personal hygiene and overall appearance are often the first thin communicated to others and should be viewed as vital to successful community and social reintegration. The following organizations provide the tools and resources needed to ensure a strong, confident and professional first impression.

CareerGear

Since 1999, CareerGear has helped thousands of disconnected and underserved job-seeking men become self-sufficient members of their communities. By providing interview counseling and business attire, CareerGear offers vital services to men of all ages and ethnic backgrounds, as well as recipients of public assistance, the disabled, recovering addicts, Iraqi War Veterans, former foster care children, recent immigrants, and the formerly incarcerated.

National Contact:

CareerGear National
120 Broadway, 36th Floor
New York, NY 10271
P: 212.577.6190
I: <http://www.careergear.org>

Dress for Success

Dress for Success clients come from a continually expanding and diverse group of nonprofit and government agencies including homeless shelters, immigration services, and job training programs, educational institutions and domestic violence shelters, among many other organizations. More than 3,000 organizations throughout the world send women to Dress for Success for professional apparel and career development services.

National Contact:

Dress for Success
32 East 31st Street, 7th Floor
New York, NY 10016
P: 212.532.1922
I: <http://www.dressforsuccess.org>

Goodwill Industries, Outlet Stores

Goodwill Industries operates an extensive network of thrift stores located throughout the United States. These stores provide clothing, housewares, and other essential items to individuals and families in need at low prices.

National Contact:

Goodwill Industries - Thrift Stores
15810 Indianola Drive
Rockville, MD 20855
P: 800.644.3945
I: <http://www.goodwill.org>

Salvation Army, National Family Stores

The Salvation Army operates an extensive network of thrift stores located throughout the United States. These stores provide clothing, housewares, and other essential items to individuals and families in need at low prices.

National Contact:

The Salvation Army - Family Stores

615 Slaters Lane, P.O. Box 269

Alexandria, VA 22313

P: 800.728.7825

I: <http://www.salvationarmyusa.org>

Tattoo & Body Art Removal

Removing visible tattoos, especially those that are antisocial or related to gangs, will improve an individual's chances of finding employment. Removing tattoos of victims of human trafficking can be a major step in the recovery process and can help restore dignity and self-esteem. But how do you do it, and how do you pay for it? You can begin by using the Jails to Jobs Tattoo Removal Directory available at, <http://jailstojobs.org/wordpress/tattoo-removal/>, which includes tattoo removal clinics across the United States. Some of them charge. Others are free but many have eligibility requirements. This directory is a work in progress and it by no means a complete list.

CONSUMER AWARENESS

Being released back into society after incarceration can be a stressful experience regardless of individual circumstances. The decisions mad today about how to manage finances can effect one's ability to get credit, insurance, a place to live, and even a job.

Consumer Protection Offices

Consumer Protection Offices offer a variety of important services. They mediate complaints, conduct investigations, license and regulate professionals, provide educational materials, and advocate in the consumer interest.

State Contact:**TEXAS**

Texas Office of the Attorney General

Consumer Protection Division

P.O. Box 12548

Austin, TX 78711

P: 800.621.0508

I: <http://www.oag.state.tx.us>

Free Annual Credit Report

The fair Credit reporting Act requires each of the three major nationwide credit reporting companies - Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion - to provide consumers with a free copy of their consumer credit report, at their request, once every 12 months. The three major nationwide credit reporting companies have set up a central website, a toll-free telephone number, and a mailing address through which consumers can order their free annual report. To order, visit, <http://www.annualcreditreport.com>, call 877.322.8228, or complete the Annual Credit Report request Form and mail it to the address below.

National Contact:

Annual Credit Report Request Service

P.O. Box 105281

Atlanta, GA 30348

P: 877.322.8228

I: <http://www.annualcreditreport.com>**Additional Resources:**

Annual credit Report Request Service, Annual Credit Report Request Form

<http://www.annualcreditreport.com/manualRequestForm.action>**LexisNexis Personal Report**

Through LexisNexis Risk Solutions, you can order certain reports about yourself or certain reports on others such as prospective caretakers, contractors and doctors. These reports are made available through the LexisNexis website for a small fee and are prepared by various LexisNexis entities. To see what information is maintained about you in the LexisNexis files, you can request a full file disclosure.

National Contact:

LexisNexis Consumer center

Attn: Full File Disclosure

P.O. Box 105108

Atlanta, GA 30348

P: Not Provided

I: https://www.personalreports.lexisnexis.com/access_your_full_file_disclosure.jsp**Additional Resources:**

LexisNexis, Full File Disclosure Request Form

https://personalreports.lexisnexis.com/pdfs/CD107_CP-File-Disclosure-Request-Form_pg-3.pdf

LexisNexis, Full File Disclosure Instructions

https://personalreports.lexisnexis.com/pdfs/CD107_CP-File-Disclosure-Request-Form_pg-1.pdf**ChexSystems Consumer Assistance**

Under the fair and Accurate Credit Transaction Act amendments to the federal Fair Credit Reporting Act, consumers are entitled to a free copy of their consumer report upon request, once every 12 months.

ChexSystems maintains reports based on your handling of banking relationships such as, checking and saving accounts.

National Contact:

ChexSystems, Inc.

Attn: Consumer relations

7805 Hudson Road, Suite 100

Woodbury, MN 55125

P: 800.428.9623

I: <https://www.consumerdebit.com/consumerinfo/us/en/freereport.htm>

Additional Resources:

ChexSystems Consumer Assistance, FACTA Free Annual Report request Form

<http://www.chexsystems.com/web/chexsystems/consumerdebit/otherpage/FACTAFreeReport/>

Taxpayer Advocate Service

The taxpayer Advocate Service was created to ensure that every taxpayer is treated fairly, and that they know and understand their rights. The taxpayer Advocate Service offers free help to guide taxpayers through the often confusing process of resolving their tax problems.

National Contact:

Taxpayer Advocate Service

National Taxpayer Advocate

1111 Constitution Avenue, NW, Room 3031-TA

Washington, DC 20224

P: 877.777.4778

I: <http://www.taxpayeradvocate.irs.gov>

Local Contact:**TEXAS**

Taxpayer Advocate Service

300 East 8th Street

Stop 1005 AUS, Room 136

Austin, TX 78701

P: 512.499.5875

Taxpayer Advocate Service

1114 Commerce Street

MC 1005 DAL, Room 1001

Dallas, TX 75243

P: 214.413.6500

Taxpayer Advocate Service

1919 Smith Street

MC 1005 HOU

Houston, TX 77002

P: 713.209.3660

Low Income Taxpayer Clinics

Low Income taxpayer Clinics represent low income taxpayers before the Internal Revenue Service and assist taxpayers in audits, appeals and collection disputes. Low Income Taxpayer Clinics also help taxpayers respond to Internal Revenue Service notices and correct account problems. If you are interested in obtaining more information about Low Income Taxpayer Clinics or would like to locate a clinic in your local community, go to <http://www.irs.gov/uac/Contact-a-Low-Income-Taxpayer-Clinic> for the most recent information.

SWELLNESS: HEALTH, WELLNESS & LEISURE-TIME RESOURCES

Taking care of your personal health and wellness plays an important role in community reintegration. Making healthier and more educated choices about one's personal wellbeing can substantially improve how someone feels, reduce the risk of many diseases and ensure a long, active and fulfilled lifestyle.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is the United States government's principal agency for protecting the health of all Americans and providing essential human services, especially for those who are least able to help themselves.

National Contact:

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201
P: 877.696.6775
I: <http://www.hhs.gov>

State Contact:

REGION VI

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
1301 Young Street, Suite 1124
Dallas, TX 75202
P: 214.767.3301

Note: This office serves the following states: Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas.

Feeding America

Feeding America is a charitable hunger relief organization that feeds approximately 37 million people annually through a network of more than 200 food banks and 61,000 local charitable agencies including food pantries, soup kitchens, emergency shelters, after-school programs, Kids Cafes, Community Kitchens, and Backpack programs.

National Contact:

Feeding America
35 East Wacker Drive, Suite 2000
Chicago, IL 60601
P: 800.771.2303
I: <http://www.feedingamerica.org>

Additional Resources:

Feeding America, Food Bank Locator
<http://www.feedingamerica.org/foodbank-results.aspx>

Meals on Wheels Association of America

Meals on Wheels Association of America is an association with programs throughout the United States that provide nutritious meals and other nutrition services to men and women who are elderly, homebound, disabled, frail, or at risk.

National Contact:

Meals on Wheels Association of America
203 South Union Street
Alexandria, VA 22314
P: 703.548.5558
I: <http://www.mowaa.org>

Additional Resources:

Meals on Wheels Association of America, "Find a Meal" Program Locator
<http://www.momaa.org/page.aspx?pid=253>

Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program is the largest nutrition assistance program administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The goal of the program is "to alleviate hunger and malnutrition by increasing food purchasing power of all eligible households who apply for participation" as stated in the Food Stamp Act of 1977, as amended (P.L. 108-269). The program provides monthly benefits to eligible low-income families which can be used to purchase food. To apply for benefits, or for more information about the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program in your community, call the National Supplemental Assistance Program hotline at 800.221.5689 or contact your local American Job Center for additional information.

State Contact:

TEXAS
<http://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/snap/texas-office.pdf>

Additional Resources:

Food and Nutrition Information Center, Food Stamp Pre-Screening Tool
<http://www.foodstamps-step1.usda.gov>

Affordable Care Act

The 2010 Affordable Care Act puts in place comprehensive health insurance reforms. The law is intended to lower health care costs, provide more health care choices, and enhance the quality of health care for all Americans. For additional information about the Affordable Care Act and how it can best serve you and your health insurance coverage needs, contact the national toll-free enrollment hotline at 800.318.2596 or visit their website at <http://www.healthcare.gov>.

National Contact:

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW

Washington, DC 20201

P: 877.696.6775

I: <http://www.healthcare.gov>

Online Health Information

There are many online resources available to help those looking for health information make educated and informed health care decisions. Individuals should be wary of websites sponsored by companies that are trying to sell a particular treatment or product. It's better to contact reputable associations or visit sites run by government agencies and recognized organizations such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (<http://www.cdc.gov>), Food and Drug Administration (<http://www.fda.gov/consumer>), National Cancer Institute (<http://www.cancer.gov>), National Institute on Aging (<http://www.nia.nih.gov>), National Women's Health Information Center (<http://www.womanshealth.gov>), the Mayo Clinic (<http://www.mayoclinic.com>) or the American Medical Association (<http://www.ama.org>). This information should complement, not replace, that is received from a doctor or other medical professional. MedlinePlus (<http://www.medlineplus.gov>) and HealthFinder.gov (<http://www.healthfinder.gov>) are sites that are generally recognized as reliable and definitive information sources.

Free or Low-Cost Clinics

As a result of the Affordable Care Act, consumers have many options when choosing a health care provider regardless of their income or social standing. However, there are still many free or low-cost clinics that focus on the needs of underserved populations throughout the United States. Finding a free or low-cost clinic is as easy as visiting <http://www.findhealthcenter.hrsa.gov> and entering the zip code for the area in which you would like service.

BUSINESS & ENTREPRENEURIAL RESOURCES

There is no way to eliminate all the risk associated with starting a small business, but it is possible to improve one's chances of success with good planning, preparation and insight. Previously incarcerated individuals should proceed cautiously into the world of entrepreneurship as it will require as much if not more work than regular employment.

U.S. Small Business Administration

Every year, the U.S. Small Business Administration and its nationwide network of resource partners help millions of potential and existing small business owners start, grow and succeed.

National Contact:

U.S. Small Business Administration

409 3rd Street, SW, Suite 7600

Washington, DC 20416

P: 800.827.5722

I: <http://www.sba.gov>

Service Corps of retired Executives

The Service Corps of retired Executives is a national network of nearly 14,000 entrepreneurs, business leaders, and executives who volunteer as mentors to America's small businesses everywhere. These professionals can help with writing a business plan, locating sources of financial assistance, managing and expanding a business, finding opportunities to sell, goods or services to the government and recovering from disaster.

National Contact:

Service Corps of retired executives
1175 Herndon Parkway, Suite 900
Herndon, VA 20170
P: 800.624.0245
I: <http://www.score.org>

Small Business Development Centers

The Small Business development center program has been vital to the U.S. Small Business Administration's entrepreneurial outreach for more than 30 years. With nearly 900 locations across the country, Small Business Development Centers offer free one-on-one expert business advice and low-cost training by qualified small business professionals to existing and future entrepreneurs.

National Contact:

U.S. Small Business Administration
Small Business development Centers
409 3rd Street, SW, Suite 7600
Washington, DC 20416
P: 800.827.5722
I: <http://www.sba.gov/sbdc>

Small Business Resource Magazine

The Small Business Resource Magazine is the most complete guide to starting and expanding a business. Entrepreneurs can find information on local regulations, government loans, training and assistance, and business advocacy. You may view and download the Small Business Magazine for your area by visiting, <http://www.sbaguides.com/magazine/download/>.

Grants for Small Businesses

The U.S. Small Business Administration does not provide grants for starting and expanding a business. Government grants are funded by tax dollars and, therefore, require very stringent compliance and reporting measures to ensure the money is well spent. As you can imagine, grants are not given away indiscriminately.