



U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney
Southern District of Alabama

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May 4, 2011

Dear Employer,

There are documented community and business benefits when businesses hire ex-offenders. I am looking for your help with my initiative to assist ex-offenders (felons) obtain employment by participating in a Job Fair on May 12th, from 9am-12pm, at the Baker-Gaines Central Campus of Bishop State.

Given the stigma, ex-offenders typically face substantial obstacles in finding gainful employment even when they possess the necessary skill set to qualify for a position. In order to overcome some of the obstacles there are several Federal programs that provide **financial incentives to the employers** of ex-offenders, as well as provide educational assistance to individual ex-offenders in the hopes of making them more attractive to potential employers. Sydney Raine, President of Mobile Works is the point of contact to discuss any of these great programs. Mr. Raine can be reached at 251-432-0909 ext. 148. Please reserve a spot at the Job Fair by calling Ms. Sheria Michell at 251-405-7085. If you have any additional questions about my ex-offender re-entry initiative please don't hesitate to call me at 251-441-5845.

Some of the programs that will help employers with their bottom line are the following:

1. Fidelity Bonding program from the Department of Labor- <http://www.bonds4jobs.com/> , whereby an employer of an ex-offender can receive six months of free bonding up to the amount of \$5,000 per hire. These bonds have been purchased through the Mobile Weed & Seed Program, which is a Department of Justice Program administered through the City of Mobile.
2. Work Opportunity Tax Credit, <http://www.doleta.gov/business/incentives/opptax/> , whereby a business that hires an ex-offender within one year of their release would be eligible for a \$2,500 tax credit for each **one** hired.
3. On-the-job-training (OJT) 50% wage subsidy while the new hire is in training- available to employers through the Department of Labor can be found at http://www.mobile-works.org/pro_ojt.php .
4. Individual Training Account, (ITA) http://www.mobile-works.org/pro_its.php , training

scholarship funds to equip themselves for employment.

In close, I hope that you and your business will partner with me in this very important event and offer an ex-offender a job and a chance of achieving the American dream while improving the quality of life for all of the citizens in our community.

Sincerely,

Kenyen R. Brown

Kenyen R. Brown
United States Attorney
Southern District of Alabama