



U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney
Southern District of Alabama

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Phone: 251/441-5845
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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. The name of my initiative is Project H.O.P.E. - Helping Offenders Pursue Excellence.

Given the stigma of being convicted felons, 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 an excellent point of contact for you to discuss any of the great programs listed below. Mr. Raine can be reached at 251-432-0909 ext. 148. If you have any additional questions about my ex-offender re-entry initiative please don't hesitate to call my office at 251-441-5845 and ask for Eric Day or myself.

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 initiative and offer ex-offenders employment and a renewed opportunity to achieve the American dream. With your help we can improve 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