

Reentry Assistance Checklist

Use this checklist to move from immediate needs toward long-term employment and education goals
Practitioners and clients can review items together and record observations, resources, and next steps.

1. Start with the Basics

Confirm government identification (ID, Social Security card, birth certificate)

Identify reliable contact information (phone, email, mailing address)

Assess transportation options to work, school, or appointments

Review probation or supervision requirements that may affect scheduling

Discuss immediate income needs and short-term employment options

2. Identify Opportunities

Identify organizations in the community that serve second-chance citizens

Identify employers known to hire justice-impacted individuals

Locate upcoming job fairs or hiring events

Research workforce development programs in the area

Explore apprenticeship or entry-level training opportunities

Is there a bonding program in my state that supports hiring justice-impacted individuals?

If yes, what are the eligibility requirements?

3. Navigate Barriers

Review potential background check concerns for employment

Clarify professional licensing restrictions related to career interests



Practice explaining criminal history during interviews



Identify supportive employers or programs familiar with second-chance hiring



4. Access Education and Training

Connect to GED or high school completion programs if needed



Identify certification programs aligned with career goals



Explore apprenticeship or workforce training programs



Identify scholarships, grants, or workforce funding before enrollment



5. Build a Practical Plan

Develop a 6-month employment or education goal



Develop a 12-month career or training goal



Coordinate class or work schedules with supervision requirements



Build a résumé or locate résumé workshops



Practice interview skills and job search strategies

