



"If I made a mistake, I would want someone to give me a second chance. I am a businessman who has hired employees with felonies in their past, and I have found loyal and committed employees."

-Russel Neal



"If that person has truly had a heart change, I know that giving them a chance with a job makes for a better community and a better country."

-Nick Skeriotis

"When returning offenders can find and keep employment, they are more likely to be able to pay restitution to their victims, support their children and avoid crime."

-Pew Charitable Trusts, 2010

Over \$57 billion is missing from the U.S. economy because people with felonies are not given legitimate opportunities to work.



MISSION & PURPOSE

Partners in the Summit County Reentry network (SCRN), work together so that adult felony ex-offenders can overcome the many challenges to their success. Our collaborative efforts will reduce the rate of recidivism, increase community safety, help reunite families and make the local economy stronger.

Recidivism is defined as the first return to an institution within three years of release. Over 66% of the people returning to our community from incarceration, do not return to any criminal behavior within three years. The Reentry Network is focused on increasing that success rate.

Network members strive:

- To develop a network of providers who offer quality services, who can meet the wide needs of people returning to Summit County.
- To establish collaborations that will help to reduce recidivism and increase community safety.
- To share open and transparent communication that builds a unified approach to reentry throughout Summit County.
- To provide services regardless of criminal history, race, or religion, in order to help with personal, family and professional needs.
- To advocate together as a community to respond to issues about ex-offender reentry.
- To learn about evidence-based research, and best practices by attending trainings that will improve program outcomes.



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WHEN THE WORLD SAYS
"GIVE UP," HOPE WHISPERS,
"GIVE IT ONE MORE TRY."

www.summitcountyreentrynetwork.org
reentry@summitoh.net
330-643-2003

FOR PEOPLE WITH FELONIES OR MISDEMEANORS IN THEIR BACKGROUND

Support Group

- Run by former offenders: tips and information for returning citizens
- Every Friday evening from 6:30pm – 7:30pm
- At The Front Porch Café, 798 Grant Street, Akron

Monthly Reentry Fair

- Help with overcoming barriers to employment
- Meet face-to-face with reentry service providers
- Fourth Friday of each month from 10:00am – 11:30am
- At the Job Center, 1040 E. Tallmadge Avenue, Akron

Expungement Clinic

- For people who want help with sealing their record
- Contact Community Legal Aid Services, Inc: 1-800-998-9454

Clemency Clinic

- For people not eligible for Expungement
- Contact Community Legal Aid Services, Inc: 1-800-998-9454
- Eligible clients will be referred to the University of Akron Law School

Get Involved

- Give back to the community
- Contact SCR N to volunteer: 330-643-2003



FOR EMPLOYERS

Work Opportunity Tax Credit

- Offers up to \$2400 per hire for people with felonies in their history
- See www.jfs.ohio.gov/wotc

Free Federal Bonding

- Provides insurance as employer protection
- 100% success rate: Ohio has had no claims for this program
- See www.bonds4jobs.com

The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission

- New guidelines recommend considering applicants on an individual basis rather than excluding everyone with a criminal record
- Delay background checks, until after you meet/interview all applicants who match your job needs.
- When hiring, consider: the type of crime, the time since completing the sentence, and the kind of job you need filled
- Avoid legal disputes relating to the Civil Rights Act by fully considering all job applicants
- See http://www.eeoc.gov/laws/guidance/qa_arrest_conviction.cfm

“Employing people who have been out of work for long periods tends to result in a lot of loyalty, reliability and a good attitude to work.”

-Jamie Rae, CEO



FOR PROVIDERS OF REENTRY SERVICES

Training Opportunities

- SCR N hosts evidence-based trainings that can increase your agency's success rates



News Updates

- Receive the Summit County Reentry Digest for information about reentry

Collaboration

- Network with over 50 nonprofit, faith based and government agencies

Become a Community Advocate and Join a SCR N Subcommittee

- Employment
- Advocacy and Resource Development
- Training and Education
- Planning, Research and Evaluation

**Reentry is not being soft on crime;
it's about being SMART on crime.**

Nobody can go back and start a new beginning, but anyone can start today and make a new ending.