



WILDER
JobsFirst

Employment Services

Helping people with criminal
backgrounds prepare for, find
and retain gainful employment

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About JobsFirst

JobsFirst is an innovative program funded by the Minnesota Department of Corrections and implemented by the Wilder Foundation. It strives to increase public safety and decrease recidivism by helping persons with criminal backgrounds find and keep gainful employment.

The JobsFirst program has three components: a one day **Pre-Release Class**, an intensive **Employment Seminar**, and a daily **Job Club**.

The program aids individuals in securing identification, preparing a resume, honestly and openly discussing their conviction with employers, improving interview skills, finding job leads, and using job retention skills. Through all of its components, the JobsFirst program stresses the need for a professional outlook, a positive attitude, and solid work practices.

Pre-Release Class

JobsFirst employment specialists teach a full-day Pre-Release Class that focuses on strengthening employment search skills. The classes and pre-release services are provided with the assistance of the Transitions Staff at the following Minnesota Correctional Facilities:

Lino Lakes	Rush City	Oak Park Heights
Red Wing	Moose Lake	St. Cloud
Stillwater	Faribault	Shakopee

The curriculum includes:

- Job Search Methods
- Skill Identification
- Conviction Responses
- Applications
- Interviewing
- Resumes
- Employment Retention

"Job Club helps you learn how to interview well."

Job Club participant, recently promoted to manager at her current job.

"The Job Club counselors kept trying to find all resources, even ones that weren't Wilder Foundation related because they genuinely care about finding the best fit for everyone out there."

Job Club participant, recently recognized by his company for leading the company in sales.

Job Club

The Wilder Foundation Job Club serves formerly incarcerated individuals transitioning back into the workforce. Participants must be under a form of supervised release with the Minnesota Department of Corrections.

Services are offered Monday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to noon. New participants must arrive between 9:00 and 9:30 a.m.

Available resources include:

- Telephone/fax/computer access
- Assistance obtaining identification
- Daily presentations on job search topics
- Employment counselor support
- Resume preparation
- Job leads
- Discounted bus cards

Community Employment Connection

Wednesdays at 10 a.m. JobsFirst invites employers to provide Job Club participants with information about employment and hiring practices at their organization, giving employers and potential employees a forum to interact and learn more about what each other has to offer.

Conviction Response

JobsFirst understands the need for a professional approach to discussing convictions with prospective employers. In our programs, participants receive guidance through a technique called "COPE" which helps each person compile their own response.

Comfort the Employer

Let the employer know if the offense wasn't job related or if it happened long ago.

Own It

Honestly reveal the offense.

Positives

Share improvements and accomplishments since the conviction.

Encourage the Employer

Let the employer know you want the job.

Questions

Please contact JobsFirst Employment Services with any questions about our services.

651-280-2352

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Here for good.