



Reentry Realities

Food Security, Supports, and a Path to Economic Stability

Center for Employment Opportunities (CEO)

Leah Bacon, Tyree Chwilinski, Ubaldo Chavez, Ella Saunders

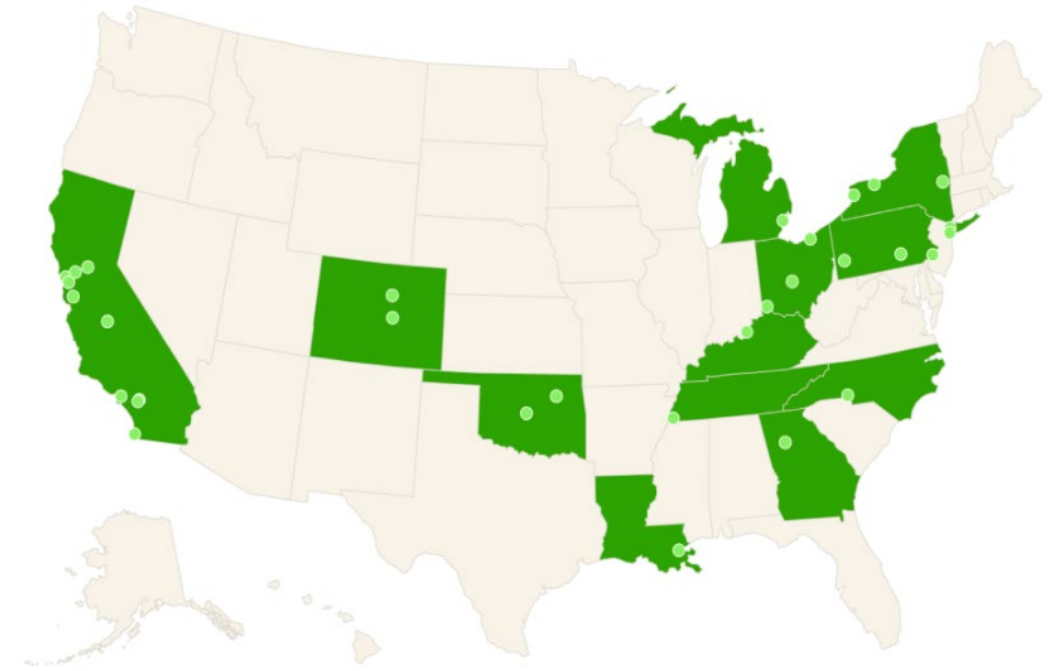
OCTOBER 29-30, 2024 | TYSONS CORNER, VA

Who We Are:

ceo

CEO is a national nonprofit social enterprise providing comprehensive workforce development services exclusively to individuals returning to the community from incarceration.

CEO believes that everyone, regardless of their past, deserves the chance to work toward a stronger future for themselves, their families, and their communities.



CEO is a SNAP E&T third party provider in all 12 states we operate in.

Tyree Chwilinski

Reentry Simulation

ceo

1. There are **8 identities which represent 8 groups**. You will work with your group throughout the duration of the simulation.

Reentry Simulation 2

1. There are **8 identities which represent 8 groups**. You will work with your group throughout the duration of the simulation.
2. Each group has a **“guide”** that can help answer questions and move the group along during the simulation.

Reentry Simulation 3

1. There are **8 identities which represent 8 groups**. You will work with your group throughout the duration of the simulation.
2. Each group has a “**guide**” that can help answer questions and move the group along during the simulation.
3. The simulation is broken into **three 8 minute parts** - each representing the first three weeks of one’s reentry experience.

Reentry Simulation 4

1. There are **8 identities which represent 8 groups**. You will work with your group throughout the duration of the simulation.
2. Each group has a **“guide”** that can help answer questions and move the group along during the simulation.
3. The simulation is broken into **three 8 minute parts** - each representing the first three weeks of one’s reentry experience.
4. Your group is responsible for completing and getting positive marks on your **“life cards”** by visiting the different tables that represent social services, career centers, supervision agencies, etc.

Your Guides

ceo



Tyree Chwilinski

Project Manager of
Platforms - LA

*DAWSON
FREDA*



Ubaldo Chavez

Business Account
Manager - Denver

*LAURA
BROCK*



Kenneth Edwards

Manager for Leadership
& Organizing - NYC

*CAMDEN
JULIA*



Ella Saunders

Pathways to Employment
Instructor & Outreach
Specialist - Philly

*DUSTIN
WILLOW*

Week 1

8:00

Ubaldo Chavez

Food Insecurity Upon Release

Food insecurity is more common among formerly incarcerated people - and families with an incarcerated parent - than among the general population.

Food insecurity is more common among formerly incarcerated people - and families with an incarcerated parent - than among the general population.

- Formerly incarcerated people are **2x more likely to suffer food insecurity**, and rates are higher for formerly incarcerated women and Black individuals.
- One survey of recently released individuals in 3 states found that **91% of respondents reported food insecurity & 37% reported not having eaten for an entire day.**
- **Young children** who live with their father before his incarceration are **3x as likely to experience food insecurity.**

Studies have shown that SNAP reduces the likelihood of being food insecure by 30%. It is also associated with improved health and reduced health care costs.

Week 2

8:00

Ella Saunders

Training & Employment with a Record

ceo

SNAP E&T and other federal workforce training programs strive to build a stronger workforce by 1) prioritizing underrepresented populations and 2) by increasing access to quality training & employment opportunities.

SNAP E&T and other federal workforce training programs strive to build a stronger workforce by 1) prioritizing underrepresented populations and 2) by increasing access to quality training & employment opportunities.

- The **unemployment rate for formerly incarcerated people is over 27% – 5x higher than the general public**. Unemployment is highest within the **first two years of release** with one survey showing that **30%** of individuals were unemployed.
- During an external study on CEO Colorado, those deemed the **“hardest to employ”** are experiencing the **largest jumps in wages** upon program completion - **nearly 8x higher**.
- Young adults, in particular, have shown gains from CEO’s mobility pathways. Young adults who undergo at least one advanced training show a **25% increase in 180-day retention rates** and a **significant increase in wages (+\$2)** when undergoing advanced training compared to those who did not.

Data shows that individuals with a criminal record are promoted more quickly, have longer tenure, and lower turnover rates than those with no records.

Week 3

8:00

Reflections

Describe in three words how the simulation made you feel?



Scan the code with your mobile device or visit <https://www.menti.com/albwn212cxb4>

SNAP: Access & Enrollment

- Supporting individuals in enrollment **before or at the point of release** . Work with state to apply for a 30-day waiver and provide emergency benefits to help individuals with immediate access.
- **Establish partnerships** via SNAP Outreach or other informal means with reentry organizations that provide **direct assistance** in navigating SNAP, including application support or the ability to act as an **authorized representative** .
- **Streamlined application process with communication / technology enhancements** that reduce documentation requirements by providing alternatives for those without a traditional identification or a stable address, to receive mail or keep an appointment time for an interview.
- Identify policy/situations that allow for SNAP access for individuals **in congregate housing** (such as halfway houses).

SNAP E&T: Targeted Training & Supportive Services

- Have **dedicated eligibility workers** who are familiar with “reverse referrals” for E&T and can quickly approve E&T in collaboration with 50/50 partners.
- **Work Experience, specifically subsidized work based learning (SWBL)**, allows for individuals to access paid training, including transitional jobs and upskilling opportunities, without having to step away from the workforce.
- Provide BOTH immediate experience that teaches durable skills and **paid advanced training pathways** in high demand sectors that are friendly to justice-impacted individuals and that lead to further economic mobility.
- Intentionally think through **transportation challenges** and how individuals will need support in getting to and from their appointments and offices.

SNAP E&T: Targeted Training & Supportive Services

- Have **dedicated eligibility workers** who are familiar with “reverse referrals” for E&T and can quickly approve E&T in collaboration with 50/50 partners.
- **Work Experience, specifically subsidized work based learning (SWBL)**, allows for individuals to access paid training, including transitional jobs and upskilling opportunities, without having to step away from the workforce.
- Provide BOTH immediate experience that teaches durable skills and **paid advanced training pathways** in high demand sectors that are friendly to justice-impacted individuals and that lead to further economic mobility.
- Intentionally think through **transportation challenges** and how individuals will need support in getting to and from their appointments and offices.

Breaking the Stigma & Shifting the Narrative

- Work within the community to **destigmatize** the mindset around individuals accessing government assistance and shift the narrative to one that access to **SNAP / SNAP E&T is a tool or step forward in rebuilding one’s life, not failure.**

As part of the FNS National SNAP E&T Partnerships Capacity Building Program, CEO provides SNAP E&T Technical Assistance nationally in partnership with REDF and the Seattle Jobs Initiative (SJI).

Scan below or visit <https://redfworkshop.org/resource/snapet/> to see some of our resources!



**No one truly knows a nation until one has been inside its jails. A nation should not be judged by how it treats its highest citizens, but its lowest ones."
- Nelson Mandela**

Thank you!

ceo

Leah Bacon - lebacon@ceoworks.org

Tyree Chwilinski - tchwilinski@ceoworks.org

Ubaldo Chavez - uchavez@ceoworks.org

Kenneth Edwards - kedwards@ceoworks.org

Ella Saunders - esaunders@ceoworks.org

We want to hear from you!

Provide feedback on this session by scanning the QR code and filling out the survey



QR: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/F6HFLHH>