

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR WORK
AND LEARNING

Second Chance Act Post-Release Rapid Employment Program

OVERVIEW

Funded by the U.S. Department of Justice, the Second Chance Act Post-Release Rapid Employment Program (PREP) used evidence-based trainings to prepare individuals for employment after leaving incarceration in North Carolina. With the help of Erika's Closet and FHI 360's National Institute for Work and Learning (NIWL), The Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office provided in-facility training, technical assistance and holistic support to ensure that participants were primed for success through skills training, credentialing, and employment.

Through pre-and-post release case management, planning, community partnerships, and second chance employer networks, the Second Chance Act PREP program reduced recidivism, improved public safety, and promoted economic opportunity.

80

participants earned nationally recognized credentials

.02%

recidivism rate, well below the national average



Building Hope: A Retrospective of MCSO and FHI 360's Second Chance Act Program

*"This was an incredible partnership to assist individuals in **gaining hope and employability**, but it also helped the team... we offered participants a national credential that could **help them thrive in their lives regardless of their criminal background.**"*

— Dorian Johnson, MCSO Detention Program Director

The Second Chance Act PREP program credentialled over 80 participants and impacted over 100 formerly incarcerated citizens overall, concluding with a .02% recidivism rate — much lower than the national average.



Read the full story by scanning the QR code or by clicking [here!](#)