



For Immediate Release

Contact: Zoe Costanzo, zcostanzo@striveinternational.org

STRIVE Awarded \$4.5 Million Grant from the U.S. Department of Labor's Reentry Projects Initiative

Grant will support three-year initiative aiming to serve nearly 600 adults leaving incarceration.

November 29, 2017

STRIVE International, Inc., a national leader in training and employment programs, has been awarded a three year, \$4.5 million grant from the U.S. Department of Labor to improve employment opportunities and outcomes for men and women leaving incarceration in six U.S. cities. STRIVE was one of only four intermediary organizations chosen nationwide to serve adults aged 25 and over leaving incarceration.

The grant enables STRIVE to launch a new program, STRIVE Fresh Start, at six STRIVE sites: Atlanta, GA; Greenville, NC; New Orleans, LA; Philadelphia, PA; San Diego, CA; and Waterbury, CT. The program incorporates evidence-based interventions including Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Motivational Interviewing, legal services, and transitional jobs into STRIVE's proven employment model.

"Men and women leaving incarceration face enormous challenges in obtaining good jobs, supporting their families, and rebuilding their lives," says Phil Weinberg, STRIVE's President & CEO. "With this grant from the US Department of Labor, STRIVE Fresh Start will provide men and women leaving incarceration with access to the training, credentials, and support needed to thrive in the modern workforce and to become positive contributors to their communities."

STRIVE Fresh Start builds upon deep reentry experience at STRIVE sites across the country, including San Diego affiliate Second Chance's Youthful Offender Rehabilitation Program at the East Mesa and Kearny Mesa Youthful Offender Units, and STRIVE New York's pre-release training and support services on Riker's Island, in partnership with the NYC Department of Correction.

"We're excited to take this significant next step and collaborate with STRIVE partner organizations to support individuals returning to communities across the country," says Greg Wise, STRIVE's National Vice President. "This innovative program model will support nearly 600 men and women seeking economic security for themselves and their families."

STRIVE has been serving individuals with high barriers to employment since 1984. Headquartered in New York, NY, STRIVE has developed a network of 20 affiliate partners across the country, which share

the vision of combatting poverty through employment. Since its founding in 1984, the STRIVE network has helped more than 70,000 men and women transform their lives.

About STRIVE: STRIVE is a leading workforce development organization, headquartered in New York City, with 20 U.S. based Affiliates. STRIVE's mission is to help individuals acquire the life-changing skills and attitudes needed to overcome challenging circumstances, find sustained employment, and become valuable contributors to their families, their employers, and their communities. STRIVE's comprehensive job training and career development services include its STRIVE Future Leaders program for young adults with justice involvement, its signature CORE job readiness workshop, and a range of vocational skills programs that prepare graduates with industry-recognized credentials in a variety of sectors.