

## **Strong correlation between employment and success of ex-offenders in the community**

The U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics reports that 1 in 15 adults will serve a prison term during their lifetime. If current trends continue, 1 in 3 African-American males will be imprisoned (NCJ 197976, August 2003).

The annual cost of housing an inmate in federal prison is currently \$23,429. The U.S. Department of Justice reported that the average annual cost of incarcerating a state inmate was \$22,650 (NCJ 202949, June 2004). According to *collegeboard.com*, in 2004-2005 the average annual cost for room, board, tuition & fees at an in-state public university was \$12,841, & \$27,677 for a private university.

At the federal level in 2006, 85% of ex-offenders whose supervision was revoked were unemployed at the time of the violation. This is consistent in our District, where 83% of ex-offenders whose supervision was revoked were unemployed at the time of the violation. An unemployed ex-offender is four times more likely to return to prison than an ex-offender who is employed.

The legal restrictions and social perceptions associated with felony convictions also create barriers to employment, which make employment challenging for ex-offenders. A study of ex-offenders released from Texas prisons revealed that 74% ranked employment as the most difficult problem they experienced.

### **Employer Benefits**

**Work Opportunity Tax Credit** of up to \$2,400 for each ex-offender employed. For more information, contact Jerry Jaco at (800) 877-8698 or the Department of Labor website [www.usdoj.gov/wotcdata.asp](http://www.usdoj.gov/wotcdata.asp).

**Federal Bonding Program** provides insurance for any ex-offender employed. More information is available at [www.bonds4jobs.com/bondingprogram.html](http://www.bonds4jobs.com/bondingprogram.html).

**Mandatory Drug Testing** is required for the majority of ex-offenders under the supervision of the U.S. Probation Office.

**Third-Party Risk Notification** - The U.S. Probation Office will ensure that the employer is notified if an ex-offender is considered for employment and poses a possible risk to the employer or community.

**Condition to Maintain Employment** - Each ex-offender under the supervision of the U.S. Probation Office has a standard condition to be employed or involved in an educational or training program approved by the U.S. Probation Office.

**Probation Officer as a Resource** - Job retention is a priority. We encourage employers to contact our office regarding the performance of the employee.

U.S. Probation Office  
314-244-6700