

Justice-Involved Toolbox

Resources for Formally Justice-Involved Individuals & Families

Language is ever-evolving, and we are open to any new words that help humanize the way we think about people who find themselves in situations that often define them. A new term to replace “formerly incarcerated” is “justice-involved individuals”. These are individuals who have been touched by our justice system in some way, whether that be arrested, charged, or convicted of a crime. The organizations listed below help to serve individuals who would identify as justice-involved. We have included the url’s to be copied and pasted into browsers if you receive this information in printed form.

Food Resources

[Benefits.gov](https://www.benefits.gov/)

This benefit finder allows you to look for government benefits by category or agency. It links to government information and resources on education, food, housing, disability, Veteran's benefits, and COVID-19.

(<https://www.benefits.gov/>)

[Find Your Local Food Bank, Feeding America](https://www.feedingamerica.org/find-your-local-foodbank)

The Feeding America nationwide network of food banks secures and distributes meals through food pantries, meal programs, and mobile services throughout the United States.

(<https://www.feedingamerica.org/find-your-local-foodbank>)

[Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children \(WIC\)](https://www.fns.usda.gov/wic)

WIC provides federal grants to states for supplemental foods, health care referrals, and nutrition education for low-income pregnant, breastfeeding, and non-breastfeeding postpartum women, and to infants and children up to age five who are found to be at nutritional risk.

(<https://www.fns.usda.gov/wic>)

[Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program \(SNAP\)](#)

SNAP provides benefits to eligible low-income individuals and families via an Electronic

Benefits Transfer card.

(<https://www.benefits.gov/benefit/361>)

[Food and Nutrition Service \(U.S. Department of Agriculture\)](#)

Provides links to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) state directory, as well as information about all Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) programs.

(<https://www.fns.usda.gov/contacts?f%5B1%5D=program%3A32>)

Employment Resources

[Benefits.gov](#)

This benefit finder allows you to look for government benefits by category or agency. It links to government information and resources on education, food, housing, disability, Veteran's benefits, and COVID-19.

(<https://www.benefits.gov/>)

[Apprenticeship.gov \(U.S. Department of Labor\)](#)

This site provides information on hands-on-career training or apprenticeship in such areas as construction, welding, and animal care.

(<https://www.apprenticeship.gov/become-apprentice>)

[CareerOneStop \(U.S. Department of Labor\)](#)

Provides information on exploring careers, finding training, finding local help, and conducting a job search. Includes a section titled "Move past your criminal record," and links to an American Job Center Finder directory and temp agencies.

(<https://www.careeronestop.org/site/site-map.aspx>)

[Career Planning for People with a Criminal Conviction](#)

Advice from Minnesota State CAREERwise on assessing yourself, exploring careers, creating a plan & setting goals, expanding skills, finding a job, and managing a career.

(<https://careerwise.minnstate.edu/exoffenders/index.html>)

[2nd Chances 4 Felons](#)

This website provides links to staffing agencies and companies that hire individuals after their time in the carceral system.

(<https://www.2ndchances4felons.com/>)



Housing Resources

[Benefits.gov](https://www.benefits.gov/)

This benefit finder allows you to look for government benefits by category or agency. It links to government information and resources on education, food, housing, disability, Veteran's benefits, and COVID-19.

(<https://www.benefits.gov/>)

[Find Shelter - HUD](https://www.hud.gov/findshelter)

HUD information on finding shelter for the homeless or those facing homelessness.

(<https://www.hud.gov/findshelter>)

[GoSection8](https://www.gosection8.com/)

This site provides information about subsidized housing rentals offered through the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), as well as local governments.

(<https://www.gosection8.com/>)

[Housing Assistance For Veterans](https://www.va.gov/homeless/housing.asp)

This collaborative program between HUD and VA combines HUD housing vouchers with VA supportive services to help Veterans who are homeless and their families find and sustain permanent housing.

(<https://www.va.gov/homeless/housing.asp>)

[Rental Assistance: Resources in the United States](https://blogs.loc.gov/law/2022/07/rental-assistance-resources-in-the-united-states/?locl=eaiclb)

The Law Library Librarians at the Law Library of Congress developed the information in this blog in response to inquiries they received on the topic of rental assistance resources.

(<https://blogs.loc.gov/law/2022/07/rental-assistance-resources-in-the-united-states/?locl=eaiclb>)

Disability Resources

[Benefits.gov](https://www.benefits.gov/)

This benefit finder allows you to look for government benefits by category or agency. It links to government information and resources on education, food, housing, disability, Veteran's benefits, and COVID-19.

(<https://www.benefits.gov/>)



[Short-Term and Long-Term Disability Insurance](#)

Find information about disability services from the usa.gov site, including about health care coverage including Medicare and Medicaid. Learn about workplace disability insurance, compensation benefits for disabled veterans and Social Security benefits for people with disabilities.

(<https://www.usa.gov/disability-benefits-insurance>)

[Social Security Disability](#)

The Social Security and Supplemental Security Income disability programs are the largest of several Federal programs that provide assistance to people with disabilities.

(<https://www.ssa.gov/disability/>)

[Veterans Affairs Disability Compensation](#)

VA disability compensation offers a monthly tax-free payment to Veterans who got sick or injured while serving in the military and to Veterans whose service made an existing condition worse

(<https://www.va.gov/disability/>)

Healthcare Resources

[Benefits.gov](#)

This benefit finder allows you to look for government benefits by category or agency. It links to government information and resources on education, food, housing, disability, Veteran's benefits, and COVID-19.

(<https://www.benefits.gov/>)

[Government Response to Coronavirus, COVID-19](#)

This site Includes federal information on health, safety, travel, benefits, and housing in response to the Coronavirus.

(<https://www.usa.gov/coronavirus>)

[HealthCare.gov](#)

Provides information about the Affordable Care Act, including enrollment, coverage, regulation and policy, payments, and local contacts.

(<https://www.healthcare.gov/>)

[Health Care for Re-entry Veterans Services and Resources](#)

VA's HCRV program is designed to promote success and prevent homelessness among Veterans returning home after incarceration.



(<https://www.va.gov/homeless/reentry.asp>)

[Medicaid and CHIP Enrollment](#)

Medicaid provides health coverage to millions of Americans, including eligible low-income adults, children, pregnant women, elderly adults and people with disabilities. Medicaid is administered by states, according to federal requirements.

(<https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/index.html>)

[Medicare.gov](#)

Information on Applying for Medicare, health & drug plans costs, claims & appeals, forms, local help, and resources.

(<https://www.medicare.gov/index>)

Education Resources

[Benefits.gov](#)

This benefit finder allows you to look for government benefits by category or agency. It links to government information and resources on education, food, housing, disability, Veteran's benefits, and COVID-19.

(<https://www.benefits.gov/>)

[Federal Student Aid](#)

There are some restrictions, for instance those with felony drug possession convictions are not eligible for federal financial aid.

(<https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>)

[Graduate Record Examination \(GRE\) External](#)

Information on preparing and registering for the GRE test.

(<https://www.ets.org/gre/>)

[Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education \(U.S Department of Education\)](#)

Use this site to find information about student loan forgiveness programs, student loan applications, and grants for students. Note that there may be some limitations for ex-offenders.

([https://guides.loc.gov/reentry-resources/reentry#:~:text=Office%20of%20Career%2C%20Technical%2C%20and%20Adult%20Education%20\(U.S%20Department%20of%20Education\)](https://guides.loc.gov/reentry-resources/reentry#:~:text=Office%20of%20Career%2C%20Technical%2C%20and%20Adult%20Education%20(U.S%20Department%20of%20Education)))



Legal Representation

Step toe is a charter signatory to the Law Firm Pro Bono Challenge, with lawyers handling pro bono matters involving significant legal issues with far-reaching effects, such as race, age, gender, sexual orientation, and disability discrimination; human rights; freedom of speech; prisoners' rights; and voting rights.

Step toe has more than [500 lawyers and other professional staff across offices](https://www.step toe.com/en/offices/index.html) in Beijing, Brussels, Chicago, Hong Kong, London, Los Angeles, New York, San Francisco, and Washington D.C. (<https://www.step toe.com/en/offices/index.html>)

Read more about Step toe's pro bono services [here](https://www.step toe.com/en/pro-bono-service/index.html).
(<https://www.step toe.com/en/pro-bono-service/index.html>)

Learn More About the Issues Facing Formally Justice-Involved Individuals

Reducing Barriers to Reentry for Older Adults Leaving Incarceration

Policies that improve timely access to Social Security and SSI for the reentry population would help everyone reenter our communities and could particularly help reduce income inequalities for people of color, people with disabilities, and older adults.

(<https://justiceinaging.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Reducing-Barriers-to-Reentry-for-Older-Adults-Leaving-Incarceration.pdf>)

Equal Justice Initiative

The United States incarcerates its citizens more than any other country. Mass incarceration disproportionately impacts the poor and people of color and does not make us safer. EJI is working to end our misguided reliance on over-incarceration.

<https://eji.org/criminal-justice-reform/>

Providing Identification for Those Released from Incarceration

Approximately 17 states have laws aimed at helping previous offenders get identification either at release or immediately following. But these laws vary.

(<https://www.ncsl.org/research/civil-and-criminal-justice/providing-identification-for-those-released-from-incarceration.aspx>)

Prison Policy Initiative

New data on formerly incarcerated people's employment reveal labor market injustices.

(<https://www.prisonpolicy.org/blog/2022/02/08/employment/>)

The **Peace Alliance**
Educate, Advocate, Mobilize



Collateral Costs: Incarceration's Effect On Economic Mobility

Learn more about the effects of incarceration on employment and economic mobility. This report is based on research by Dr. Bruce Western and Dr. Becky Pettit and was jointly authored by the Economic Mobility Project and the Public Safety Performance Project of The Pew Charitable Trusts.

(https://nacj.org/index.php?option=com_easyfolderlistingpro&view=download&format=r aw&data=eNpNUMFqwzAM_RXj03ZK0tFsU46lhx3GRhnsWBxHaQSOB Wynaxn798lJw wYGS89-T-9JQVXBd4QaZO9Mh0E2EbYbkDSqE8ZclmB0U9BcXPmpNaSLtzRgEA c0K mFcJz6cXCcdiwOiTeGauSxcJ6eIYVGLMwSyXFyfThPG9DfpEeTxOGO5e1qoVo2Y2xJk vuoFpU42BOVCCmi8SsO_X8ztyeDKrbcgd85kl0EZsXMxReF68WK14jhBJXJW8NlrZ91 lWry6lgylq7h733-KTVmV91noASRe0q3yXX9zjRdPvJvVUsUuVEpKDyNvQjbtjD4zI-CZ8 GtJy0ksDz6zw59fS3x6Ow,,)

Bureau of Justice Statistics

A new report shows that of more than 50,000 people released from federal prisons in 2010, a staggering 33% found no employment at all over four years post-release, and at any given time, no more than 40% of the cohort was employed.

(<https://bjs.ojp.gov/content/pub/pdf/eprfp10.pdf>)

