



National Urban League

The Division of Workforce Development

The National Urban League's evidence-based and scalable signature programs are professionally implemented by local Urban League affiliates to enhance the economic and educational status of our constituents.

Urban Reentry Jobs Program

A SIGNATURE PROGRAM OF THE NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE



Accomplishments.

Between 2015 and 2018, the Urban Reentry Jobs Program (URJP) enrolled 441 individuals.



85%

of participants earned a credential or certificate

62%

of participants became employed

95%

of participants did not return to prison

2025 EMPOWERMENT GOAL

Every American has access to jobs with a living wage and good benefits.

National Scope.

The National Urban League has been serving the formerly incarcerated for more than fifty years—even before federal grant money was expressly targeted for this purpose..

IN 2013, the National Urban League won a grant from the US Department of Labor to continue this important work in Chicago and New Orleans. Since then the National Urban League has won an additional grant from the US Department of Labor, as well as financial support from the National Football League.

In order to expand this vital URJP work, we continually seek the resources needed to do so.

Our Approach.

URJP provides formerly incarcerated adults with the necessary skills and training to successfully re-enter the job market and to find a position with a livable wage that can potentially lead to a career with an elevated income. This National Urban League signature program affords enrolled participants the opportunity to earn industry-recognized credentials, learn employment-focused skills, and form positive relationships with their communities. We offer workforce development, targeted training, mentoring, and support services through the help of our Urban League affiliates.

Six months post-program, participants realized:

+ \$12,435

⚙️ AVERAGE YEARLY EARNINGS

= This exceeds the National Urban League's grant goal of \$9,360 per participant

Services.

Taking a skills-based training approach, URJP tailors its services to the needs of employers and participants alike. Core services offered include:

1. *Job Training in High-Demand Occupational Fields*
2. *Job Placement Services*
3. *One-on-One & Group Mentoring Services*
4. *Supportive Services Assistance*
5. *Customized Case Management*

Participants.

Upon returning home from prison, most of the men and women whom we serve find themselves faced with significant challenges, such as lack of transportation, unstable housing, and child support payments.

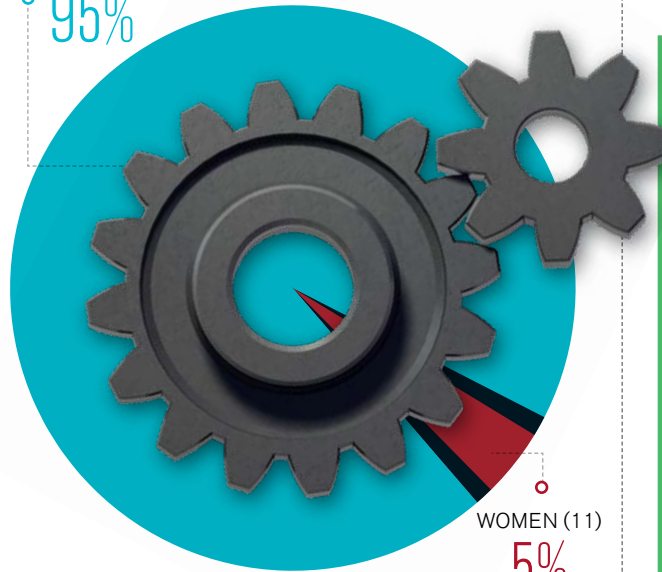
It is at this point that our multi-service affiliates step in to offer much-needed support in such areas as:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <i>Housing Assistance Referral</i> | <i>Mental Health Referral</i> |
| <i>Business Wardrobe Closet</i> | <i>Family Counseling Referral</i> |
| <i>Transportation Services</i> | <i>Access to Stipends</i> |
| <i>Substance Abuse Counseling</i> | <i>Access to Local One-Stops</i> |
| | <i>Community Service Referral</i> |

Among Current Cohort Of Participants

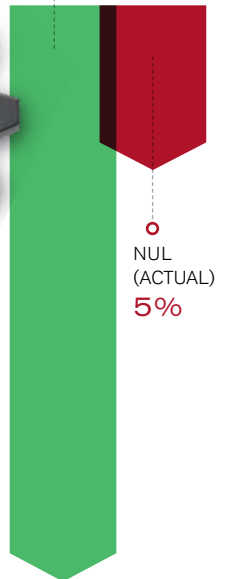
MEN (189)

95%



Recidivism Rate

GRANT GOAL
Below 20%



Success Story.

Growing up on the Southside of Chicago, **MARIO B.** attended Vocational High School until he dropped out in the 11th grade because of his gang affiliation. The U.S. District Courts convicted him of possessing a firearm in furtherance of drug trafficking crimes and sentenced him to 120 months in prison. He served a total of eight years in the Federal Bureau of Prisons and was released from federal custody ahead of schedule. During his period of incarceration, he attained his General Education Diploma (GED).

Mario is a 35-year-old single father of three children, one son and two daughters. Since he had never worked a permanent legal job before, he did not have a resume with professional experience and was concerned about getting a job that would provide for his family. Mario was in residence at the Salvation Army's Pathway Forward Re-Entry Program before he came to the Chicago Urban League, a National Urban League affiliate, seeking vocational training and career placement assistance via the USDOL Training to Work 3 Program.

During his engagement with the Urban League, Mario completed the 10-day "Success Strategy" pre-employment program and 24-plus hours of mentoring. Once the case managers at the Chicago Urban League completed the Individual Career and Educational Plan (ICEP) with Mario, he wanted to acquire an industry-recognized welding certificate in order to qualify for a meaningful position in manufacturing as a welder.

RESULT: Mario obtained his complex welding certification, which included scaffolding safety training and 10 hours of construction safety and health training from Kennedy-King College. He became the only participant to complete this training and graduate with high honors from the welding program. Mario indicated, "The Training to Work 3 Program provided me with the skills to compete in the job market." He credits the program with assisting him to remain focused and with providing him with the necessary navigation to stay on course so as not to return to his previous life.

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