



STATE OF NEW YORK
DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES
4 Tower Place
Albany, New York 12203
<http://criminaljustice.state.ny.us>

SEAN M. BYRNE
ACTING COMMISSIONER

ROBERT M. MACCARONE
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
AND DIRECTOR
(518) 485-7692
(518) 485-5140 FAX

STATE DIRECTOR'S MEMORANDUM # 2011-6

TO: Probation Directors/Commissioners

FROM: Robert M. Maccarone, Deputy Commissioner *R.M.M.*
Director, Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives

DATE: April 4, 2011

RE: Probationer Employment 2009 and 2010

I am pleased to provide you with statewide probationer employment data as reported in this year's Annual Probation Plans. As you know, probationer employment is calculated by localities based on the number of probationers employed as a percentage of those adult individuals under supervision determined by departments to be employable. Probation departments subtract or except students, persons on disability, and others deemed unable or unavailable to work in determining the employable population under supervision. For 2010, 63.4% of adult probationers were reported employed, compared with 61.5% in 2009. This is particularly commendable considering the very challenging economic environment that persists. Overall, probationer employment represented as a percentage of all adults under community supervision, and listed on the statewide Integrated-Probation Registrant System (I-PRS) remains steady at 45%. While achievement in probationer employment has been realized in recent years, and it appears fairly stable, additional progress can be made in addressing the challenges of promoting the important pro-social engagement that employment offers. OPCA is committed to working with probation departments in providing tools to assist probation officers work with probationers in obtaining and equally important, retaining gainful employment.

Over the past five years, the Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives (OPCA), in cooperation with the Department of Labor and local probation departments and alternatives to incarceration/community correction programs have made a substantial commitment to implementing the cognitive behavioral offender employment program—the Offender Workforce Development Specialist (OWDS) developed by the National Institute of Corrections (NIC). To date, over 80 probation officers and community correction professionals have been certified in the 180-hour OWDS Program. Individuals trained as OWD Specialists are able to conduct

cognitive groups using the New York State job readiness and retention curriculum, “**Ready, Set, Work!**” and “**Retention Counts!**” “**Employment Matters**” is a one-day training curriculum that provides the basic competencies for working with offenders and defendants to prepare them to take advantage of local “One-Stops” or other community-based employment resources.

During 2010, OPCA also developed supplements for practitioners to utilize with specialized job readiness groups comprised of sex offenders, as well as persons with mental health illness and in recovery. Structured and thoughtful employment can provide important and stabilizing support to these individuals. “**Ready, Set, Work!—Sex Offenders**” and “**Ready, Set, Work!—for Persons in Mental Health Recovery**” are important additions to the New York State OWDS certified employment program, and we encourage probation departments to carefully consider these programs.

During 2010, probation officers and community correction professionals who were certified by OPCA as OWD Specialists conducted 53 probationer employment groups (“**RSW!**, “**Retention Counts**” and “**RSW!—Sex Offenders**”) with 507 individuals completing. To date, 231 probationers and individuals in ATI Programs obtained gainful employment.

Attached is a map of NIC/OPCA trained OWDS professionals in New York State that includes staff that have been trained in 2011. Please contact our staff at Cynthia.Blair@dcjs.state.ny.us for assistance in utilizing these new resources.

As always, I want to thank you for your continued professionalism and support.

Attachments

- 1) Map of NIC/OPCA Training Professionals
- 2) 2010 Probationer Employment Chart