

Additional Re-Entry Resources:

Illinois Department of Employment Security Re-Entry Website:

Go to the Illinois Department of Employment Security website at www.ides.illinois.gov, click on Individuals, then click on Search for a Job. A link to RESP program information is on the left side of the page.



IDES is an equal opportunity employer and complies with all state and federal nondiscrimination laws in the administration of its programs. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Contact the office manager of the IDES office nearest you or the IDES Equal Opportunity Officer at (312) 793-9290 or TTY: (888) 340-1007.

Note: The information contained in this brochure is subject to change at anytime. For the latest information, visit the IDES Web site at www.ides.illinois.gov

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State of Illinois

Department of Employment Security



Re-Entry Employment Services Program

Reducing recidivism through employment



Are you having difficulties obtaining employment due to a criminal conviction / record?

If so, the Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) offers assistance through the Re-Entry Employment Service Program (RESP), designed to assist former offenders overcome employment hurdles.

Adults or juveniles who are, or have been, subject to any stage of the criminal justice process can benefit from the RESP Program. The offender may or may not have been held in a correctional institution, jail, reformatory, work farm, detention center, halfway house, community-based rehabilitation center, or similar institution designed for confinement or rehabilitation.

RESP Program Expectations

The Employment Services Staff will:

- Interview you to identify additional employment barriers as well as give you career development counseling.
- Provide or refer you to job readiness workshop/services (resume and interviewing assistance, etc.).
- Assist with **IllinoisJobLink.com** registration, job readiness, and employment opportunities.

As a RESP Participant you are expected to:

- Make and keep all scheduled appointments including job referrals.
- Complete the **IllinoisJobLink.com** Registration.

- Be open and honest with your Employer Services Representative and Employers.
- Present yourself professionally and maintain a positive attitude.

How to get started:

- Go to the IDES (Illinois Department of Employment Security) website at **www.ides.illinois.gov**; enter your zip code to locate the nearest IDES local office and Employment Service Representative in your area.
- Call the Employment Services Representative to set up your first meeting.

Did You Know?

Employers can receive the following benefits from IDES when they hire an ex-offender.

Fidelity Bonding

What is it?

A fidelity bond is a no-cost insurance coverage that encourages employers to hire job applicants considered “at risk” due to their criminal record.

To qualify you must:

1. be of legal age for employment.
2. have a firm offer of employment (employer verification of a start date).
3. A background check that reflects a conviction.

Federal Work Opportunity Tax Credit

What is it?

It is a tax credit that reduces an employer's cost of doing business while helping those most in need gain valuable work experience.

The credit provides tax savings to employers who hire certain target groups including ex-offenders, welfare recipients, veterans, and youth.

To qualify you must:

1. Have been convicted of a felony under any statute of the United States or State.
2. Have a hire date of not more than one year after conviction or release from prison. If you qualify your Employment Service Representative will provide a Conditional Certification Letter.

State Tax Credit

What is it?

It is a tax credit that provides tax savings to employers who hire qualified ex-offenders.

To qualify you must:

1. Have a felony conviction other than Class X or crime of violence.
2. Been sentenced to period of incarceration in an Illinois adult correctional facility.
3. And has been hired by an employer within one year after release from the correctional facility.

More detailed information on these benefits can found on **www.ides.illinois.gov** in the “Employers” Section.

If you do not have access to a computer, call 1-800-244-5631 to find your nearest local office.