



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Investing in Arizona's Future: Second Chance Centers Continue to Transform Thousands of Lives

PHOENIX - (September 26, 2022) The Second Chance Centers continue to transform thousands of lives of current and former inmates, providing them with a real second chance for success within Arizona.

Through the innovative partnership with the Arizona Department of Corrections, Rehabilitation and Reentry (ADCRR), the Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) has delivered comprehensive support services to more than 19,000 inmates and individuals on parole through Second Chance Centers, Community-Based Reentry Centers and Parole Offices. Approximately 12,600 have been placed into employment, and all participants have received workforce services that set them up for future success.

"We are proud to play such an integral role in the lives of individuals looking for a fresh start and to do more for their families and communities," said DES Director Michael Wisehart. "The Second Chance Initiative was an inspired idea that will have a lasting impact on the State's support and rehabilitation for those who enter the system, so they can become productive members of our shared community."

DES provides comprehensive support services through the Centers, preparing eligible individuals for Arizona's workforce through pre- and post-release workforce readiness preparation that includes soft and hard skills development, vocational training, interview, and résumé preparation, job training, and more.

In March 2017, Governor Ducey announced the Second Chance Initiative to help Arizona build safer communities and reduce recidivism by providing individuals with opportunity after incarceration. That same month, the State's first Second Chance Center opened to provide inmates with a 10-week program designed to prepare them for reentry in our communities and workforce. Today, in addition to the state's three Second Chance Centers, reentry employment services are also available post-release in the NATIVE HEALTH Central office, parole offices, reentry centers, and DES and ARIZONA@WORK offices throughout the state. This level of

support helps former inmates reenter society productively, reducing their chance of recidivism by giving them a pathway to success.

Success Stories

- [Former Inmate Who Helped Shape Second Chance Program Gains His Own Second Chance](#)
- [Mesa Resident Finds Second Chance, Help Through DES Reentry](#)
- [One Month After Release, Arizona Man Finds Employment and Opportunity Through Reentry Services](#)
- [Seeds of Success: A Second Chance for Individuals After Prison](#)
- [ARIZONA@WORK Reentry Program hits Record Number of Job Placements in October](#)
- [Second Chance Reentry Services Expand to Youth](#)
- [Second Chances Centers Present Opportunities for a New Life](#)
- [Real Second Chances Impact Families](#)
- [The Importance of a Real Second Chance](#)
- [Pathways to Employment](#)

In March 2022, DES celebrated the fifth anniversary of the Second Chance Center initiative. The Centers represent a commitment to individuals who truly want a better life for themselves and those around them. DES is honored to partner with ADCRR in support of individuals with a past and the communities to which they belong. Learn more about reentry services at des.az.gov/reentry-services.

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