INFO LINE, INC.

Coming Home: A Road Map for Successful Reentry

Summit County Reentry Network

summitcountyreentrynetwork.org

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SCRN
summit county reentry network

Formerly incarcerated men and women offer the following words of encouragement and guidance as you begin your successful journey to rejoin your community:

"Everyone must find their own way, but we encourage you to use this booklet, and we offer our advice to help you in your reentry to the community." Dennis, Edward, Mansfield, Marques, Maryum and Rakin

- Change what is inside your head — reinvent and improve yourself.
- Set realistic goals and take necessary steps to meet them.
- Don't rush it — have patience — one day at a time.
- Persevere — develop an attitude of not giving up.
- Think before you act — one false move and you could be back.
- No one owes you anything — no chip on your shoulder.
- Find your own spirituality.
- Stay in a positive living situation.
- Apologize to your victims.
- Keep in touch with family members — rebuild relationships and trust.
- Talk to your children — apologize for not being there — stay involved.
- Carry yourself with dignity and respect; you will be more likely to be treated that way.
- Take time out to read this book.

Preparing for Your Release and Reintegration to Society

While you are in jail/prison…

- ❖ Live in prison how you will live outside — focus on attitudes, behaviors and habits.
- ❖ Learn a trade or get a marketable skill.
- ❖ Participate in education programs - get your GED.
- ❖ Get help for addictions and mental health issues.
- ❖ Change your child support order if needed.
- ❖ Work toward finding a positive place to live when released.
- ❖ Apply for government benefits as soon as you can.
- ❖ Keep in touch with family members.
- ❖ See if family members can send you clothing for your release (check with your institution).
- ❖ Get a Social Security card and birth certificate.
- ❖ Develop a résumé, and get help editing it for spelling and design.
- ❖ Practice interviewing for a job.
- ❖ Work with your case manager to prepare for release.

Please Note: The Summit County Reentry Network (SCRN) does not have oversight or authority over any of the agencies/programs listed in this booklet. SCRN does not rate, recommend or endorse any service or organization listed in this booklet.

FIRST STEPS AFTER RELEASE…

When you are released, take it one day at a time!

- ♦ Find a positive living situation (page 08)
- ♦ Get proper clothing (page 14)
- ♦ Find places to get food (page 06)
- ♦ Contact Summit County Reentry Network (page 12)
- ♦ Get help for alcohol or other drug recovery (page 15)
- ♦ Take care of health and dental needs (page 19)
- ♦ Get a birth certificate if you don't have one (page 23)
- ♦ Get your Social Security card if you don't have it (page 24)
- ♦ Find your way around — know the bus system (page 30)
- ♦ Get a photo ID/driver's license (page 23, 26)
- ♦ Make an appointment with a job search program (page 33)
- ♦ Get more training or education (page 36)
- ♦ Take care of mental health needs (page 39)
- ♦ Get a Mentor or Coach for guidance & support (page 13)
- ♦ Sign up for government benefits (page 47)
- ♦ Keep in touch with your parole officer (page 54)
- ♦ Make arrangements for child support (page 45)
- ♦ Take care of childcare or parenting needs (page 42)
- ♦ Clean up your record and get legal help if needed (page 50)
- ♦ Clean up your credit and save money wisely (page 59, 61)
- ♦ Register with selective service (page 67)
- ♦ Register to vote (page 66)

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You can get information about services in SUMMIT COUNTY 24 hours a day – 7 days a week – Every day of the year!

- It can be confusing to decide which agency has the services you want.
- Get help figuring out what kind of help you need.
- INFO LINE can help!

Info Line maintains a complete listing of all services available to people who live in Summit County, including all local, state and federal government services and all non-profit organizations that provide health and human services.

BY TELEPHONE:

- Simply dial the three digit telephone number **2-1-1** from a home phone or a cell phone. All phone calls and conversation are confidential.
- *If you can't get through, call **330-376-6660** or toll free **1-888-212-5041.*** **Why?** There are still a few businesses and internet-based phone companies that have "blocked" the use of all three digit numbers except 9-1-1.
- Info Line 2-1-1 answers telephone calls 24-hours a day, seven days a week, including weekends and holidays.
- The professionally trained staff can help you figure out what services you need and then provide you with detailed information about how to contact the programs that offer the services.

BY COMPUTER:

- **The Info Line 211 internet website address is www.211summit.org**
- If you have a computer with internet, you can access the complete Info Line 2-1-1 database of services online, at any time day or night.
- Every Summit County library has computers with internet that are free to use. You will need to sign up for a library card in order to use library computers.

For a complete description of all the services that Info Line provides directly to the public, visit www.infolineinc.org

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1. FOOD (For cash assistance with food, go to Chapter 18)

FOOD PANTRIES:

- Food pantries give out groceries once a month or in emergency situations.
- You will be given canned and boxed food such as cereal, pasta, tuna and soup.
- Sometimes you will get fresh fruit, vegetables or meat.

HOT MEALS / SOUP KITCHENS:

- These are places where you can go to get a free meal.
- You must go on the day and time that the meal is served.
- You generally don't need a photo ID or any paperwork.

These are only a few of the food programs in Summit County. For days and times that hot meal sites and pantries are available, contact Info Line by dialing 2-1-1 or 1-888-212-5041 or go to www.211summit.org

Organization/Program Name and Website & Website	Phone Number
Akron Urban League (Food Pantry) www.akronurbanleague.org	234-542-4166
American Red Cross (Hot Meals) www.summitcounty.redcross.org	330-535-6131
Barberton Area Community Ministries (Food Pantry) www.bacm.org	330-745-3693
Good Samaritan Hunger Center (Hot Meals) www.goodsamaritanhungercenter.org	330-864-8520
Haven of Rest (Hot Meals) www.havenofrest.org	330-535-1563
Info Line Emergency Food Clearinghouse (Appointment hotline for Several Food Pantries) http://www.infolineinc.org/index.php/projects/emergency-food-line	330-376-4850
Open M (Hot Meals) www.openm-minstry.org	330-434-0110
Salvation Army Food (Hot Meals) www.salarmysummit.org	330-996-4255
Summit County Department of Job and Family Services (Food Stamps/SNAP) www.summitdjfs.org	866-386-3071
The Chapel (Pantry at Akron Campus) www.the-chapel.org	330-315-5496
Summit County Health District (WIC- Mothers with Young Children) www.scphoh.org	330-375-2177

2. HOUSING & DROP-IN CENTERS

- At least eight months before you are released, think about where you will live.
- Work with your case manager to create a plan.
- Case managers on the outside may also help you find housing.

DROP-IN CENTERS

- Drop-in Centers are places where people who are homeless can spend time during the day. Some offer snacks and beverages; some offer showers.

The following is a listing of centers that offer some services on a "drop -in" basis:

Organization/Program Name and Website	Phone Number
Haven of Rest (Homeless Men & Women) www.havenofrest.org	330-535-1563
Access for Women (Homeless Women & Children) www.access-shelter.org	330-376-0997
Harvest Home Women's Center Day Room (Homeless Women) www.havenofrest.org	330-434-1149
Choices (Men & Women- Mental Health Clients) www.choicesakr.com	330-762-8151
Community Support Services (Homeless Men & Women) www.cssbh.org	330-253-3100
ADM Crisis Center (Men & Women- If Intoxicated) www.admboard.org	330-996-7730
Summit Lake Community Center (Walk-in for men or women) www.ci.akron.oh.us/Recreation/community-centers.html	330-375-2826
Salvation Army (Bathing Facilities for All) www.salarmysummit.org	330-996-4255
Salvation Army Barberton (Bathing Facility & Laundry for All) www.salarmysummit.org	330-745-2836

LIVING WITH FAMILY OR FRIENDS:

- Living with family or friends may be your best option.
- Tell your case manager if anyone where you will be living has a felony.
- Certain restrictions might apply, so check it out for approval to avoid violating parole/post-release control.

RENTAL HOUSING

To find an independent apartment or house to rent, you can:

- Look in the classifieds section of newspapers for listings.
- Check out the neighborhood where you want to live and write down numbers on "For Rent" signs.

SUBSIDIZED HOUSING

- Funded in some way by the government or by other sources.
- Rent is based on income, or is a fixed rent that is generally less than other units on the market.

PUBLIC HOUSING

- Government owned housing.
- May have long waiting lists — two years is not uncommon.
- Some people (e.g., older adults) may be given priority for certain units and get in faster.
- Income and other eligibility requirements vary.
- Specific restrictions affect ex-offenders, but many ex-offenders still qualify.
- Tenants are generally expected to pay 30 percent of your income for rent.

All Public Housing Authorities Have To Follow These Rules:

- Federal law won't allow renting to families that include a member who has ever been convicted of methamphetamine production in federally-funded housing.
- Federal law bans renting to families that include a member who is subject to a lifetime registration requirement under a state's sex offender law.
- Ultimately, the housing authority may deny admission to any applicant.
- Always check with the housing authority to find out their process for an APPEAL.
- Appeals are usually conducted by a neutral third party.
- Candidates have the chance to explain unique circumstances for their situation in person.

TEMPORARY HOUSING

EX-OFFENDER HALFWAY HOUSES:

- Offers a place to stay, meals and supportive services.
- Clients are referred by case managers, probation officers, parole officers, or by the courts.
- Some places may not accept violent offenders, those convicted of arson or sex offenders.
- Placement is a sanction, condition, or treatment alternative.
- Paid for by the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction.
- Clients may be charged an individual monthly fee, based on type of placement.
- Staff monitors whereabouts.
- Completing the program is mandatory.
- Length of stay can vary based on type of placement, but is often three to six months.

TRANSITIONAL CONTROL (TC) HALFWAY HOUSE PROGRAMS:

- Inmates are released to a halfway house to complete up to the last 180 days of their sentence.
- Residents are subject to many restrictions, e.g. they can't obtain a driver's license, etc.
- Residents can job search, take classes, etc. to prepare for reentering society.
- Eligibility is determined by the Parole Board well before release.

HALFWAY HOUSES FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSE :

- Offers room and board along with structured alcohol or other drug addiction treatment services.
- Individual counseling and Life Skills are often made available.
- Residency is an option for treatment for people who need recovery support services.
- Some halfway houses will only accept people who have been through other treatment programs.
- Most programs require a referral from the court, case manager, parole officer, etc.
- Some residents are released from prison directly to a halfway house program.
- Certain convictions may not qualify.
- There may be a waiting list.

Halfway houses must meet standards set by the American Correctional Association (ACA) and licensing requirements of the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction.

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

- Transitional Housing is not considered emergency housing.
- Provides temporary accommodations and supportive services for those with no/very low income.
- Transitional housing programs are often used for people who are homeless.
- People coming from prison are not considered homeless right away.
- Rent and utilities are usually charged at 30 percent of income (or fee lower than most rental units).
- Length of stay differs for each person, but could be up to two years.
- Security deposits might be required.
- May need a referral from a social service agency or caseworker.
- Tenants may not be able to be released directly from prison into transitional housing.
- Certain convictions may not qualify.
- There may be a waiting list.

SHELTERS FOR THOSE WHO ARE HOMELESS

- Shelters provide a temporary place to stay (a few days to a few weeks)
- Emergency shelters need very little paperwork to be admitted

The following is a list of some of the housing and shelter programs in Summit County:

Organization/Program Name and Website	Phone Number
Access (Homeless Shelter for Women & Children) www.access-shelter.org	330-376-0997
Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority (AMHA) (Subsidized Housing) www.akronhousing.org	330-762-6271
Battered Women's Shelter (Men, Women & Children) www.scmcbws.org	330-374-1111
Community Health Center (Recovery) www.commhealthcenter.org	330-434-4141
H M Life Opportunity Services (Homeless Single Parent Housing) www.hmhousing.org/2hmlife.htm	330-376-5600
Haven of Rest (Homeless Shelter) www.havenofrest.org	330-535-1563
Home Again (Homeless or Facing Eviction) www.infolineinc.org	330-615-0566
HUD (Subsidized Housing) www.hud.gov	800-955-2232
Legacy III (Sober Housing for Women) www.legacythree.org	330-375-0071
Salvation Army (Homeless Shelter for Families) www.salarmysummit.org	330-996-4255
Valor Home (Veterans) www.fcsohio.org/programs-services/shelter/valor-home/	Not yet open

Please note: There are also several other housing options not listed here. These options require an Access to Recovery (ATR) assessment and referral. For more information, please see the section about Access to Recovery on page 17.

3. REENTRY SUPPORT

SUMMIT COUNTY OFFICE OF REENTRY

- "Reentry" is about being released from incarceration and finding what resources you need to transform your life in positive ways.
- Contacting the Summit County Office of Reentry is a good place to start:
  Telephone: 330-643-2003 Email: reentry@summitoh.net
- There is a lot of helpful information for "Citizens with Felonies and Misdemeanors" on the website: **www.summitcountyreentrynetwork.org**

SUMMIT COUNTY REENTRY NETWORK (SCRN)

- A group of faith based, nonprofit and government agencies that offer help to ex-offenders.
- Each organization that participates in SCRN *(SCRN rhymes with plan)* wants to help returning citizens with his or her unique needs.
- The Summit County Office of Reentry brings together dozens of agencies in SCRN, to work on issues that affect adults with felony or misdemeanor convictions.
- Five different committees deal with employment concerns, housing, job skills, community resources, recovery support, employer and community awareness, advocacy issues and much more.
- Many of SCRN's community leaders and participants have felonies in their history.

You are invited to come to the following events hosted by SCRN:

If you're looking for a job:

"REENTRY RESOURCE SEMINAR" - Will help you learn about, and overcome difficult barriers that might be blocking your job search success; some will surprise you!
http://summitcountyreentrynetwork.org/images/PDFs/RSSFlyer.pdf

- Held ONE TIME EACH MONTH: on the fourth (4^{th}) Friday of each month (since June 2011)
- In November, it is held on the third (3^{rd}) Friday due to Thanksgiving
  Location: Job Center- Room 119, 1040 East Tallmadge Ave., Akron, OH 44310
  Time: Begins at 10:00am (sharp) and ends around 11:30am
- Many service providers attend to help guide you to employment
- A free Job Search Guide/Handout is available for you

INCENTIVES:

1. Attend 5 events in 2013 and receive a **FREE** week-long bus pass or $15.00 Walgreen's Gift Certificate
2. If you're on State Parole and attend 5 events in 2013, you can also receive on month **FREE** supervision (fees are waived)

If you need help finding answers or networking:

"REENTRY SUPPORT GROUP"- A peer-to-peer group that will help you solve problems you're facing
http://summitcountyreentrynetwork.org/images/PDFs/RSGFlyer.pdf

- Held EVERY Friday evening (since October 2011)
- Where: **The Front Porch Café**, 798 Grant Street, Akron (at South St.)
- Time: Begins at 6:30pm (sharp) and ends at 7:30pm
- Exchange ideas with people who have the inside tips about successful reentry, job searching, problem solving and more!

4. CASE MANAGEMENT AND MENTORING:

- Case Managers at non-profit, government and faith based organizations can often connect you with job search assistance, bus tickets, recovery support, education, housing assistance, peer support and referrals to other community services.
- When you are released from incarceration, it can be very helpful to find an agency that can give you special guidance as you find what you need.
- Some agencies have Recovery Coaches or mentors who will offer support for the next several months when you move back home.

The following is a listing of some of the organizations and groups that provide some level of case management or support services to people who have been in prison and are settling in this community:

Organization/Program Name and Website	Phone Number
Akron Urban Minority Alcoholism Drug Abuse Outreach (UMADAOP) (Drug/Alcohol Recovery Support) www.akronumadaop.com	330-379-3467
Broken Chains Ministries (Summit County Jail inmates) http://brokenchainsministry.org/site/	330-643-8663
Canapi Gay/Lesbian/Transgender Support Services (GLBT Individuals) www.canapi.com	330-252-1559
Child Support Enforcement Agency (Parents owing child support) www.co.summit.oh.us/prosecutor/childsupp.html	330-643-2765
Community Health Center (Drug/Alcohol Recovery Support) www.commhealthcenter.org	330-315-2676
Community Support Services (Mental Health Supportive Services) www.cssbh.org	330-253-3100
FAME Fathers (Fathers) www.famefathers.org	330-873-9794
Fathers & Sons of Northeast Ohio (Fathers) http://fathersandsonsneo.org/	330-253-3451 X 104
Freedom House for Women (Homeless Women/Women in Recovery) www.fh4women.org	330-785-9720
Greenleaf Family Counseling Center (Individual/Family Counseling) www.greenleafctr.org	330-376-9494
Open M (Bridges Out of Poverty Getting Ahead Program - Mentoring) www.openm-ministry.org	330-434-3250
Summit Lake Community Center (Teen/Adult Support) www.ci.akron.oh.us/Recreation/community_centers.html	330-375-2826
Urban Ounce of Prevention (Drug/Alcohol Recovery Support) www.urbanounceofpreventionservices.org/	330-867-5400
Veteran's Services (Veterans) www.vscsummitoh.us	330-643-2830

5. CLOTHING

- You might have to wear your prison clothing when you are released.
- Some prisons will allow people to send you clothing to wear upon release.
- Ask your institution if they will accept and keep a packet of clothing for you to wear when you are going home, and what your family or friends will have to do to get the clothing to you.
- There are several organizations that provide good, clean clothing for little or no money.
- If you are staying at a homeless shelter or halfway house, ask the staff about clothing.

The following are organizations and groups that may be able to help you with clothing:

Organization/Program Name and Website	Phone Number
Adventist Community Services www.communityservices.org/	330-848-3225
Akron Summit Community Action, Inc. www.ascainc.org	330-376-7730
Akron Urban League: Career Clothing Bank www.akronurbanleague.org/content.cfm?id=2020	330-434-3101
The Chapel www.the-chapel.org	330-376-6400
Copley Outreach Center No website available	330-665-3335
Good Neighbors www.good-neighbors.org	330-376-6660
Goodwill Industries www.goodwillakron.org	330-724-6995
Harvest Home www.havenofrest.org	330-535-1563
Haven of Rest www.havenofrest.org	330-535-1563
Johnson United Methodist Church www.johnsonumc.org	330-706-9005
Mt. Olive Baptist Church No website available	330-835-4063
Salvation Army www.salarmysummit.org	330-996-4255
Visitation of Mary Catholic Church www.dioceseofcleveland.org	330-535-4141

6. ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE TREATMENT & RECOVERY SUPPORT

ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE TREATMENT

If you need help for an alcohol or drug related problem and don't have insurance or the ability to pay, there is hope, and there are lots of people to help you!

It is helpful to understand your options:

- The first step is to get an **Assessment** so you can find out if treatment is needed. If there is a chance that a full-time residential program is needed, an assessment can be done at the ADM *Central Assessment Center*, 15 Frederick Street, Akron, OH.
- **Residential Treatment Programs** require that you stay at the treatment center while you are involved in the program. Stays can last 30 days or longer.
- **Drop-In** for intoxicated persons to avoid an incarceration for public intoxication or drunk & disorderly by sleeping if off with an opportunity to clean up and have a snack. Length of stay is usually 6-10 hours.
- **Ambulatory Detoxification** for persons with mild to moderate withdrawal is provided at an outpatient agency and does not provide 24 hour nursing supervision.
- **Sub-acute Detox** services require overnight stay in a nonhospital agency, and have 24-hour medical/nursing monitoring. Length of stay is usually 2-4 days**.**
- **Acute Hospital Detox** are detox services with a hospital stay for persons with severe withdrawal and/or medical complications during the withdrawal process. Length of stay is usually 2-5 days.
- **Recovery Support** includes ongoing support to you in your recovery.

Emergency Services:

- This is the entry point to determine what services you need.

Emergency Services can include any of the following:

Central Assessment	Drop-In Center	Detoxification

Outpatient Treatment Services:

- You do not need to live at a treatment center.
- Services can range from a few hours per week, to 1-2 hours per day.

Outpatient services can include any of the following:

Individual Counseling	Case Management	Crisis Intervention
Group Counseling	Assessment	Urine Drug Screening
Medical Services	Methadone Service	Suboxone services

Intensive Outpatient Treatment Programs:

- You do not need to live at a treatment center
- Classes last a minimum of 8 hours per week, for at least 3 days per week

Intensive Outpatient Programs (IOP) includes the following:

Assessment	Individual Counseling
Group Counseling	Crisis Intervention (if needed)

The following local agencies provide treatment for Alcohol or Drug concerns:

Organization	Phone Number	Central Assessment	Detoxification	Drop-in Center	Alcohol/Drug Assessment	Individual Counseling	Group Counseling	Case Management	Urine Drug Screens	Methadone Admin	Suboxone Admin	Intensive Outpatient	Residential Treatment	Ambulatory Detox	Hospital Detox
ADM Crisis Center	330-996-7730	X	X	X	X										
Akron UMADAOP	330-379-3467				X	X	X	X				X			
Edwin Shaw Rehab	330-344-6000				X	X	X	X	X		X	X			
Community Health Center	330-434-4141				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Mature Services	330-253-4597				X	X	X	X				X			
Summa St. Thomas	330-379-9841				X	X	X	X	X		X	X		X	X
Interval Brotherhood Home (IBH)	330-644-4095												X		
Summit County Public Health	330-375-2984				X	X	X	X				X			

RECOVERY SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS:

Recovery Support Organizations provide peer-to-peer support and other services necessary in early recovery, such as sober housing, job skills, employment training and more.

Sober Housing:

- Great for people who are alcohol and drug free, and want to live with others who are sober/drug free.
- May include services such as recovery coaching, job skills, or life skills training.
- Food may or may not be included in the housing rate.
- May want tenants to have completed Alcohol or Drug (AoD) treatment, or currently be participating in treatment.

Recovery Coaching:

- A personal guide and mentor for people seeking, or in recovery.

Life Skills Training:

- Assistance with basic day-to-day skills necessary after incarceration:
  e.g. learning local transportation, dealing with finances, how to get basic necessities, food, laundry, current computer/phone technology, etc.

Spiritual Support:

- This may or may not be related to a particular religion
- Spiritual support usually uses many concepts, some of which are basic to 12-step organizations and self–help groups.

Access to Recovery (ATR)

- ATR is in an initiative to provide services to help ex-offenders deal with the barriers that interfere in their recovery.
- If you are enrolled in this program, you may receive a voucher allowing you a range of choices in selecting the treatment and recovery services most appropriate for your specific needs.

How does Ohio's ATR initiative work?

- Clients are assessed and given a voucher for services based on individual need.
- Clients are provided a list of both faith-based and community-based recovery support service providers from which to choose.
- Services covered are non-clinical and designed to provide support and assistance as an individual reintegrates into the community. Services may include: employment coaching, spiritual support, child care, temporary housing assistance, literacy training, transportation, and budgeting classes.

What are some of the eligibility criteria?

- Must be an adult resident of Summit County.
- Diagnosis of alcohol and/or drug abuse is required or the client must be in remission. A chemical dependency assessment must have been completed within the past 12 months of the date of service.
- Client is involved with or has a history of involvement with the criminal justice system.
- Client's income cannot exceed 200% of the federal poverty level.

Clients can also be referred for one time assistance for expenses such as rent, clothing, transportation, dental care, vision care, and non-treatment medications.

In addition to self-referral, other referral sources include the following: family, friends, and employers, Community Based Correctional Facilities, Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, Drug Courts, County Probation, Municipal and Common Pleas Courts, Adult Parole Authority, and alcohol and drug treatment/clinical providers.

For details about the initiative and services that may be available to you, contact one of the following ATR Benefit Coordinators:

- **Community Health Center**
  330-434-4141
- **Oriana House at the Alcohol, Drug, Mental Health (ADM) Board**
  330-996-7730
- **Urban Ounce of Prevention**
  330-867-5400

TWELVE STEP MEETINGS:

There are many twelve step meetings throughout Summit County that offer mutual support for individuals dealing with substance abuse and their loved ones. Call or visit their website to find the location of a meeting in your area. For other types of mutual support groups for substance abuse issues, contact Info Line by dialing 2-1-1 or 888-212-5041.

- **Alcoholics Anonymous - Akron Area Intergroup Office**
  Telephone: **330-253-8181** Website: www.akronaa.org/

- **Narcotics Anonymous – Buckeye Regional Service Committee**
  Telephone: **888-438-4673** Website: www.nabuckeye.org/

7. HEALTH CARE, DENTAL CARE and MEDICATION

- It is very important that you can get medical care when you need it.
- Many people pay for medical care with health insurance, which many people get through their work.
- Health insurance is very expensive to pay for on your own.
- People who are low income, disabled, 65 or older may be able to get government health insurance to pay for their health care (Medicaid or Medicare).

If you don't have any health insurance, try the following options:

MEDICAID:

- Medicaid is health insurance paid for by the government.
- People qualify for this insurance with low incomes, 65 years or older, blind, disabled, or are part of a family with one or more children under the age of 18.
- Certain health care providers have agreed to accept Medicaid Insurance.
- When you seek care, always ask if the provider accepts Medicaid.
- Medicaid covers some prescription drugs, doctor visits, hospital care, laboratory and X-rays, medical equipment and supplies, some dental care, mental health (including some prescription medication), vision, alcohol and drug rehabilitation and other services.
- Some services will have small fees that you will have to pay.
- For seniors and those who are disabled, Medicaid may pay for long-term care.

NOTE:

1. You may apply for Medicaid on the day you are released from prison.
2. If you were eligible for Medicaid at the time you entered prison, and you were there for less than 12 months, you will be issued a temporary Medicaid Card (good for 60 days).
3. You must reapply for Medicaid during those 60 days.
4. If you are 65 or older and low-income, or if you have qualified before for Social Security Disability or SSI, you will probably qualify immediately for Medicaid.
5. This program may help pay medical bills dating back three months from your application date.

You can apply for Medicaid at the Summit County Department of Job and Family Services:
Telephone: 330-643-8200 Website: www.summitdjfs.org

MEDICARE:

- Medicare is health insurance paid for by the government.
- People qualify for this insurance if they are age 65 and older, disabled and younger than 65, have worked under the Social Security System or are dependents of someone who has.
- **Medicare (Part A)** provides hospitalization coverage.
- **Medicare (Part B)** provides supplemental insurance for things like doctor's visits.
- **Medicare (Part C) "Medicare Advantage Plans"** are through private companies that also provide Part A and Part B benefits to eligible people; many of these special plans cover prescriptions as well.
- **Medicare (Part D)** offers prescription drug coverage.

Medicare Part A –

- You don't lose Medicare Part A (hospital insurance) when incarcerated, so there is no need to re-enroll when released

Medicare Part B –

- You will only lose your Medicare Part B (Supplemental Insurance) if you stopped paying for it while you were in prison.
- If you stopped paying for Medicare Part B, you will have to re-enroll during the next general enrollment period (January through March) for your coverage to start the following year.
- You may be subject to a higher premium when you re-enroll.

Medicare Part D –

- Medicare offers a subsidy (money) to help pay costs associated with its Part D program.
- People qualify based on income (150% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines or less) and assets,
- May pay part of your premium, deductibles, and/or co-payments for services provided under Part D.
- The amount of help varies depending on income, family size, and your resources.
- Open enrollment for Part D begins October 15.

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services offer information to those who are already on Medicare:

Telephone: 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-2273) Website: www.medicare.gov

MEDASSIST:

- Helps people who don't have any type of insurance to obtain their prescription medications for life threatening conditions.
- Most services are not open to those who are eligible for Medicaid or Medicare.

- This service is only for prescription drugs .
- Does not cover medical supplies (e.g. oxygen, bed lifts, wheelchairs, etc.) .
- Does not cover psychiatric medications or pain medications/narcotics.
- Can help you complete the required forms and applications for patient assistance programs offered by many of the medical drug manufacturing companies.
- Can help you find a local pharmacy that offers many prescription medications for $3.00 - $4.00 for up to a 30 day supply.
- May assist with paying for some of the cost of medications not available through the patient assistance programs or the pharmacy discount programs.

NOTE:

- In all cases, you must have a doctor who can prescribe your medications. MedAssist can help you find a doctor.

For more information about **MedAssist**, contact the program:
Telephone: 330-762-0609 Website: www.infolineinc.org/index.php/medassist

COMMUNITY HEALTH CLINICS:

- These are health care clinics that provide primary medical care for people who are uninsured or underinsured (although some clinics may also accept Medicaid, Medicare, or other insurance).
- Services may be provided free of charge or, more commonly, for a fee that varies according to your income.
- Most clinics require an appointment and you may need certain documents, so it is best to call ahead.

The following is a list of some of the health care and dental care programs in Summit County:

Organization/Program Name and Website	Phone Number
Akron Community Health Resources (Medical/Dental) http://achrhealthcare.org	330-724-5471
American Red Cross (Medical Transportation) www.summitcounty.redcross.org	330-535-6131
Akron Summit Community Action (Dental/Eye Glasses) www.ascainc.org	330-376-7730
Barberton Community Health Clinic (Medical) No Website Available	330-745-7471
Faithful Servants Care Center (Free Urgent Care - evenings) www.faithfulservantscarecenter.org	330-633-3680
HIV/AIDS Clinic-Free Clinic of Greater Cleveland (Medical) www.thefreeclinic.org	216-721-4010
Info Line - MedAssist (Medication) www.infolineinc.org	330-762-0609
Open M (Medical/Dental/Eye care) www.openm.org	330-434-0110
Planned Parenthood of Northeast Ohio (Women & Men's Health/STD Test/Contraceptives) www.ppneo.org	330-535-2671
Pregnancy Care of Ohio (Pregnancy Test/Education/Clothing/Emotional Support) www.pregnancycareonline.org	330-253-4071
Summit County Public Health (Immunizations/STD Testing) www.scphoh.org	330-375-2772
Summa Health System – Ophthalmology Center (Eye Care/Glasses) www.summahealth.org	330-375-4831
Summa Health System - Center for Dental Health (Dental Care) www.summahealth.org	330-375-6262
University of Akron School of Nursing (Medical) www.uakron.edu/nursing	330-972-6968
Veteran's Clinic (Comprehensive Services for Veterans) www.va.gov	330-724-7715 x 1192

8. IDENTIFICATION

RELEASE IDENTIFICATION CARD:

- A free, non-replaceable photo ID will be given to you on the day of your release if you have a Social Security number that can be verified by the Social Security Administration.
- The card will include your birth date and Social Security number. You can show this card to the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles as documentation to get a State ID, temporary permit or driver's license. However, you still have to pay the cost of getting the license, permit or State ID.

BIRTH CERTIFICATES:

- A certified (official) birth certificate is a very important document that you should have. It is often required when applying for a State ID, driver's license, marriage license, passport, school enrollment, or to access other benefits. A certified birth certificate will generally have a raised, embossed, impressed or multicolored seal. Non-certified copies are not acceptable for legal purposes.
- Summit County Public Health can provide certified birth certificates for anyone born in the State of Ohio for $22. If you were born in another state, contact Info Line or the library to help you locate information for the city, county or state you need.
- Services on the Internet such as www.vitalcheck.com can rush delivery (7-10 business days) and can help you get out-of-state birth certificates, but you must pay by credit card and the cost is higher.
- If you are homeless or have very little income, a social service agency may be able to assist. If you are working with a case manager at a particular agency, ask them if they can help with this.
- ***Be prepared with the following information to get your birth certificate:***
  - Your full name and your gender
  - Your father's full name (if available)
  - Your mother's maiden name
  - Your month, day, and year of birth
  - Place of birth (city/county/state and name of hospital, if known)
  - Telephone number
  - Address where it will be sent (if mailed)
  - Notarized sworn statement (California only)
  - Photocopy of picture I.D. if necessary (not required in Ohio)

For more information contact:

Summit County Public Health (Main Street Office)
Telephone: 330-375-2976
Website: www.scphoh.org/PROGRAMS/BirthDeathCert.html

STATE ID (IDENTIFICATION):

- If you do not have a valid driver's license, you can apply for a State ID Card.
- There are two forms of a State ID — temporary and permanent. Make sure you know the status of your driver's license before you apply for a State ID.
- If you have a suspended driver's license and you plan on driving again, ask for a *temporary ID.*
- An application for a *permanent State ID* will cancel out your driver's license. If you get a permanent ID, you'll have to re-take the exam if you want to ever drive again.
- If you have a *Release Identification Card*, you can use this as the only form of identification needed to obtain a State ID.
- If you do not have a Release Identification Card, you'll need two documents such as:
  - A legal I.D. that verifies your name and birth date (like a certified birth certificate or a driver's license that has not been expired for more than six months).
  - A paper that proves your Social Security Number (such as a Social Security Card).
- Summit County has many Bureau of Motor Vehicle locations.

For more information contact:

The Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV):
Telephone: 1-800-589-8247 Website: www.bmv.ohio.gov

SOCIAL SECURITY CARD:

- A Social Security number is important because you need it to get a job, open a bank account, get credit, collect benefits, and receive other government services.
- If you are an adult and have never applied for a Social Security Card, you must apply in person at a branch office.
- If you have a Social Security number and just need a replacement card, you can do this by mail or in person.
- This service is free.
- You need certain ORIGINAL documents (or copies "certified by the custodian of record").
- The documents you need depend on your status and what you are requesting.
- Call or visit the website before you apply so you know what documents you need.
- A copy of the application is available on the Social Security website.
- It may take between 10 days to several months to process the application depending on your status.
- A U.S. citizen from Ohio can usually expect the process to take 4-5 weeks.
- Everyone needs to have proof of their Social Security number in order to be employed.

For more information, contact:

Social Security Administration- Akron West
2166 Romig Rd.
Akron, Ohio 44320 (next to Aldi's grocery store)
Telephone: 1-800-772-1213 or 1-800-325-0778 Website: http://ssa.gov/ssnumber/

9. DRIVER'S LICENSE (REINSTATEMENT) and INSURANCE

NEW on JULY 15, 2013 UPDATE on Licence reinstatement!

Contact the BMV - If you have completed at least 1 year of your license suspension sentence and can pay a small filing fee plus a monthly fee, you may be eligible for ***immediate*** *license reinstatement!*

- If you want to make sure you still have a valid Ohio driver's license, or want to know what suspensions or blocks are on your license, call the **Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV).** They will give you information over the phone or you can visit in-person.
- You can also ask them to mail you ***a summary letter*** that will list any suspensions or blocks on your record. This letter will also tell you what you have to pay before blocks will be taken off your file.
- If you need to get your license back (reinstated) and are eligible, you can use the mail or go in person:
  - Mail will take 7-10 business days
  - In person is much faster, but telephone first to make sure that you have the correct documents
- If your license was suspended because you *did not pay child support*, you must catch up on those payments before you can get your license reinstated.
- There is usually a cost to reinstate your license that depends on the number and type of offenses for which you were convicted. You can phone ahead to find out what you have to pay. There are no agencies that will help you pay for this.

DRIVER'S LICENSE RENEWALS / DUPLICATES / NEW LICENSES:

- If your license has been expired for over six months, you will need to get the temporary packet and have a new driving test.
- If you need a new copy of your license (because your license was confiscated or lost), a new license, or you need to renew your driver's license, contact the *Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles*.
- If you have a *Release Identification Card* you can use this as the only form of ID needed to get a driver's license.
- If you don't have a *Release Identification Card*, you'll need two documents such as:
  - A legal I.D. that verifies your name and birth date (like a certified birth certificate or a driver's license that has not been expired for more than six months)
  - A paper that proves your Social Security Number (such as a Social Security Card).

- Several forms of documents are acceptable, and it is best to telephone to find out what you need.
- Current fees range from $24.50 for a duplicate copy to $25 for a temporary packet.
- There are several BMV locations in Summit County, and you can walk in to any agency for service.

For more information contact:

The Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV)

Telephone: 1-800-589-8247 Website: www.bmv.ohio.gov

AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE / CAR INSURANCE:

- Do not drive any motor vehicle without insurance or other proof of financial responsibility.
- It is also illegal for the owner of a motor vehicle to allow anyone else to drive his or her vehicle without proof of insurance or financial responsibility.
- If you are asked to show proof of insurance or financial responsibility and can't do so, you will lose your driver's license for at least 90 days for the first offense (work privileges are available after 30 days in some cases).
- You may face other penalties as well – it is not worth the risk.

For more information, contact:

Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles
Safety Responsibility Division
P.O. Box 16583, Columbus, Ohio 43216-6583
Telephone: 614-752-7700 Website: www.bmv.ohio.gov

Ohio Dept. of Insurance
2100 Stella Court, Columbus, Ohio 43215
Telephone: 800-686-1526 Website: www.ohioinsurance.gov

This agency offers a "Shoppers Guide to Automobile Insurance" that may be helpful.

10. MAILING ADDRESS / VOICE MAIL / CELL PHONE

MAILING ADDRESS:

- The address where you have your mail sent to is called your mailing address.
- Most people use the address where they live as their mailing address.
- If you do not have a permanent address or think you may be moving a lot, you should establish one place to pick up your mail.
- Check with the shelter, halfway house, transitional housing or other residential facility where you are living to see if they will allow for your mail to be sent there.

A POST OFFICE BOX (P.O. BOX)

- You can rent a locked wall box in a post office and have your mail delivered there.
- A key to open the box will be given to you. Only you will have a key.
- You will have to go to the post office where your box is located to pick up your mail.
- Some items such as packages may not be sent to a post office box.
- There is a monthly fee for a post office box.
- The smallest box will cost around $22 -$30 for six months.
- To apply for a post office box, go to the post office branch where you would like your mail sent. Telephone first, to find out if boxes are available at that location.
- You will need to have forms of identification (one must be a photo ID).
- To find the address, phone number and hours for your local post office, call 1-800-275-8777 or visit www.usps.com

COMMUNITY VOICE MAIL SUMMIT

- If you do not have a telephone or a place where telephone messages can be left for you, you can request to receive a free voice mail box.
- This allows you to communicate with others regarding interviews, job offers, housing opportunities and other important business.
- You will be able to record a personal greeting for people who call you, and to pick up your messages on a twenty-four hour basis.
- **Are you working with one of the following agencies?**
  ADM Crisis Center, Akron Urban League, Community Support Services, HMLife Opportunity Services, Info Line, Oriana House, Safe Landing Youth Shelter.
  - If "yes", ask your case manager if you qualify for a free voice mail.
  - If "no", ask your case manager to contact the Community Voice Mail-Summit program about purchasing voice mail boxes for their agency's clients.

Community Voice Mail-Summit program:
Telephone (330) 315-1349 Website: www.cvmsummit.net/

PHONE

- If you are homeless, many community centers, drop-in centers, and other social service organizations may have a phone available for your use.
- If you are renting or own a home and are low income, make sure you ask the phone company if they have any discounts or programs for people with your income.

There are some free cell phone programs as well as discounted cell phone programs that are offered by the government:

- Assurance Wireless:
  - Offers free Lifeline cellular service of up to 250 minutes per month on local and domestic long-distance calling and a free Virgin Mobile cell phone with Sprint Wireless coverage for low-income households in Ohio.
  - Text messaging only available by purchase.
  - Call 888-898-4888 or visit www.assurancewireless.com for more information or to apply.

- SafeLink Wireless:
  - Offers free Lifeline cellular service of up to 250 minutes per month and a free SafeLink Wireless cell phone for low-income households in Ohio.
  - Service includes voicemail, text messaging, and caller ID.
  - Call 800-977-3768 or visit www.safelinkwireless.com to apply or for more information.

- Nexus Communications:
  - Offers Lifeline and Link-up services, a government assisted cell phone service through Nexus Communications for low-income individuals and families. Lifeline is a monthly subsidy that lowers the cost of cell phone service. Link-up Support is a one-time financial assistance program that reduces costs associated with initiating cell phone services.
  - Offers various cell phones and cell phone service plans for free and reduced costs.
  - Call 877-870-9444 or visit www.reachoutmobile.com to apply or for more information.

- CenturyLink:
  - Offers Lifeline and Link-up services which is a government assisted telephone or cell phone service for low-income individuals and families. Lifeline is a monthly subsidy of up to $10.00 a month that lowers the cost of cell phone service. Link-Up Support is a one-time financial assistance program that reduces costs associated with initiating cell phone services.

- Call 800-366-8201 or visit www.centurylink.com/lifeline to apply or for more information.

11. TRANSPORTATION

When you are released:

- Contact a friend, family member, or other person you know to pick you up from the institution when you are released.
- If you have no one to pick you up, the institution will take you to the nearest bus station.
- If you have no money, the institution will buy a ticket for you, but this has to be arranged BEFORE you leave the prison.
- From there, if you don't have someone to pick you up, you will have to buy your own bus ticket to wherever you need to go.

Below is a list of transit authorities for Summit and surrounding counties that provide local and regional bus service:

METRO REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

Serves Akron and Summit County

Telephone: 330-762-0341 Website: www.akronmetro.org/

AKRON METRO - SCAT

- Users have to be 62 years of age or older, or have a disability and can't use a regular bus line service.
- SCAT is a **weekday** origin-to-destination, shared ride service for qualified riders.
- It is available for people who live in Summit County.
- SCAT uses small buses, cabs or line service buses.
- Trips have to be scheduled in advance.

To Register for Akron Metro SCAT:

- If 62 years of age or older or disabled, telephone METRO SCAT at 330-376-5353 or toll-free at 1-800-227-9905 to request an application.
- If you have a disability, the application must be completed by both you and your doctor.

PARTA (Portage Area Regional Transportation Authority)

Serves Portage County

Telephone: 330-678-1287 Website: www.partaonline.org/

SARTA (Stark Area Regional Transit Authority)

Serves Stark County

Telephone: 330-477-2782 Website: www.sartaonline.com/

12. EMPLOYMENT

AN ORGANIZED JOB SEARCH IS A SUCCESSFUL JOB SEARCH!

Gather all documents that an employer would need to hire you, such as:

- Driver's License or State ID
- Social Security Card and an original (or Certified Copy) of your Birth Certificate
- High School Diploma, College Diploma or GED Certificate
- Vocational Certificates
- Inmate educational record/transcript
- A well written Résumé that is specific to the type of job you want (you might have several résumés)
- A list of three references (names and phone numbers of people who can comment about your work ability—ask permission of them first)
- Type the contact information of your references on a separate page that matches the style of your résumé

NEVER GIVE UP!

- You might feel like you won't (or can't) get a job because of your criminal history, but do not quit trying! Many, many people with felonies/misdemeanors are currently employed.
- You may have to "start at the bottom" because of your felony, but at least you will be growing a new work history.
- Talk to every potential hiring manager in person if possible.
- Let managers know what help you found, and how you've changed since your past mistakes.
- Tell the potential employer that you will show up every day, on time and that you'll work hard.
- Do not disclose your criminal history right away; instead share what skills you have that match the job.
- If you get interviewed, always be honest about your past, and briefly explain how you've transformed your life.

REVIEW YOUR CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS AND YOUR CREDIT REPORT:

Review what you can do to clean up your criminal record and credit report.

- Can you change how you look on paper?
- Find out if you can have a past conviction or arrest expunged/sealed (see "Legal Help").
- Double check your reports, and fix any mistakes (see "Credit Reports").
- If eligible, apply for the Certificate of Qualification for Employment (see "CQE").

UNDERSTAND YOUR RIGHTS WHEN LOOKING FOR A JOB:

a) It is illegal for employers to post job ads that deny applications to people with criminal convictions.

b) An employer cannot use your arrest record to deny you a job; only if it led to a conviction.
c) An employer may review your record of convictions and can consider the relationship between the conviction and the job in deciding whether to employ you. The employer has a lot of freedom when making this decision.
d) Most employers will get a background check done on job applicants they interview.
e) If the employer conducts the background check himself, he/she does not need your permission to do it.
f) When employers ask a third party to do a background check (like a security company), they need to let you know and get your written permission.
g) If an employer uses anything in that report to deny you a job, you have to be provided with a copy of the report and a period of time to dispute the entries.
h) There are no specific laws in Ohio that protect you from job discrimination because of your criminal history.
i) Laws do exist to protect job applicants from discrimination based on race, religion, national origin, sex, age, disability and color (See "EEOC").
j) If you think you were passed over for a job, or discriminated against in other ways that have to do with employment, you can file a ***Charge of Discrimination***.

To file a charge, contact:

Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC)
Cleveland Field Office
Anthony J. Celebrezze Federal Building
1240 E. 9th Street, Suite 3001, Cleveland, OH 44199
Telephone: 1-800-669-4000 Website: www.eeoc.gov/field/cleveland/

LEGAL BARRIERS TO EMPLOYMENT:

- Ohio has laws that will not allow people with certain convictions to work in some jobs.
- Legal barriers are often for jobs that involve working with "vulnerable populations" like children and seniors, usually in the areas of childcare, education, law enforcement, nursing and home health care

If you want a career where a professional license is required or helpful (such as a social worker), telephone the State of Ohio board that grants the license to find out if laws prevent people with your conviction before you decide to go into that career.

→ Also, read about the 2013 Ohio legislation: "Certificate of Qualification for Employment" (CQE) that allows state licensing boards to consider granting or reinstating licenses on a case-by-case basis.

COLLATERAL SANCTIONS (Collateral Consequences) of CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS

⇨ ***Some career choices are not open to people with certain felony convictions*** ⇦

The **CIVICC database** on the internet will allow you to:

1. Review your criminal charge to see the legal barriers you face in addition to the court-imposed sentence.
2. Look up rights or privileges of Ohio citizens, and find out what types of criminal convictions might block a convicted person from enjoying them.
3. Search for all the "legal side effects" of a certain type of felony, such as all the barriers to employment in a particular field.

CIVICC database Website: http://opd.ohio.gov/civicc/

NOTE:

If you have questions about fair labor practices such as how much you are being paid, working overtime or being fired, contact:

U.S. Department of Labor
Telephone: 1-866-487-2365 Website: www.dol.gov

GET BONDED:

- FREE federal fidelity bonding program may help you get a job.
- The fidelity bond is a short-term insurance policy for the employer.
- In the case of damage or theft, the employer will be paid back by the insurance company
- Tell employers about this benefit when you are job searching
- You have to have a job offer for permanent work of at least 30 hours per week to qualify.
- Coverage is up to $5,000 for six months.

WORK OPPORTUNITY TAX CREDIT (WOTC):

- The WOTC is a tax credit for the employer.
- Employer can get as much as a $2,400 tax break for hiring someone with a criminal history.
- Tell employers about this benefit when you are job searching
- After the start-to-work date, the employer completes specific paperwork to qualify.

CERTIFICATE OF QUALIFICATION FOR EMPLOYMENT (CQE):

- Employers sometimes don't want to hire people with criminal convictions, because they fear being sued for negligent hiring. The CQE solves that concern!

- Jobseekers who have finished their court mandated sentencing (1 year for felonies; 6 months for misdemeanors), may be eligible to apply for Ohio's Certificate of Qualification for Employment (CQE).
- The CQE is an incentive for employers to hire people with backgrounds, because it provides them with "immunity from negligent hiring" claims
- The CQE also allows state licensing boards to lift restrictions to grant professional licenses/certifications on a case by case basis.
- The CQE can also serve as a strong recommendation for general employment

http://summitcountyreentrynetwork.org/images/PDFs/2013_3%20--%20CQE%20General%20purpose_CLA.pdf

http://summitcountyreentrynetwork.org/images/PDFs/CQE%20two%20page%20explanation.pdf

CQE CLINICS (SUMMER 2013)

- The University of Akron Law School can help with completing your on-line CQE application.
- To get dates for upcoming CQE CLINICS, check their website: **http://www.uakron.edu/law/clinical/cqe-clinic.dot**
- In Summit County, all CQE applications must be completed on-line and then submitted to the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections
- Once approved for completeness, a copy will be emailed to the applicant. It is then printed, and a copy is taken to the Summit County Clerk's Office with a Civil Filing Fee of $250.00

GET HELP WITH YOUR JOB SEARCH:

55 or older:

- Contact Mature Services at (330) 762-8666

Veteran:

- Contact the Veterans Service Commission AMVETS Career Center at (330) 564-1492.

Think temporary:

- Restart your work history through one or more temporary employment agencies.
- No benefits (e.g. health insurance).
- Usually paid weekly.
- Get a copy of your work agreement, pay rate, etc. in writing.

Think Day Labor:

- Usually have to show up at the day labor temp agency very early to get sent out
- No benefits (e.g. health insurance)
- Paid daily
- Get a copy of your work agreement, pay rate, etc. in writing

Use the Library:

- Free use of computers and access to the Internet.
- Excellent books about job searching for ex-offenders , including how to write your resume, answer the "felony question", how to interview, follow-up and more.
- Ask the library for a free copy of the "Ex-Offenders Job Search Guide" – it is available on the internet for free, and they may have printed copies.

THE FOLLOWING IS A LISTING OF AGENCIES THAT OFFER HELP TO FIND AND KEEP A JOB:

Organization/Program Name and Website	Phone Number
Akron Urban League Transitions Program (Job Placement for Individuals with Non-Violent/Non-Sexual Criminal Records) www.akronurbanleague.org	234-542-4166
Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation (Individual's with Disabilities) http://rsc.ohio.gov	330-643-3080
Goodwill (Job Search Resources, Training, Placement) www.goodwillakron.org	330-724-6995
Mature Services (Job Resources for 55 years or older) www.matureservices.org	330-762-8666
Summit County DJFS – The Job Center (Job Search Resources) www.thejobcenter.biz	330-633-1050
United Disabilities Services (Work Opportunities for Disabled) www.udsakron.org	330-379-3334
Veterans Service Commission (Career Center for Veterans) www.vscsummitoh.us	330-564-1492

Think about being your own boss:

- Entrepreneurs who start up their own business need a business plan and money.
- Get help from agencies who are experts in helping people create their own companies.
- They give free advice and guidance on self-employment.
- Several have free seminars that you can take, and may be able to assign you a mentor (coach).

The following are agencies that can give information about starting up your own business:

Organization/Program Name and Website	Phone Number
Akron SCORE www.akronscore.org	330-379-3163
Collaboration Station www.collabstation.org/	1-216-704-9806 1-234-738-3054
Small Business Development Corporation (SBDC) www.akronsbdc.org/	330-375-2111

13. EDUCATION

GED:

- If you never graduated from high school, a ***General Educational Development*** (GED) will improve your chances of getting a job.
- You can take free GED classes, and get lots of help studying before you take the Ohio GED test.
- When you pass this test, you will receive a GED Certificate, which will help you find a job.

For more information about obtaining your GED contact: The Ohio Department of Education: Telephone: 1-877-644-6338 Website: www.ode.state.oh.us

The following is a list of local training sites where you can get help to prepare for your GED test:

Organization/Program Name and Websites	Phone Number
Oriana House, Inc. www.orianahouse.org	330-535-8116
Project Learn www.projectlearnsummit.org	330-434-9461
Project Rise www.akronschools.org	330-761-2969
YouthBuild www.ascainc.og	330-761-0562

ADDITIONAL EDUCATION AFTER HIGH SCHOOL / GED:

SCHOOL AND CAREER COUNSELING:

- If you're not sure what job or career you want to pursue, find someone who can help.
- Career selection tests can help you learn where your strengths are best focused.
- Before you decide to apply for training or school, make sure that you will be allowed to work in that industry/field.
- Restrictions that prevent being certified or licensed are called "Collateral Sanctions".

RESTRICTIONS ON CAREER OPTIONS

⇨ ***Some career choices are not open to people with certain felony convictions*** ⇦

The **CIVICC database** on the internet will allow you to:

1. Review your criminal charge to see the legal barriers you face in addition to the court-imposed sentence.
2. Look up rights or privileges of Ohio citizens, and find out what types of criminal convictions might block a convicted person from enjoying them.
3. Search for all the "legal side effects" of a certain type of felony, such as all the barriers to employment in a particular field.

CIVICC database: http://opd.ohio.gov/civicc/

TRADE AND TECHNICAL SCHOOLS:

- These schools teach special skills like carpentry, welding, truck driving, electrical work, cosmetology, computers and daycare.
- You may or may not need a high school diploma or GED to take this kind of training.
- Look under "Schools" in the Yellow Pages to find technical and trade schools.
- Your local library can also help you get this information, or you can search the internet on a computer.

Organization/Program Name and Website	Phone Number
Akron CNC (Machining) www.akroncnc.com/	330-475-7672
Maplewood Career Center (Portage County) www.mwood.cc/	330-296-2892
Portage Lakes Career Center www.plcc.edu	330-896-8200
Akron/ Summit County Public Library – free computer classes * www.akronlibrary.org	330-643-9000

COLLEGES / UNIVERSITIES:

- Colleges and universities offer courses for people who want to earn an academic degree after finishing high school or obtaining a GED.
- There are many colleges and universities, and they each have different conditions before you can start a degree program.

Organization/Program Name and Website	Phone Number
Kent State University www.kent.edu	330-672-3000
Stark State College www.starkstatecollege.edu	330-966-5450
University of Akron www.uakron.edu	330-972-7111
University of Akron – Summit College www.uakron.edu/summitcollege	330-972-7111

ALTERNATE TRAINING SCHOOLS:

- There are many other training programs, some of which are not accredited.
- If you get training from one of these schools and then want to go on to get an academic degree at a public college or university, *your class credits may not apply*.
- Non-Accredited schools will help you get loans for your education, but the cost for each year is very high and the money must be paid back.

Organization/Program Name and Website	Phone Number
Akron Institute www.herzing.edu\akron	330-724-1600
Brown Mackie www.brownmackie.edu/	330-869-3600
Fortis College www.fortis.edu	330-923-9959
National College (Stow) www.national-college.edu/	1-888-956-2732

PAYING FOR SCHOOL (FINANCIAL AID):

- You might be able to find help paying for your education.
- Check with the Department of Jobs and Family Services.
- Telephone the Financial Aid Office at the schools you are thinking about going to, and ask about the kind of financial assistance they have for students.
- If you are looking for help to pay for school, you should complete and submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

For more information about Federal Student Aid:

Telephone: 1-800-433-3243 Website: http://studentaid.ed.gov/

NOTE:

- Under a federal law, students who were convicted of drug crimes prior to their enrollment and application for federal financial aid ***will not*** have a delay or a denial of aid due to their conviction.
- As of July 1, 2006, the federal financial aid ban will only apply to students who are convicted of a drug offense *while they are in school and receiving federal financial assistance*.

14. COUNSELING / BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

- It is very common to need professional support after being released from prison/jail.
- It is ok to feel shy or embarrassed about needing counseling - many people do.
- Be brave and know that you are helping yourself on the road to success.

Counseling support can help in many ways:

- Learn more about yourself and how to make better choices in your life.
- Heal from emotional challenges caused by hurt or abuse in your past.
- Discover how to control your anger so that you don't hurt yourself or those you care about.
- Learn how to get closer to your children and loved ones after being away.
- Get help to not repeat the same mistakes again.
- Find ways to talk with your employer or team members at work, and how to stay employed.
- Decide to set boundaries in your life to take care of yourself and not get dragged down by drama.
- Learn what it means to forgive yourself and others, to face feelings of guilt, and get free from shame.
- Discover what to do about feelings of loneliness, rejection, wanting to go back to prison, etc.
- Learn how to react to stress in positive ways.
- Get help to cope with new problems that you face as you re-build and transform your life.

MEDICATION NEEDS:

If you are taking medication for anxiety, depression, or any other mental health concern, the institution you are leaving will provide you with a two-week supply upon release.

- If you are uninsured, you will need to contact **Portage Path Behavioral Health** at 330-253-3100 to discuss your medications needs.
- If you are on Medicaid or Medicare, make sure you understand what is covered.
- Go to a professional that accepts Medicaid or Medicare.
- If you do not have Medicaid or Medicare, you may want to apply. See pages 19 and 20 for information.
- If you have health insurance, call your insurance company to check your benefits.
- Some or all of your treatment, including prescriptions, may be paid through your insurance.

IF YOU FEEL OUT OF CONTROL OR SUICIDAL-- GET HELP RIGHT AWAY:

- Call 9-1-1 if your situation is life-threatening or a medical emergency.
- Telephone the Support Hotline at 330-434-9144 any time 24 hours per day to get help.
- Talk to your doctor to get a referral to a mental health professional.

PSYCHIATRIC EMERGENCY ROOMS

- You may walk in to a psychiatric emergency room for help.
- If you have run out of your medication, they may be able to provide you with a limited supply.

The following is a list of Psychiatric Emergency Rooms available to you:

Organization/Program Name and Website	Phone Number
Akron General Hospital 400 Wabash Avenue, Akron, Ohio 44307 www.akrongeneral.org/portal/page/portal/AGMC_PAGEGROUP/Clinical_services/psychiatry/PSYCHIATRY_services#es	330-344-6000
Akron Children's Hospital One Perkins Square, Akron, Ohio 44308-1062 Psychiatric Intake Response Center www.akronchildrens.org/cms/PIRC/index.html	330-543-7472 1-866-443-7472
Portage Path Behavioral Health - Psychiatric Emergency Services 10 Penfield Avenue, Akron, OH 44310 www.portagepath.org/portage-path-psychiatric-emergency-services/	30-762-6110
Summa Health Systems - St. Thomas Hospital 444 N Main St, Akron, OH www.summahealth.org/home/medicalservices/treatmentsProcedures/TreatmentsProceduresDetail?id=1325	330-375-3000

CRISIS SITUATIONS

The following crisis services are available 24-hours a day by telephone:

Organization/Program Name and Website	Phone Number
Adult Protective Services - Elder Abuse and Neglect Hotline **www.summitdjfs.org**	330-643-7217
Summit County Children Services - Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline www.summitkids.org	330-434-5437
Battered Women's Shelter of Summit/Medina Counties www.scmcbws.org	330-374-1111
Portage Path - Support and Suicide Hotline www.portagepath.org	330-434-9144
Rape Crisis Center Hotline www.scmcbws.org	330-434-7372

Remember to dial 9-1-1 if your situation is life threatening or if you have a medical emergency.

COUNSELING

Here are some agencies in Summit County that provide general counseling support, and charge fees based on your income (which may/may not end up being free for you):

Organization/Program Name and Website	Phone Number
Child Guidance and Family Solutions www.cgfs.org	330-733-7993
Community Support Services www.cssbh.org	330-253-3100
Greenleaf Family Center www.greenleafctr.org/	330-376-9494
Clinic for Individual and Family Counseling, University of Akron individualandfamilycounseling.uakron.edu/	330-972-6822
Portage Path Behavioral Health www.portagepath.org	330-434-9144
Summit Psychological Services www.summit-psychological.com	330-535-8181

15. FAMILY SUPPORT

CHILD CARE:

- Coming home and getting organized is hard work and it takes a lot of time!
- Think about who will watch over your children while you are going to school, looking for a job, working, or going to appointments.

PARENTING CLASSES / SUPPORT GROUPS / COUNSELING:

- Being a parent is the toughest job in the world – it's smart to ask for help!
- Coming home after jail or prison can make relationships challenging.
- Call an agency that can help you get things sorted out with your kids, and with all of your family members.

FATHERHOOD PROGRAMS:

- These are certified programs that can help men become better fathers.
- Fatherhood programs can improve the lives of children, by encouraging greater participation in their lives by their fathers who are, by nature, irreplaceable.
- Some of you may have taken a fatherhood course while incarcerated.
- Other men will find the mentoring and training very helpful as part of your reintegration to society.

The following is a list of organizations that can assist with family support:

Organization/Program Name and Website	Phone Number
Akron Summit Community Action (Head Start) www.ascainc.org	330-376-7730
Catholic Charities (Parenting classes) www.csssc.org	330-762-2961
Child Care Connection (Referrals to Child Care Providers) www.childcare-connection.org/	330-376-7706
Community Health Center (Prevention Education and Outreach Programs) www.commhealthcenter.org	330-434-4141
Fame Fathers (Support Services and Advocacy for Fathers) www.famefathers.org	330-873-9794
Fathers and Sons of Northeast Ohio (Support Services for Fathers) http://fathersandsonsneo.org/	330-253-3451 X 104
Greenleaf Family Center (Parenting Classes and Family Counseling) www.greenleafctr.org	330-376-9494
Summit Family and Children First Council- Help Me Grow (Early Intervention and Parenting Classes) www.fcfcsummit.org	330376-7273

Summit County Department of Job & Family Services (Child Care/ Healthy Start/Pregnancy) www.summitdjfs.org/	330-643-7686
Open M (Family Development) www.openm.org	330-434-0110
Time for Me (Respite for Caregivers of Children with Developmental Disabilities) www.udsakron.org	330-762-9755
YMCA -Fun Stop (After School Activities) www.akronymca.org	330-376-1335

CARING FOR OLDER ADULTS:

Caring for an elderly parent or other relative can be stressful when you need to work on your own reintegration to society as well.

The following is a list of some of the services that may be able to help you in caring for an elderly parent or other relative.

Organization/Program Name and Website	Phone Number
Akron Urban League (Senior Services) www.akronurbanleague.org	234-542-4166
Alzheimer's Association – Greater East Ohio Area www.alz.org/akroncantonyoungstown/	330-650-0552
Area Agency on Aging (Comprehensive Senior Services) http://services4aging.org	330-896-9172
Catholic Charities & CYO (Adult Day Programs) www.csssc.org	330-762-2961
Mature Services (Meals, Caretaker Services) www.matureservices.org	330-253-4597
Mobile Meals (Meals) www.mobilemealsinc.org	330-376-7717
Time for Me (Respite Care) www.udsakron.org	330-762-9755
Senior Centers (Recreation Centers) www.ci.akron.oh.us/Recreation/community_centers.html	330-375-2311
Veteran's Affairs (Senior Veterans) www.vscsummitoh.us	330-643-2830

16. HOUSEHOLD GOODS

- If you're looking for furniture such as beds, tables and couches, you may find some used furniture you can buy for a low cost at a thrift store.
- There are very few places that will offer furniture for free.
- There is a "furniture bank" in Summit County for free household items to furnish a basic apartment. You must be referred by a case manager or parole officer. They will have the information to contact the furniture bank for you. If they do not, have your referral source telephone Info Line or the Summit County Office of Reentry (330-643-2003) to obtain access to this service.

The following is a list of some of the programs in Summit County that offer free or low cost household goods and furniture.

Organization/Program Name and Website	Phone Number
Adventist Community Services www.communityservices.org/	330-848-3225
Faith & Prayer International Outreach www.faithandprayeriom.com	330-459-1197
Johnson United Methodist Church www.johnsonumc.org	330-706-9005
Visitation of Mary Catholic Church www.visitationofmary.org	330-535-4141

17. CHILD SUPPORT INFORMATION

Child Support Terms and Tips:

- The parent paying child support is called the **NON-CUSTODIAL PARENT** or **OBLIGOR**.
- The parent receiving child support is called the **CUSTODIAL PARENT** or **OBLIGEE**.
- A **Support Order** tells you how much child support must be paid each month.
- If you have to pay child support, you are still responsible for that amount the whole time you are in prison. The total amount you owe might continue to increase unless payments are being made on your case.
- Notify the **Child Support Enforcement Agency** anytime your address, phone number, or employment changes.
- Paying the amount you owe each month is a big part of being successful on the outside.
- If you are having trouble paying this amount, contact the **Child Support Enforcement Agency** right away.
- You might be able to get your payment changed through a **Support Order Modification** if you qualify.
- Do not pay the custodial parent directly; it will not count, and you will still owe that money.
- If you are more than three months behind in child support, your driver's license could be suspended prior to your incarceration or after your release.
- You could go back to prison for not paying child support.
- The agencies listed on page 46 may help with issues regarding child support.
- If you are the one that is owed child support, contact the **Child Support Enforcement Agency** to see what you can do to start collecting again once you are released.

Support Order Modification: In some cases, you may qualify to get your Support Order changed while you are in prison or right after you get out. If you qualify, the amount you have taken out of your pay each month would be less than the amount in the original order.

Please note:

- This process takes several months.
- Modification does not help with what you already need to pay.
- Your new payment amount would not start until the first day of the month after the modification is approved.

You must qualify for modification under one of the following reasons:

- 36 months have passed since the establishment of the Support Order or the last review process
- Loss of employment for 30 consecutive days or more
- Verified disability
- Incarceration beyond the child's 18th birthday
- 30% change in gross income

- Was your driver's license suspended because you were behind in child support payments? If you are more than three months behind in your child support payments, your driver's license can be suspended.

To get your driver's license back:

a) Contact your Child Support Enforcement Agency Support Officer to find out how much you owe.
b) Let them know you want to get your license back.
c) Once you are told how much you need to pay, it will be noted in your file.
d) Pay what you owe.
e) If you don't pay in cash or money order, it could take up to 10 days to get your license reinstatement form.
f) Once you have your reinstatement form, you must take it to Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles and pay another reinstatement fee there.

The following is a listing of the organizations and groups that may be able to help you with child custody and child support concerns:

Organization/Program Name and Website	Phone Number
Child Support Enforcement Agency www.co.summit.oh.us/prosecutor/childsupp.html	330-643-2765
Summit County Children Services www.summitkids.org	330-434-5437
Community Legal Aid www.communitylegalaid.org	800-998-9454
FameFathers www.famefathers.org	330-873-9794
Fathers & Sons of Northeast Ohio www.fathersandsonsneo.org	330-253-3451 x 104
Prosecutor's Office www.co.summit.oh.us/prosecutor	330-643-2800
Summit County Department of Job and Family Services www.summitdjfs.org	330-643-8200
Summit County Juvenile Court www.co.summit.oh.us/JuvenileCourt/index.html	330-643-2900

18. WELFARE/PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

The Summit County Department of Job and Family Services administers the following programs:

FOOD STAMPS (Now known as SNAP)

- For those with very little or no income.
- Each month, money is electronically transferred to the Ohio Directions Card and it can be used at grocery stores.
- People who have felony convictions may still apply for an Ohio Directions Card.
- It is not necessary to have children in the household to receive this assistance.
- The maximum help a one-person household may receive is $200/month.
- Part-time employment is ok, and you can still qualify for help even if you make $13,500 per year.
- There may be a work or job training requirement.
- If you are planning to apply for unemployment, you need to do so BEFORE you apply for food assistance.

WELFARE (Cash Assistance)

- You may be eligible to receive temporary, time-limited cash assistance through Ohio Works First.
- You must be a resident of Ohio, either pregnant or responsible for a child under 19 years of age, a US national, citizen, legal alien, or permanent resident, have low or very low income, and be either underemployed, unemployed or about to become unemployed.
- Benefits are limited to 36 months in a lifetime unless you obtain an extension due to hardship or good cause.
- You won't be eligible to receive benefits if you have violated your probation/parole.
- Adults must participate in work activities.
- Benefits are issued to a debit card or can be deposited to a checking/savings account.
- The application for assistance can be completed online, at the Summit County Department of Jobs and Family Services (DJFS) office, or a local Ohio Benefit Bank site.

For more information or to apply:

Summit County Department of Job and Family Services
Telephone: 330-643-8200 Website: http://ODJFSBenefits.Ohio.gov

Ohio Benefit Bank
Telephone: 800-648-1176 Website: https://selfserve.thebenefitbank.org/ums

19. SOCIAL SECURITY / SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME (SSI) / SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY (SSDI)

You are not eligible to receive SSI benefits for any full calendar month you are in prison.

SSI

- Provides monthly support benefits to people with limited income and resources who are age 65 and older, blind, or disabled.

SSDI:

- Pays monthly support benefits to disabled workers and their families.
- Must be unable to do any kind of substantial, gainful work "due to a physical or mental disability that is expected to last at least 12 months or result in death."
- Must have earned a minimum number of credits from work covered under Social Security.
- The required number of credits varies depending on your age at the time you become disabled.

SOCIAL SECURITY:

- Social Security has a pre-release procedure you may use to apply for SSI benefits while still in prison.
- It is not available at all facilities.
- Check with your case manager at the prison.
- It may take six months or longer to obtain your benefits.

SOCIAL SECURITY RETIREMENT BENEFITS:

- If you are age 62 or older and have worked enough under the Social Security system, you are eligible for Social Security retirement benefits.
    - **NOTE:** Working "under the table" and not paying taxes on your income, won't contribute towards your work requirement for Social Security (keep this in mind when you are looking for jobs).
- You can receive this benefit in addition to unemployment compensation (it will not affect your unemployment benefits).
- You should apply at least three months before you want benefits to begin.
- If you choose to receive benefits *before age 65*, you will still not be eligible for Medicare (health insurance) until you turn 65, or unless you qualify based on disability or certain health conditions.

For information and the number of a branch near you, contact:

U.S. Social Security Administration

Telephone: 1-800-772-1213 Internet: www.socialsecurity.gov

20. UNEMPLOYMENT INCOME / VETERANS BENEFITS

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION :

- Provides financial assistance for those who have been laid off and who are currently unemployed through no fault of their own.
- To qualify, applicants must have worked at least 20 weeks and earned at least $210 per week during the past 52 weeks.
- Eligible workers receive up to 26 weeks of basic benefits.
- Length of time benefits are provided can be extended by the government if the unemployment rate is high, or if you were laid off as the result of foreign competition.
- Apply for **Unemployment Compensation** immediately after losing your job.
- It may be several weeks until you receive your first check.
- If you are denied benefits, you have the right to appeal.
- You may work and collect unemployment at the same time.
- Working may affect the amount of your unemployment income.

For information and to apply, contact:

Office of Unemployment Compensation

Telephone: 1-877-644-6562 Website: www.unemployment.ohio.gov

VETERANS BENEFITS :

- In general, to receive benefits you must have been discharged from military service under honorable or general conditions.

RESTARTING BENEFITS AFTER RELEASE FROM PRISON/JAIL

- When in prison, veterans' benefits may have been stopped or reduced.
- After release, it may be possible for to start receiving veterans' benefits again.
- No veterans' benefits are provided to veterans, or their dependents, if a veteran has a warrant for an outstanding felony.
- To find out if you are eligible for veterans' benefits after your release, you will need to write a letter to the U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs.

Make sure to include the following in your letter:

- Your name
- Social Security number or VA claim file number
- Address and phone number where you can be reached
- Your signature and date
- A copy of your prison release papers

For more information, contact:

Summit County Veterans Service Commission

Telephone: 330-643-2830 Website: www.vscsummitoh.us/

21. LEGAL HELP

Upon release, you may find you are in need of general legal aid or specialized legal assistance in the following areas:

Expungement: when certain criminal records can be sealed and do not have to be reported to employers

Clemency: when certain criminal records are dismissed by the Governor of the state

EXPUNGEMENT OF ADULT CRIMINAL RECORDS

- Expungement is the sealing of a criminal record (convictions, acquittals, dismissals, etc.).
- If your record is expunged, you do not have to tell people that you have been convicted, arrested, or charged when you apply for most jobs or housing.
- Expunged convictions can still be seen by certain employers and law enforcement agencies.
- The Expungement process can take 6-8 months. It is up to a judge whether to grant your request.

GETTING HELP WITH EXPUNGEMENT

At the time of printing this booklet, there is help in filing for an Expungement:

You must contact Community Legal Aid Services for assistance with this process. Be prepared to be on hold for around 20 minutes while you wait for assistance:
Telephone: 1-800-998-9454 Website: www.communitylegalaid.org

- Ask about a "Poverty Affidavit" form. This form requests that the court waive the filing fee, which is usually $50-$100.
- Make sure you keep a copy of all paperwork that you complete.

ELIGIBILITY FOR EXPUNGEMENT OF CONVICTIONS

- Senate Bill 337 was signed in Ohio in July 2012 and this new legislation is in effect as of January 1, 2013.
- Prior to the bill, Expungement was only for first-time offenses, with some exceptions.
- People who have committed certain crimes are not eligible for Expungement including sexual crimes, first or second degree felonies, crimes committed while armed, felonies involving a minor, convictions with a mandatory prison term, motor vehicle crimes (including DUIs), and violent crimes except for a misdemeanor assault.
- For felony convictions, you must wait at least three years from the time you are off probation, parole, or straight release, and after all court costs and any fines, restitution, or community service have been paid or completed.

- If only court costs are owed (all restitution and fines are paid), you may qualify for Expungement.
- For misdemeanor convictions, you must wait at least one year from the time you were convicted and after all court costs and any fines, restitution, or community service have been paid or completed.

EXPUNGEMENT AND SEALING OF JUVENILE RECORDS

- An application for Expungement is filed in the court where your case was handled.
- In Summit County, it is the Summit County Juvenile Court on Dan Street in Akron.
- Expungement means that your record is destroyed and it is like you never had one.
- Sealing means that your record is "hidden" and that most people/organizations cannot see your record, but there are some exceptions.
- You can apply to have your record expunged at any time after it is sealed.
- After your record has been sealed, it will automatically be expunged after a five year period or upon your 23rd birthday (whichever comes first).
- If you are already 23 when your record is approved to be sealed, it will automatically be expunged.
- You cannot seal records for the following crimes: rape, gross sexual imposition, sexual battery, aggravated murder, and murder.
- It is recommended that you seek assistance from an attorney to tackle this process.
- You must wait two years from the termination of the court order or your unconditional discharge from the Ohio Department of Youth Services to apply.
- There is a fee to file for Expungement.

Reasons to Apply for Expungement:

- If your case was dismissed, or you were found not delinquent.
- If you were found to be delinquent, unruly or a juvenile traffic offender.

ELIGIBILITY FOR SEALING RECORDS OTHER THAN CONVICTIONS

- You do not have to be a first-time offender to get a dismissal, or a "finding of not guilty" (acquittal) sealed from your record.
- There is no waiting period, you can apply right away.
- If you have more than one conviction, the court may not seal the record.
- If you were indicted and the Grand Jury returned a "no bill", you must wait two years to file.
- If you successfully completed a "Diversion Program", or a "Treatment in Lieu of Incarceration" program, there is no waiting period.
- If you were arrested and released (no court was involved), you do not need to file for an Expungement or record sealing with the court.
- You can write a letter to the chief of police, or head of the law enforcement agency where you were arrested, to remove or seal your arrest record.
- Whether or not your request is approved is up to the discretion of the chief.

WAIVING COURT COSTS, FINES AND SUPERVISION FEES

- During your sentencing, you had the right to ask a judge to remove the court costs, discretionary fines, and the supervision fee that resulted from your criminal case.
- You cannot request this waiver once you have been sentenced.
- Waiving costs is only available for low-income individuals who cannot afford to pay.
- The judge has the right to say yes or no to your request to wave costs.
- The judge may request that you do community service to pay off your fines and costs.
- You cannot request a waiver of the restitution fees you have to pay your victim, or mandatory fines.

CLEMENCY

"Executive Clemency" is granted by the Governor of Ohio. It means that your charges and conviction are completely dismissed.

- Applications for clemency are processed through the Ohio Parole Board.
- Requests for clemency generally take several months to process.

GETTING HELP WITH CLEMENCY

At the time of printing this booklet, there is help in filing for an application for Executive Clemency:

***The Clemency Clinic* at the School of Law, University of Akron**

Contact Community Legal Aid first: be prepared to be on hold for around 20 minutes while you wait for assistance:

Telephone: 1-800-998-9454

There are three types of Executive Clemency:

- ***A pardon*** grants forgiveness of guilt. A pardon does not erase or seal your conviction. If granted, you will get a certificate from the Governor. This certificate may be helpful in getting a job or in other areas. It also reinstates most of your civil rights and privileges. A pardon is generally requested by those who have served their time, are no longer under supervision and are now living crime-free. However, anyone may apply.

- ***A commutation*** is the reduction of a penalty to one less severe. Commutations are generally requested by inmates serving extremely long minimum or definite sentences.

- ***A reprieve*** is the temporary postponement of the execution of a sentence. This is rarely used except for inmates sentenced to death. All requests for an application for clemency must be made in writing (email, fax or mail). Submit your name and address along with your request. It will generally take 7-10 days to process/send you an application.

You may also obtain an application by contacting:

Ohio Parole Board
Attn: Clemency
770 W. Broad St.
Columbus, OH 43222
Telephone: 888-344-1441 Website: www.drc.state.oh.us/web/ExecClemency.ht

Phone the ReLink/Reentry HOTLINE for more reentry information in Summit County
330-615-0569 or 1-855-673-5465 (1-855-6ReLINK)

22. ARREST/PRISON RECORDS

HOW TO GET YOUR PRISON RECORDS:

- RELEASE PAPERS: If you will not have any court supervision when upon release (straight release), you will receive a document called *Expiration of Sentence*, also known as an *Expiration of Stated Term*. Keep this paper; it proves that you're no longer under supervision of the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction.

  If you will have to report to a Parole Officer after your release, you will receive a *Parole Certificate* or a *Post Release Control Certificate* informing you of who your parole officer is, and where you should report.

  For more information on Parole / Post Release Control, contact:
  The Ohio Adult Parole Authority State of Ohio Prisons
  Telephone: 614-728-1938 Website: www.drc.ohio.gov/web/apa.htm

- CERTIFICATION OF INCARCERATION: If you lose your release papers or you need to prove your release from prison and/or the dates of your incarceration, the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction can provide that paperwork. This is a free service, and you can phone or mail in your request. Expect a reply to take 10-14 days.

  Your requests must contain the following:
  - First and last name
  - Inmate number OR *both* Social Security number and birth date
  - Explanation of what you need
  - Your Return address
  - Your signature

  Requests may be faxed or mailed to:
  ODRC Bureau of Records Management
  Broad Street, Columbus, OH 43222
  Telephone: 614-752-1076 Ext. 770 Fax #: 614-752-1086 Website: www.drc.ohio.gov

Record of Arrest and Prosecution (RAP Sheet)
Your criminal record may consist of your arrests, convictions and/or other dispositions (such as a dismissal of your case).

Here are a few important things to remember:
You may need to contact several agencies to get complete information and make sure all records are correct.

Be specific:

- Do you need only your arrest records?
- Do you also want to see your dispositions (outcome of your case such as a dismissal)?
- Do you want to see felonies, misdemeanors, or both?
- If you just want to view a detailed record of your felony cases in Summit County, try the Clerk of Courts.
- If you want to make sure all records are correct, some people recommend starting your search with the city in which you were arrested and working your way up through the county.

HOW TO GET YOUR ARREST RECORDS:

- To get a copy of your arrest records, start with the criminal records unit of the police department in which you were arrested.
- In Ohio, your arrest record is public information; anyone who has your name can request it.
- Employers are not allowed to use an ***arrest record*** to deny you a job (unless it leads to a conviction).
- Arrest records do not show whether the case was dismissed or you were convicted.
- For complete information, contact: the County Clerk of Courts, the State Bureau of Criminal Identification & Investigation, or a private security company.

Summit County Criminal Court Records: To obtain information about your arrests, charges, and convictions, contact:

The Summit County Clerk of Courts
Telephone: 330-643-2211 Website: www.cpclerk.co.summit.oh.us/

Out-of-County Information: If you have committed felonies in other counties in the State of Ohio, contact the police department, sheriff's department and county clerk of court in that community for information.

HOW TO GET YOUR BACKGROUND CHECKED:

- Attorney General's Office for the State of Ohio provides Ohio Civilian Background Checks.
- You can view all felonies reported to them throughout Ohio.
- Many private companies offer background checks.
- Private companies may be less expensive than the Ohio Civilian Background Checks.

Ohio Civilian Background Checks / State Criminal Repository Records

- For a record of your Ohio felonies that have been reported to the State Attorney General's Office, you can request a civilian background check from the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Identification and Information. To do this, you must go to an agency that has an electronic fingerprint machine.
- Fees vary by location, but are usually around $45.

- To find a location near you, go to www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov.
- Click on "Services" and then "Background check."
- You should call for more information before you go to an office to request a background check.

Be prepared with the following:

- Driver's License, State ID OR Birth Certificate and Social Security Card
- Payment (often must be cash or money order)
- Your phone number
- Your mailing address

The following is a listing of places that offer help related to your arrest and criminal records:

Organization/Program Name and Website	Phone Number
Clerk of Courts www.cpclerk.co.summit.oh.us	330-643-2211
Community Legal Aid www.communitylegalaid.org	800-998-9454
University of Akron Clemency Program www.uakron.edu/law	800-998-9454

HOW TO GET YOUR INMATE EDUCATIONAL RECORDS:

- When you complete educational programs while in prison, such as career-technical classes or your GED, a record is kept of classes that you take complete. That record is called a transcript.
- If you complete your GED while incarcerated, it will be written on your inmate educational transcript.
- Some employers or schools want a copy of your GED transcript from the Ohio Dept. of Education. You can get a free transcript (printed paper) of your GED certificate.
- Telephone the office to request that they mail you a request form, or print the request form off of the website. You cannot fax requests.

All requests must be in writing, sent by mail, and must contain the following:

- First and last name
- Inmate number or Social Security number and birth date
- Name of the institution where you received the training
- Year you received the training (if remembered)
- Explanation of what you need
- Return address

Ohio Department of Education
GED Office
25 South Front St.
Columbus, OH 43215-4183 Phone: 877-644-6338 Internet: www.ode.state.oh.us

HOW TO GET YOUR INMATE MEDICAL / MENTAL HEALTH RECORDS

- When you receive medical or mental health care while in prison, everything is written down; that is your medical record.
- Only a licensed doctor or a lawyer can request your medical record, and only with your permission.
- You cannot request your own medical record.
- The Social Security Administration and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs may also request a copy of your record because they have licensed doctors on staff.
- A copy of the record is free and it will come in the form of a CD.
- You are only allowed ONE request per patient/client in a 12-month period.
- Requests generally take 10-14 days to process.

All requests must be in writing on official letterhead and must include the following:

- A Medical Release form signed by the patient/client
- First and last name of the patient/client
- Inmate number or both Social Security number and birth date
- Explanation of what you need
- Return address

Requests may be faxed or mailed to:

Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction
Bureau of Records Management
700 W. Broad St., Columbus, OH 43222
Telephone: 614-752-1080 Fax: 614-752-1086 Website: www.drc.ohio.gov

RECOVERY SERVICES RECORDS

- If you participated in an alcohol and/or other drug recovery program while in prison and you need a record of this, you may contact the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections.
- The procedure to request your records is the same as Certification of Incarceration.

23. MILITARY RECORDS

DD-214 (MILITARY DISCHARGE PAPERS)

- Your official discharge from the military DD-214. This is proof that you were discharged from military service.
- If you do not have a certified copy of your DD-214, it is important that you get and keep a copy.
- You may need a DD-214 to access many services available to veterans.

To get a copy of your DD-214:

- Contact the National Archives and Records Administration and ask for form SF-180.
- Complete the form and send it back by mail or fax.
- A written request may be sent without the form, but you should phone first to receive more information.

Send your completed form to:

National Archives and Records Administration
National Personnel Records Center
Military Personnel Records
9700 Page Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63132-5100
Telephone: 866-272-6272 Fax: 314-801-9195

You may also make your request over the internet at www.archives.gov

- *After you receive your DD-214, go and get a copy put on file at the Summit County Recorder's Office.*
- If you already had your DD-214 recorded with the County Recorder's Office, you may go there to obtain a certified replacement copy.

The following is a listing of places that can help you get your DD-214:

Organization/Program Name and Website	Phone Number
Akron Municipal Court www.courts.ci.akron.oh.us/	330-375-2120
Veteran's Commission www.vscsummitoh.us	330-643-2830
Veteran's Administration (American League) www.va.gov	800-827-1000

24. CREDIT REPORTS

- A credit report is a detailed history of how you have paid your bills over the years: e.g. If they were paid on time or were some paid after the due date.
- A credit report will also tell about how you manage your loans and credit. In addition, public information such as bankruptcies and delinquent child support payments are included.
- Landlords, employers (with your permission), and others with legitimate business purposes can get a copy of your report.
- Review your own credit report often, because mistakes can be made on your file.
- Get any errors fixed so that they don't affect your ability to get a job, rent an apartment, buy a home, or get a credit card.
- If you find something that is wrong on your credit report, contact BOTH the company that produced the credit report and the company that provided the original information, so that you can point out the mistakes.
- Generally, if you argue that something was wrong, the credit reporting company must begin to investigate it and make a note in your file, or delete the error within 30 days of receiving your original request.
- They don't have to FIX the error within 30 days, but must let you know that they are working on it.
- Credit reports may include a "credit score," which is a number that is used to predict what kind of a credit risk you are: e.g. The number suggests how much of a risk you are to pay, or to not be able to pay back money, if a bank was to grant you a loan.
- The higher your credit score, the better.
- You may benefit from talking with a credit-counseling agency if you think you need help you managing your credit.

Here are helpful things to know:

- There are three companies (TransUnion, Equifax and Experian) that maintain credit reports and each company may have different information.
- You can get a **FREE copy** of your credit report once every 12 months (ONLY through the Annual Credit Report Request Service).
- Your free copy does not include your credit score.
- You can request all three reports at once so you can compare them, or you can space them out so you can keep track of changes.
- You can't request the same report more than once in a 12-month period.
- If a bank, landlord, or company used a credit report to deny you something, you can get a free copy if you ask for one within 60 days of getting the notice of action.
- The notice of action will give you the name of who to contact to get the free copy.
- You can also get a free copy of your credit score if you are unemployed and intend to apply for employment in the next 60 days, OR if you are receiving social assistance.

To get a FREE copy of your credit report once every 12 months, contact the following:

Annual Credit Report Request Service
PO Box 105283, Atlanta, GA 30348-5283
Telephone: 877-322-8228 Website: www.annualcreditreport.com

- If you need a report more often than that, or you want a report with your credit score, contact the following companies: (Note: There is a fee for these services unless you qualify for a free report based on the points mentioned on the prior page).

TransUnion
Telephone: 800-888-4213 Website: www.transunion.com

Equifax
Telephone: 800-685-1111 Website: www.equifax.com

Experian
Telephone: 888-397-3742 Website: www.experian.com

The following is a listing of programs that offer help related to your credit report and credit scores:

Organization/Program Name and Website	Phone Number
Mustard Seed Development Center www.mustardseedcdc.com	330-631-0350
Annualcreditreport.com www.annualcreditreport.com	877-322-8228
Consumer Credit Counseling www.apprisen.com	800-355-2227

25. MONEY/BUDGET TIPS

- Managing your money means paying your bills on time, sticking to a budget, building good credit, and staying out of debt.
- A good credit rating can be a big strength when applying for jobs.

CHECKING AND SAVINGS ACCOUNTS:

- Many employers want their employees to have a bank account so that their paycheck can be put directly in the bank (not a paper check; the transaction is done by computers on-line).
- When you have income, open up a checking account at a bank or credit union.
- Keeping your money in a bank can protect it from being stolen.
- You will receive a Debit Card and blank paper checks that you can use to pay your bills on time.
- Look for a free checking account that has no minimum balance (the amount of money you have to keep in the account to get the service), low initial deposit, and no monthly fees.
- Some banks have "second chance" programs for people who have been turned down for checking accounts before and are listed in ChexSystems (for writing bad checks, having lots of overdrafts, etc.). There may be a minimum amount you need to deposit and other restrictions, but this may be a good option to get a checking account.
- Some nonprofit organizations may help you open an account or help you save.

OPENING A BANK ACCOUNT:

Before you walk into the bank, get organized. You usually need:

- Your first and last name and a home address
- Social Security number
- Driver's license or State ID
- If your driver's license or State ID was issued in the last 60 days, you may need another paper that can prove what your home address is: e.g. a pay check stub, recent utility bill, or other official correspondence (SSI, unemployment, etc.) with your name and current address.

BUDGETING:

- A budget is a list of everything you need to spend money on in a month and how much income you get.
- To make a budget, create a list of all the bills you have to pay and the dates they are due.
- Once you get a paycheck, it can be tempting to buy something wonderful for you or your loved ones.
- Think twice, and save the money instead to put towards your budget.

It is hard to not spend more than you have, but these tips can help:

- Don't buy new cars or expensive clothes; there are excellent consignment (used) clothing stores here.
- Don't spend a lot of money going out to eat; ask friends and family to teach you how to cook at home.
- Resist luxury items like cable or satellite television in your first year.
- Be very careful about how many cell phone minutes you use; going over the limit costs a lot.
- Always pay your monthly/weekly bills before spending your income on fun stuff.
- If you are paying your bills by mail, mail them at least one week before the due date.
- Don't pay attention to "grace periods" that might allow for a late payment.
- Practice paying your bills at least a week before they are due.
- Make paying credit cards or bank loans (including car loans) a high priority.
- Not paying your bills on time, can make your credit report numbers sink.
- Keep your landlord happy (or your bank) by always paying your rent or mortgage on time every month.
- Stay up to date on your insurance payments.
- Stay current in paying your utilities to avoid having the electricity, gas, or water turned off.

DEBT:

- If you are having trouble paying your bills, there are agencies that can help you set up a budget.
- Some can work with the companies that you own money to in order to arrange payment plans.
- Sometimes, a gambling problem can cause people to get behind on payments: help is available.

For information about services that can help you with budgeting and debt problems, call Info Line/2-1-1 Summit at "2-1-1" or 1-888-212-5054.

CREDIT:

- When you buy things using "credit," a company gives you a loan to pay for the item.
- You are borrowing someone else's money and agree to pay it back a little at a time.
    - When you get a loan to buy a car, you are using credit.
    - When you buy something at a department store using a credit card, you are using credit.

CREDIT HISTORY:

- It is important to build a good "credit history."
- A credit history is simply a record of how you use/pay back credit over many months and years.
- A good credit history will help a lot if you ever want to get a home loan or a car loan.

- Some people create a bad credit history because they do not pay bills on time.
- Others never create any credit history because they never take loans or use credit cards.
- Without a credit history, it may be hard to get a car, a job, rent, or register for a telephone service.
- You could be turned down for many services, or you may be asked to pay a very high interest rate.
- The interest rate is the amount you are being charged to borrow that money.

Tips on Building a Credit History:

- Before you apply for credit, make sure you have steady income and that you have proof of your income.
- Try to stay at one job and live at one address for as long as you possible.
- Before you apply for a credit card, make sure that the lender reports to a credit bureau. If not, you will not be building your credit history!
- Get a card with NO ANNUAL FEE, if possible.
- Watch out for high interest rates.
- Shop around for the best rates before you decide to apply.
- **READ THE FINE PRINT**.
- If you think you cannot get a credit card on your own, think about getting a co-signer – someone who will be responsible for paying off the card if you don't.
- Open a bank account. This makes you look better to a lender. If you need more information about this, see page 60.
- Only apply for credit cards whose requirements you think you meet; there are usually minimum income requirements.
- Getting turned down a lot looks bad.
- Do not apply for lots of credit cards at once, or obtain more credit cards than you truly need.
- Secured credit cards are a last resort, but are an option.
    - These cards require you to pay a deposit to get the card; the deposit could be a few hundred dollars.
    - If you don't make your payments, you may lose your deposit AND still have to pay your balance.
    - These cards often have fees and higher interest rates.
    - Try to find the lowest fee you can.
    - After a few months of making payments on time on the secured credit card, you may be able to get a regular credit card.

TIPS ON KEEPING GOOD CREDIT:

- To avoid paying a lot of interest, it is best to pay off the balance in full and on time, every month.
    - At the very least, you must pay the minimum payment in full and on time every month.

Phone the ReLink/Reentry HOTLINE for more reentry information in Summit County
330-615-0569 or 1-855-673-5465 (1-855-6ReLINK)

- Don't pay attention to "grace periods."
- Make it a habit to pay your bill at least a week before the due date.

- If you think you need help understanding your options or you need help managing your credit, contact Info Line, Inc. to ask where you can get help.

IDENTITY THEFT:

- Identity theft is when someone uses your personal information without you knowing. That person pretends to be you when making arrangements with agencies and spending money.
- If you think you are a victim of identity theft, report it to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC). They will tell you how to work with credit bureaus and law enforcement agencies. They can also provide information on preventing identity theft.

Federal Trade Commission
Telephone: 877-438-4338 Website: www.ftc.gov/idtheft

INCOME TAXES:

- When you make money, your income needs to be reported to the government.
- A big part of successful reentry is paying your share of taxes to the government.
- Taxes are used to pay for community, state, and federal programs that are intended to benefit society.
- There are federal, state, and local government taxing agencies.
- At the end of each year, most people are required to "file" a tax return with each government.
- Employers have to mail out documents that you will need for your tax returns by January 31st of each year.
- The W2 form is the most common one of these forms.

You may not be required to file certain tax returns if your income is very low or in some other situations. However, you may want to file just to see if you can get some money back that you paid throughout the years towards taxes. This is called a tax refund.

- There are several non-profit organizations that will help you file your taxes for free.
  - These programs will do your taxes for you.
  - They will not force you to file.
  - Many sites offer both paper filing and free electronic filing (E-File) which allows you to receive your refund fast (by direct deposit) in as little as 7-10 days.
  - You need a checking or savings account for direct deposit.

For help finding a program that can help you with free tax preparation site in your area, call Info Line/2-1-1 Summit at "2-1-1" or 1-888-212-5054.

- Be very careful to avoid places that offer you an immediate tax refund.

- These refunds are actually loans called Refund Anticipation Loans (RALs).
- The agency offering RALs charge fees, and might keep as much as half of your refund.
- If your refund is less than they thought, you could owe them money.

- Remember, there are free tax preparation sites available to you, such as BENEFIT BANK locations.

For Federal Income Tax Questions

Telephone: 800-829-1040 Website: www.irs.gov

For State Income Tax Questions

Telephone: 800-282-1780 Website: www.tax.ohio.gov

Phone the ReLink/Reentry HOTLINE for more reentry information in Summit County
330-615-0569 or 1-855-673-5465 (1-855-6ReLINK)

26. REGISTERING TO VOTE

Your vote is important!

- People who have never voted before need to register before they can vote.
- Registration is free.
- Formerly incarcerated people are allowed to vote in the State of Ohio even if they have a felony conviction.
- If you were incarcerated due to a felony conviction, you need to register when you are released, even if you have registered before.
- Anyone who has not voted in recent elections, or who has moved since the time of the last election, will need to telephone the Board of Elections to see if they need to re-register.

TO REGISTER TO VOTE:

- To register your right to vote, you need to meet general requirements for voting:
  - U.S. citizen, age 18 or older on the day of the election.
  - You need the last four digits of your Social Security number, or your driver's license number when filling out the registration paper (this will prevent you from having to send in additional paperwork).
  - You need to register at least 30 days before the election.
  - Voter registration forms are available at libraries, Bureau of Motor Vehicle offices, County Boards of Elections. and other locations.

For more information about voting contact:

Summit County Board of Elections
470 Grant St.
Akron, OH 44311
Telephone: 330-643-5200 Website: www.summitcountyboe.com

27. SELECTIVE SERVICE REGISTRATION

- The Selective Service System is the agency of the United States Government that exists to register men who could be asked to help the Military in a time of war or other national crisis. Almost all male U.S. citizens, and male aliens living in the U.S., who are age 18 through 25, are required to register.

- Eligible people are automatically registered when issued a driver's license or State ID.
  - Registration is free.
  - Registration forms are also available at post offices or online (www.sss.gov).

- When someone reaches age 26, they can no longer register.
  - If they were born on or after January 1, 1960 and did not register before they turned 26, they may be ineligible for certain Federal benefits, including U.S. citizenship, job training programs and student financial aid. However, they can still get a driver's license or State ID in the State of Ohio.

-It is important to know that someone who fails to register cannot be denied any benefit if he can show "by a preponderance of evidence".
-That means that you cannot be denied benefits if your failure to register was not knowing and willful.
-The final decision regarding eligibility for programs is made by the agency granting the benefit, not the Selective Service.
-Some agencies may have an appeals process.

- Agencies may ask you to provide an official response from the Selective Service regarding the fact that you did not register before age 26.
- In that case, it is possible to request a "status information" letter.
- You will have to describe what stopped you from registering and provide documents showing periods that you were incarcerated, hospitalized, etc., between your 18th and 26th birthdays.

For more information on Selective Service issues contact:

The Selective Service System
Attn: SIL
P.O. Box 94638
Palatine, IL 60094-4638
Telephone: 888-655-1825 Website: www.sss.gov

Phone the ReLink/Reentry HOTLINE for more reentry information in Summit County
330-615-0569 or 1-855-673-5465 (1-855-6ReLINK)

28. HELP FOR NON-U.S. CITIZENS UPON RELEASE FROM JAIL/PRISON

- If you are not a U.S. citizen, and you have been convicted of certain felonies you might be deported after you have completed your sentence.
- No matter what your criminal offense was, it is extremely important to hire a lawyer who can represent you in the matter of your immigration status.
- You should do this before your release if possible, but definitely as soon as you can.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Welcome home! This guide was prepared with respect for each person who chooses to live in Summit County after release from incarceration.

- "Coming Home: A Road Map for Successful Reentry" was developed for you by the Summit County Reentry Network (SCRN). SCRN (*sounds like "plan"*) is made up of non-profit, faith based and government agencies, as well as foundations, local businesses and individuals.
- In working together, everyone participating in SCRN is dedicated to supporting women and men returning from prison to live and work in Summit County.
- Special thanks to the SCRN Advocacy and Resource Development Subcommittee for their help in making this book a reality.

This guide is based on the booklet: "Going Home To Stay: A Guide for Successful Reentry". That year-long project was shared by the Cuyahoga County Office of Reentry and the United Way of Greater Cleveland's "211/First Call for Help".

That project was supported by the County of Cuyahoga Commissioners, the City of Cleveland, the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections, and the United Way of Greater Cleveland.

SCRN greatly appreciates and acknowledges the help of the Cuyahoga County Office of Reentry and the United Way of Greater Cleveland. They kindly granted permission to adapt the "Going Home To Stay: A Guide for Successful Reentry" for use in our own Summit County project.

SCRN would especially like to thank and acknowledge those men and women who, after serving their time in prison and returning to Greater Cleveland to make a successful new life, shared their own stories.

Their own experiences with reentry, the positive and the not so good, served as the road map for designing the Cuyahoga County resource, as well as this guide.

- Thank you to Info Line, a strong partner of SCRN, for their outstanding work in linking the websites in this booklet to their own extensive database of information for online use.
- If the details you need are not written on these pages, please telephone Info Line, for more help!

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