



"If I made a mistake, I would want someone to give me a second chance. I am a businessman who has hired employees with felonies in their past, and I have found loyal and committed employees."

**-Russel Neal**



"If that person has truly had a heart change, I know that giving them a chance with a job makes for a better community and a better country."

**-Nick Skeriotis**

"When returning offenders can find and keep employment, they are more likely to be able to pay restitution to their victims, support their children and avoid crime."

**-Pew Charitable Trusts, 2010**

Over \$57 billion is missing from the U.S. economy because people with felonies are not given legitimate opportunities to work.



## MISSION & PURPOSE

Partners in the Summit County Reentry network (SCRN), work together so that adult felony ex-offenders can overcome the many challenges to their success. Our collaborative efforts will reduce the rate of recidivism, increase community safety, help reunite families and make the local economy stronger.

**Recidivism** is defined as the first return to an institution within three years of release. Over 66% of the people returning to our community from incarceration, do not return to any criminal behavior within three years. The Reentry Network is focused on increasing that success rate.

### Network members strive:

- To develop a network of providers who offer quality services, who can meet the wide needs of people returning to Summit County.
- To establish collaborations that will help to reduce recidivism and increase community safety.
- To share open and transparent communication that builds a unified approach to reentry throughout Summit County.
- To provide services regardless of criminal history, race, or religion, in order to help with personal, family and professional needs.
- To advocate together as a community to respond to issues about ex-offender reentry.
- To learn about evidence-based research, and best practices by attending trainings that will improve program outcomes.



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WHEN THE WORLD SAYS  
"GIVE UP," HOPE WHISPERS,  
"GIVE IT ONE MORE TRY."

[www.summitcountyreentrynetwork.org](http://www.summitcountyreentrynetwork.org)  
[reentry@summitoh.net](mailto:reentry@summitoh.net)  
330-643-2003

## FOR PEOPLE WITH FELONIES OR MISDEMEANORS IN THEIR BACKGROUND

### Support Group

- Run by former offenders: tips and information for returning citizens
- Every Friday evening from 6:30pm – 7:30pm
- At The Front Porch Café, 798 Grant Street, Akron

### Monthly Reentry Fair

- Help with overcoming barriers to employment
- Meet face-to-face with reentry service providers
- Fourth Friday of each month from 10:00am – 11:30am
- At the Job Center, 1040 E. Tallmadge Avenue, Akron

### Expungement Clinic

- For people who want help with sealing their record
- Contact Community Legal Aid Services, Inc: 1-800-998-9454

### Clemency Clinic

- For people not eligible for Expungement
- Contact Community Legal Aid Services, Inc: 1-800-998-9454
- Eligible clients will be referred to the University of Akron Law School

### Get Involved

- Give back to the community
- Contact SCR N to volunteer: 330-643-2003



## FOR EMPLOYERS

### Work Opportunity Tax Credit

- Offers up to \$2400 per hire for people with felonies in their history
- See [www.jfs.ohio.gov/wotc](http://www.jfs.ohio.gov/wotc)

### Free Federal Bonding

- Provides insurance as employer protection
- 100% success rate: Ohio has had no claims for this program
- See [www.bonds4jobs.com](http://www.bonds4jobs.com)

### The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission

- New guidelines recommend considering applicants on an individual basis rather than excluding everyone with a criminal record
- Delay background checks, until after you meet/interview all applicants who match your job needs.
- When hiring, consider: the type of crime, the time since completing the sentence, and the kind of job you need filled
- Avoid legal disputes relating to the Civil Rights Act by fully considering all job applicants
- See [http://www.eeoc.gov/laws/guidance/qa\\_arrest\\_conviction.cfm](http://www.eeoc.gov/laws/guidance/qa_arrest_conviction.cfm)

"Employing people who have been out of work for long periods tends to result in a lot of loyalty, reliability and a good attitude to work."

-Jamie Rae, CEO



## FOR PROVIDERS OF REENTRY SERVICES

### Training Opportunities

- SCR N hosts evidence-based trainings that can increase your agency's success rates



### News Updates

- Receive the Summit County Reentry Digest for information about reentry

### Collaboration

- Network with over 50 nonprofit, faith based and government agencies

### Become a Community Advocate and Join a SCR N Subcommittee

- Employment
- Advocacy and Resource Development
- Training and Education
- Planning, Research and Evaluation

**Reentry is not being soft on crime;  
it's about being SMART on crime.**

Nobody can go back and start a new beginning, but anyone can start today and make a new ending.