

For Immediate Release:

OIC selected for the Ford Foundation Re-Entry Study



From left: OIC-SFL President & CEO, Newton Sanon, ICF International Associate, Nicole Pexton, ICF International Senior Manager, Venessa Marks, and Workforce Development Division Director, Dr. Anita Davis-DeFoe.

Broward County, FL - January 25, 2016 - OIC OF SOUTH FLORIDA (OIC) Re-Entry Programs Shines! Selected for the Ford Foundation Re-Entry Study

On January 21st and 22nd, ICF International visited OIC of South Florida to learn about its model and approach to delivering services to returning citizens in the South Florida community.

ICF was tasked by the Ford Foundation to conduct a benchmarking evaluation of the Department of Labor (DOL) Re-Entry programs. ICF is a management, technology, and policy consulting firm based in Fairfax, Virginia, that partners with government, commercial, and not-for-profit clients to deliver professional services and technology.

United States Department of Labor-Employment and Training Administration (USDOL-ETA) provided ICF with a list of some 233 programs nationwide that it

has funded over the past 10 years. From this list, ICF identified 15 high performing organizations who have met and/or exceeded DOL performance measures. This data was reviewed by ICF and 5 organizations providing Re-Entry services were selected and each participated in a 2 hour informational call. Ultimately, ICF selected only two organizations to visit, the Dannon Project in Alabama and OIC of South Florida.

OIC of South Florida is honored to be one of two programs selected to inform the preparation of the Ford Foundation Re-Entry Study, a study that will be shared with Congress detailing best practice approaches to the delivery of career pathway focused workforce development programs, resulting in the attainment of industry recognized credentials. In addition to identifying opportunities for improvement of Re-Entry services nationwide, the study will be used to identify potential modifications of future DOL Re-Entry services Funding Opportunity Announcements (FOA).

About Opportunities Industrialization Centers of South Florida

Opportunities Industrialization Centers of South Florida (OIC-SFL) is a community-based workforce development, education and training organization that prepares individuals for the world of work by reducing barriers to employment, providing comprehensive vocational skills training and fostering youth aspirations through prevention and intervention strategies that support positive youth development and strengthen families. OIC of South Florida (OIC-SFL) prepares our youth and adult participants to lead responsible & productive lives with holistic high-quality and comprehensive life skills development, fundamental education, superior skills-based training and employment readiness services. We assist our students with overcoming barriers through some of the most crucial transition points in their lives: as young adults facing important crossroads, and as adults challenged by unemployment, re-employment, underemployment and/or release from incarceration. Participants learn leadership & coping skills and earn relevant vocational credentials as well as learn how to be capable, reliable and self-sufficient employees with a strong work ethic. OIC-SFL provides leadership, employment and vocational training to thousands of participants per year, including individualized case management and counseling, mentoring, and wrap around support services to address participant needs and barriers. To date, over \$40 million dollars have been secured to serve the South Florida community. Since 2001, OIC of South Florida has placed over 6000 community residents into high-demand occupations and serves over 4500 youth annually. Our goal is give everyone the opportunity to realize their potential; to offer a "Hand UP" not a hand out. For more information, visit **www.OICSFL.org**.

For more information, visit www.OICSFL.org. Interviews and Media Coverage are available upon request. MEDIA **CONTACT**: Arlene L. Connelly, Director of Communications & Strategic Partnerships, aconnelly@oicsfl.org | (954) 563-3535 | ext. 206



ICF International representatives, Senior Manager, Venessa Marks and Associate, Nicole Pexton, meeting with the OIC-SFL Re-Entry Services Team.



ICF

International meeting with OIC-SFL President & CEO, Newton Sanon; Workforce Development Division Director, Dr. Anita Davis-DeFoe; and Director of Quality Assurance and Sustainability, Dr. Icilda Humes.



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International Representatives, OIC-SFL Miami Staff, and Career Pathways Collaborative Members at CareerSource South Florida, Miami.