



## U.S. Department of Labor Awards OIC of America The Young Adult Reentry Grant

Young adults who exit the correctional system face many challenges that include a lack of education and employment skills, antisocial attitudes and values, mental health and substance abuse problems, medical challenges, lack of housing, and family issues. To help these young people reinvent their lives, grants totaling \$31.3 million are being awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration (ETA) to seven organizations to provide job training and a path to meaningful employment. The grants will help design programs for adults ages 18 to 24 that apply evidence-based interventions, such as mentoring, career pathways, registered apprenticeship, family reunification and other promising practices with a focus on providing occupational training and credentials.

Opportunities Industrialization Centers of America, Inc. (OICA) was one of the 7 grant recipients. OICA is an over 50 year-old national network of employment and training organizations bound together by a common commitment to help people realize self-sufficiency through training and jobs. OIC of America operates through 38 affiliates in 22 states fighting for economic and racial justice through workforce development of underserved and underrepresented communities. Our affiliates are located in such diverse places as Los Angeles, Central Alabama, South Florida, Minneapolis, Silicon Valley, Philadelphia, Washington DC, and Rocky Mount NC.

OIC of America selected three of its national affiliates as sub-grantees to operate the **OIC Affiliate Young Adults Reentry Program (YAR)**, based on documented community needs and affiliate experience working with the target population. The communities include:

**Summit Academy OIC** - NW Minneapolis  
(Promise Zone) (200 Participants)

**American Indian OIC** - Southeast Minneapolis  
(145 Participants)

**OIC of South Florida** - (300 Participants)

OIC of South Florida (OIC-SFL) will use the \$1.5 million grant to provide career pathway training programs for 300 opportunity youth residing in Miami-Dade County. Training and job placement will be provided in 4 high-demand sectors: **Construction and Building Trades, Information Technology, Food Sales and Services, Materials Moving and Production**. This business-led model optimizes best practices in workforce development and moves the workforce system toward a "demand and supply" model that identifies and connects the real-time hiring needs of local employers with effective systems and partners to screen, match, and secure workers for those positions. The project's ultimate goal is that young adults (male and female) with a history of involvement in the juvenile or adult justice system acquire industry-recognized credentials, obtain and maintain living wage jobs and remain free of criminal justice system involvement.

"America works best when we field a full team, but far too many people who have been involved with the criminal justice system are being left on the sidelines," said U.S. Secretary of Labor Thomas E. Perez. "These grants are an important step in fulfilling our promise as a land of second chances by moving beyond locking people up and instead working together to unlock their potential."

The grants are part of a series of new actions taken by the Obama administration to reduce recidivism and promote reintegration of formerly incarcerated individuals. The U.S. Department of Labor has awarded grants to 40 organizations providing services in 26 U.S. states and the District of Columbia.

*For more information, visit [www.OICSFL.org](http://www.OICSFL.org).*

### **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.

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 full potential; to offer a "Hand UP" not a hand out.

For more information, visit [www.OICSFL.org](http://www.OICSFL.org). Interviews and Media Coverage are available upon request. MEDIA CONTACT: Arlene L. Connelly, Director of Communications & Strategic Partnerships, [aconnelly@oicsfl.org](mailto:aconnelly@oicsfl.org)

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OICSFL.ORG houses an archive of short videos highlighting our work with adults and youth in the community.

To view the videos, click here or on the photo above.

