



March 4, 2021

Honorable Gavin Newsom
 Governor of California
 State Capitol, First Floor
 Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Newsom,

On behalf of the above organizations, we would like to extend our appreciation to your office and its commitment to leading California through such unprecedented times. With the recent unveiling of your 2021-22 budget, we commend your \$350M investment in workforce development. Your proposal rightfully focuses on workers who may have lost their jobs due to the pandemic and are now seeking training programs to upskill and achieve their career or education goals. However, more targeted funding is needed to support people who are coming home from incarceration - particularly those with the most significant employment barriers - and effectively help them reconnect them to the workforce. **We request that you build on this support by investing \$25M into a statewide reentry workforce services fund.**

The reentry population is heavily represented by Black, Latinx and people of color who experience stigma from a criminal conviction and often experience racial and socio-economic bias in the job market. Many are returning home to low-income communities disproportionately impacted by the pandemic with high unemployment rates and high rates of COVID-19 transmission and hospitalization.

An inclusive and equitable recovery must include targeted workforce investments for people returning home from incarceration. With over 50,000 people under parole supervision, and hundreds of thousands more under probation supervision, California should dedicate statewide funding for evidence-based reentry employment programs to operate at scale during the pandemic response and economic recovery. Doing so would enable high quality programs to extend into underserved communities and increase capacity in communities where demand is highest, getting thousands of people back to work across California.

Creation of a Statewide Reentry Workforce Services Fund

Our organizations serve thousands of individuals in California each year and with additional funding we can invest in programming and expand service capacity. **California should invest \$25M in a dedicated reentry vocational training fund that invests in evidence-based reentry skills training support. This will enable the state to reach more justice-impacted individuals, ensuring a stronger workforce and reduced recidivism.**

California has recognized that the workforce development system often struggles to adequately serve the reentry population — a majority of whom have multiple employment barriers and require tailored services to prepare and connect them to the formal workforce before they can benefit from traditional workforce system approaches like apprenticeships and career pathway training.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge you to invest into a plan that promotes an inclusive and equitable recovery where people exiting incarceration are not left behind.

Thank you for your consideration,

A New Way of Life
Alliance for Boys and Men of Color
California Asset Building Coalition
Californians For Safety and Justice
Center for Employment Opportunities
Chrysalis
Community Legal Services In East Palo Alto
Fair Chance Licensing Coalition
Five Keys Schools and Programs
Goodwill Industries of San Francisco, San Mateo & Marin
Goodwill Southern California
Insight Center
Lao Family Community Development, Inc.
Los Angeles Regional Reentry Partnership (LAARP)
National Skills Coalition
PolicyLink
REDF
Root and Rebound
Rubicon Programs
Tech Equity Collaborative
Turning Point Alcohol & Drug Education Program
Unite LA
Whole Systems

cc: Chairs and Members of the Assembly and Senate Budget Committees