



The 2021 COJ/HUD Public-Philanthropic Initiative Award

Ready4Work



OPERATION NEW HOPE

OVERVIEW

In 2003, President Bush selected Operation New Hope as the pilot site for the Ready4Work program. Since then, the Ready4Work program has been successful in creating opportunities to realize second chances and reduce recidivism through their strategic partnerships with the judicial system, local businesses, faith-based organizations, and community partners. Because of these valuable collaborations, they have built a City of Second Chances that connects returning citizens with housing, transportation, and employment.

CHALLENGE

To break the cycle of incarceration.

INNOVATION

The Ready4Work reentry program is based on best practices outlined by the U.S. Department of Labor and is supported by independent verification. They are the only program in North Florida focused on rebuilding the families of returning citizens. Their collaborative approach ensures the success of each client, and the rate of recidivism is 1/3 of what it would be without their intervention.



Before coming to Operation New Hope, I was in a really low place. But since going through the Ready4Work program, everything has changed. Ready4Work gave me the confidence and determination to start over in a much better way and helped me believe that I wasn't that old person. I finally feel like I am not on my own anymore. Operation New Hope helped me realize that I really could become a productive member of society.

- Reba Ortiz, Ready4Work Graduate



PARTNERS

- City of Jacksonville
- JAX Chamber
- Florida Department of Corrections
- State Attorney's Office
- Public Defender of 4th Judicial Circuit
- Wayne and Delores Weaver
- The Chartrand Foundation
- Neviasser Charitable Foundation
- Jim Moran Foundation
- Petway Family Advised Fund
- Community Foundation
- Jacksonville Transportation Authority (JTA)
- Second Chance Hiring employment partners
- Transitional housing partners