

NEW CITIZEN Reality After Release

Persons coming out of incarceration have the cards stacked against them.

- 67% Recidivism Rate
- Lack of Education Pre & Post Release
- Minimal Job Opportunities
- Lack of Structure & Discipline
- Housing & Transportation Issues
- Lack of Family Support
- Confidence Issues



A SECOND CHANCE

Through the New Citizen program, Hamilton Center provides a second chance to individuals who have been incarcerated and/or convicted of a felony. In cooperation with the Department of Corrections, Community Corrections, County Jails, the Federal Bureau of Prisons and halfway houses, this program offers the opportunity to acquire job skills, employment, and a new way of life.

The “New Citizen” meets weekly with a team of mentors led by the program chair, program graduates, other participants, and those who have a key role in the project during which time they report on their activities, concerns, etc. and receive feedback from the committee.

Core Elements of the program include:

- Improve job skills and explore opportunities for job placement
- Develop a career not just a job
- Establish positive referrals/character references
- Improve community perception
- Develop positive relationships with community leaders
- Increase sense of self-worth and purpose

The opportunity is life changing for someone who has been involved in the criminal justice system and is willing to turn their life around. The program offers support from Hamilton Center staff and community leaders to bring confidence and motivation to someone who is willing to become a new citizen.

MENTORS ARE KEY

The New Citizen Committee meets regularly with participants to discuss their current professional and personal environment. Since establishing the program, CEO, Melvin Burks has remained very involved in addressing issues and providing direction and encouragement.

HOW IT WORKS

One male and one female are chosen each year after a series of interviews conducted by the CEO and the New Citizen Committee. If selected for participation, New Citizens have:

- Routine Meetings
- Frequent Interactions with Mentors
- One Year Probationary Period - Working in Four Departments for Three Months Each
- Participation in Community Events and Organizations

The New Citizen Program is about supporting those who have made decisions that could negatively affect the rest of their lives. Hamilton Center has made it possible for these individuals to have a second chance. It is an extraordinary opportunity to start a new life, and travel down a supported path to success.

NAME: _____ DOB: _____

STREET ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF CHARGES: _____

TIME SERVED: _____

WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO GAIN THROUGH THE NEW CITIZEN PROGRAM? _____

Please complete the above form and return via mail or email.

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“An individual has paid their debt to society after serving their sentence..”

Melvin L. Burks, President/CEO, Hamilton Center, Inc.