

Colorado Justice Report

Founded in 1999, CCJRC is a network of organizations, faith communities, and individuals working to eliminate the overuse of the criminal justice system and advance community health and safety in Colorado.

1212 Mariposa St. #6, Denver, CO 80204 | www.ccjrc.org | info@ccjrc.org | 303 825-0122

CCJRC is issuing this Special Newsletter to make sure you are aware of help that is available from WAGEES reentry programs across the state. (Our regular newsletter will be mailed in December)

Work and Gain Employment & Education Skills (WAGEES) Reentry Program

In 2014, CCJRC helped pass a bill (HB14-1355) that created the first grant program in the DOC to provide funding to community nonprofit organizations to help people leaving prison. The DOC hired the nonprofit Latino Coalition for Community Leadership to manage the grant program which is now called the Work and Gain Employment & Education Skills (WAGEES) program.

In the fall of 2017, the state did a review of WAGEES and reported back to the Legislature that, “[s]ince the WAGEES program’s inception in January 2015, it has shown remarkable growth and served over 1,700 people. The potential of the program in reducing recidivism over the long-term is clear. [B]ased on interviews ... with current WAGEES participants, the program has played a critical role in helping parolees become self-sufficient, productive members of their communities, but parolees themselves are not the only ones who benefit.”

In the 2018 session, the Legislature passed a bill that continued the WAGEES program for another five years and increased the funding to add more community nonprofit partners, including a new reentry program specifically for women who have higher needs for medical care and/or behavioral health treatment.

There are WAGEES programs in Aurora, Boulder, Canon City, Colorado Springs (2 programs), Denver (3 programs), Ft Collins, Greeley, Grand Junction, Pueblo and Sterling. The Latino Coalition is working to identify other possible nonprofit partners to join the WAGEES program in additional areas such as Montrose, La Junta, Cortez/Durango and Longmont. CCJRC will keep you posted.

CONNECT WITH THE WAGEES REENTRY PROGRAMS

Although each WAGEES program offers its own unique program, all participants will have a care manager that will work one-on-one with participants to help them develop an individual success plan.

Approximately 60% of the staff at the WAGEES programs have been incarcerated, themselves, so they understand what the reentry journey is like.

To be eligible for WAGEES

- on parole, ISP-I, or DOC folks living in a community corrections facility, and
- medium to high risk as assessed by DOC

AURORA

Second Chance Center
9722 E. 16th Ave., Aurora, CO, 80011
Sean Taylor (303) 909-0813, scc_wagees@outlook.com

Second Chance Center is staffed by experienced Criminal Justice Insiders who help formerly incarcerated people transition to lives of success and fulfillment. SCC offers cognitive reconstruction, addictions counseling, employment preparation, DVR-SEC, healthy relationships, group mentoring and motivational interviewing, housing, transportation, pre-release and parole plan development.

BOULDER

Bridge House
4747 Table Mesa Dr., Boulder, CO, 80305
John McCollum (303) 575-4963,
wagees@boulderbridgehouse.org

Bridge House’s Ready to Work program is a holistic model providing homeless adults with housing, paid transitional work in a Bridge House social enterprise, and case management support. Trainees learn job skills, earn and save money, build a rental and work history for one year as a stepping-stone to permanent work and housing. The Ready to Work House and Employment Center offers housing for 44 men and women.

CANON CITY

Loaves & Fishes Ministries
241 Justice Center Rd., Cañon City, CO, 81212
DeeDee Clement (719) 275-0593 wagees@lfministries.org

Loaves and Fishes Ministries has the only emergency shelter in a 5 county area. The Chayah House is a 17 bed emergency shelter that provides a safe place to stay to over 230 adults and children annually. Life skills classes are offered twice a week. Regular case management is provided to assist clients with employment, housing, transportation, and assistance in connecting to medical and mental health professionals. Clients may also participate in and access Loaves and Fishes various housing programs.

Two Ways to Get Enrolled in a WAGEES program

You can be referred to a WAGEES program by your parole officer, DOC Community Reentry Specialist, or case manager at the community corrections program

OR

You can connect directly with the WAGEES program and ask them to contact DOC to see if are eligible to be enrolled.

All WAGEES services are free!

COLORADO SPRINGS

Christlife Ministries
1602 S. Wahsatch Ave., Colorado Springs, CO, 80909
Linda Perkins (719) 219-6835, wagees@mychristlife.org

Christlife offers classes in work readiness, career assessment, resume, interviewing skills and job leads, life skills, life plan, budgeting, soft skills, basic computer literacy skills, Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT), and Parents on a Mission in addition to other wrap around support services. Christlife offers housing opportunities at its locations in both Pueblo and Colorado Springs.

Colorado Springs Works
3750 Astrozon Blvd. Unit #120, Colorado Springs, CO, 80910
Holly Haufe (719) 354-6640, wagees@denverworks.org

Colorado Springs Works offers training in construction, flagging, and more. Participants who complete CSW's job seeker workshop are matched with an employment coach who provides individualized job search assistance to include resume preparation, e-mail setup if needed, interview coaching, job leads, and community referrals for housing, transportation, healthcare, counseling, childcare, food and other support services. We also offer a Career Prep workshop, financial management, time management, conflict resolution, anger management, parenting, reconciliation, and interpersonal communication skills.

DENVER

Servicios de la Raza
3131 W. 14th Ave., Denver, CO, 80204
Carlos Gonzales (303) 953-5918, wagees@serviciosdelaraza.org

Servicios de la Raza provides and advocates for culturally responsive, essential human services and opportunities. Serving individuals of all cultures, Servicios de la Raza offers wrap around services including Victims in Safe Transition and Self-Sufficiency and Domestic Violence Program, HIV/AIDS services, basic needs emergency services, mental health services, health insurance enrollment, literacy, and promotions, and more.

Life-line Colorado
1212 Mariposa St., Denver, CO, 80204
Leo Alirez (720) 275-1739, wagees@lifelinecolorado.org

The Life-Line program works with clients of all ages who struggle with substance abuse and/or transitioning out of gangs or incarceration. Services available through Life-Line include counseling, case management, pro-social activities, mentorship, resource connection, system navigation, career exploration, life skills, job readiness training, and more! Life-Line particularly specializes in fatherhood, gang disengagement, substance abuse, aggression replacement, and life skills.

Empowerment Program
1600 York St. Denver, CO 80206
Julie Kiehl (303) 520-5517, wagees@empowermentprogram.org

The mission of the Empowerment Program is to provide education, employment assistance, health, housing referrals, and support services for women who are in disadvantaged positions due to incarceration, poverty, homelessness, HIV/AIDS infection, and/or involvement in the criminal justice system. Our goal is to decrease rates of recidivism by providing case management, support services, basic skills education, housing and resource coordination. (See Page 3 for more information on the WAG-EES Women's Reentry Pilot).

FT. COLLINS

Homeward Alliance
242 Conifer St., Ft. Collins, CO, 80524
Sabrina Jones (970) 494-4326, wagees@homewardalliance.org

Homeward Alliance operates a continuum of programs and initiatives, ranging from critical survival gear, to employment services, to homelessness prevention. Homeward Alliance is not only an alliance of services, but also an alliance of volunteers, donors, agency partners and other community stakeholders. Homeward Alliance envisions a community in which homelessness is rare, short-lived, and non-recurring. The Re-Entry program empowers people on parole to overcome personal challenges, connect to resources, locate employment and secure housing. Located at the Sister Alice Murphy Center, a hub of services, Homeward Alliance also provides housing assistance, day shelter, child care and more.

GRAND JUNCTION

Junction Community Church
2867 Orchard Ave. Grand Junction, CO 81501
Jenise Hartje (970) 773-3186, wagees@jctcc.net

JCC provides various services to returning citizens as they transition back to life in the community. These include; employment/job placement and coaching, education assistance, housing assistance, transportation assistance (bus pass), identification assistance, access to JCC's food bank (Sara's Pantry) and clothing bank (The Hope Room).

GREELEY

The Rock Found
1542 7th Ave., Greeley, CO, 80631
Cheryl Cook (303) 252-7453, wagees@therockfound.org

The Rock Found helps people achieve a GED or industry recognized credentials, enter post-secondary education and training as well job skills training, employment, transportation, and housing. Weekly groups include pro-social activities and Moral Reconciliation Therapy. The Rock Found is also a Colorado Circles of Support and Accountability site for the Weld County region. These circles support, monitor, and assist individuals who have been convicted of a sexual offense to help those lead productive lives in the community. The Rock Found offers job training, skills development, and employment through its two social enterprises: CSK's Grill and Raised in a Barn.

PUEBLO

Christlife Ministries
2415 Lake Ave., Pueblo, CO, 81004
Linda Perkins (719) 647-9235, wagees@mychristlife.org

Christlife offers classes in work readiness, career assessment, resume, interviewing skills and job leads, life skills, life plan, budgeting, soft skills, basic computer literacy skills, Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT) and Parents on a Mission in addition to other wrap around support services. Christlife offers housing opportunities at its locations in both Pueblo and Colorado Springs.

STERLING

Hope House
915 South Division Ave. Sterling, CO 80751
Shaun Wilson (970) 380-7885, hopedivision12@gmail.com

H.O.P. E. stands for "helping other people excel". Hope House is a transitional home for participants that are moving from one part of their life to another, whether it is from incarceration or substance use. Hope House is a starting point with the ultimate goal that participants will grow and rent their own place.

WAGEES Women's Pilot Program

We are so pleased to announce a new reentry program specifically for women who have higher needs for medical and/or behavioral health treatment who are released (or will be released soon) to the Denver-metro area. This reentry program is called the WAGEES Women's Pilot Program.

A pilot program is a way to try new things on a smaller scale to give people the chance to learn how to make something work before trying to expand it. Because we've never tried to braid community-based services and clinical care together in one reentry program, the Women's Reentry Pilot is starting first in the Denver metro area with a partnership between the Stout Street Health Clinic, the Empowerment Program, and DOC. The Pilot launches on November 1, 2018! This is a voluntary program and there is no cost to be in the program.

The Director for the WAGEES Women's Pilot program is Dr. Rolli Oden who is a Family Medicine Physician and an Addiction Medicine Specialist at the Stout Street Health Clinic. He and his team of doctors can provide medical care whether women just want a check-up or whether they have serious or ongoing medical problems. For people who need medication assisted treatment (like Suboxone or Vivitrol) for opioid addiction, Stout Street Health Clinic can make that decision on a case-by-case basis. They can also help people quit or not start to smoke again.

The Stout Street Health Clinic also has a vision clinic, dental clinic, pharmacy, and therapists on site. If you are not enrolled in Medicaid before release from prison, they can help you enroll if you are eligible. (Note: *The Stout Street Health Clinic can help men or women released from prison or on parole, too. You don't have to be enrolled in the Women's Reentry Pilot to go there.*)

The Empowerment Program is the nonprofit partner in the WAGEES Women's Pilot program and they provide many reentry services like help with finding housing and employment, enrolling in education, building healthy relationships, reuniting with children/family, along with other services described more below. Here are the first steps if you are interested in finding out more information or find out if you can be referred to the Women's Reentry Pilot:

- For women who are already on parole, you can talk with your parole officer or a DOC Community Reentry Specialist.
- For women who are in community corrections (residential or non-residential status), you can talk with a case manager at the community corrections program or the DOC liaison.
- For women in prison, you can talk with your case manager, the facility parole officer, or the reentry specialist. You can also ask them about setting up an appointment prior to release with staff from the Stout Street Clinic and the Empowerment Program. Staff with Stout Street Clinic and the Empowerment Program will be able to meet with women one-on-one at DWCF and may be able to meet with women one-on-one at LVCF. Staff from the Stout Street Clinic and the Empowerment Program will also be at the monthly re-entry events at DWCF.
- Women who are released from prison but who aren't on supervision are not eligible for the Women's Reentry Pilot Program but are still welcome to connect with Stout Street Clinic for medical care and other services

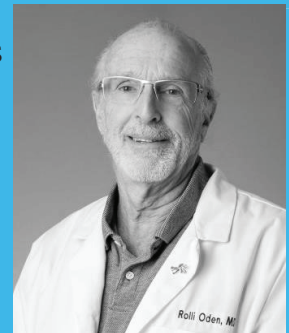
To be eligible for WAGEES Women's Pilot Program a woman must:

- be on parole, ISP-I, or living in a community corrections facility in the Denver metro area, or
- be in prison but will soon be released to parole, ISP-I, or a community corrections facility in the Denver metro area
- medium to high risk as assessed by DOC
- higher need for medical and/or mental health treatment (a score of P3 or above, M3 or above, or SOA-R 3 or above)
- agree to sign a medical Release of Information to Stout Street Health Clinic and enroll there as a patient

As part of the enrollment process, women will need to sign a Release of Information form so that DOC can share medical records with Dr. Oden so that he can best plan to meet your healthcare and behavioral health treatment needs.

Meet Dr. Rolli Oden, MD

Dr. Oden is the Director of the WAGEES women's reentry pilot program at the Stout Street Health Clinic. You can contact him at the address and phone number below or email roden@coloradocoalition.org.



Biography

Dr. Oden graduated from the University of California, San Diego, School of Medicine in 1982 and has had a long medical career working in a variety of specialties. In addition to family medicine, he has a specialty in addictions medicine, pain management, Hep C & HIV treatment, and obstetrics. He has treated patients and conducted research all over the world. He is also Board Certified in Medical Acupuncture and received a Master's Degree in International Public Health from Boston University in 2004.

Stout Street Health Clinic
2130 Stout Street
Denver, CO 80205
Phone: (303) 293-2220
Fax: (303) 296-8826

HOURS

Mon, Tues, Thurs & Fri: 7:00 am – 4:00 pm
Weds: 11:00am – 7:00 pm
Closed Saturday and Sunday

HEALTH SERVICES:

Primary care -- Behavioral health care -- Pediatrics -- Dental care
Vision care -- Pharmacy services -- Respite -- Medicaid
Health outreach (HOP)

continued on page 4



1212 Mariposa St., Suite 6 Denver, CO 80204

Non-Profit Org
US Postage
PAID
Denver, CO
Permit No. 808



1600 York St. Denver, CO 80206
Julie Kiehl (303) 520-5517, wagees@empowermentprogram.org

The Empowerment Program is the other community partner organization in the Women's Reentry Pilot. Founded in 1986, the mission of the Empowerment Program is to provide education, employment assistance, health, housing referrals, and support services for women who are in disadvantaged positions due to incarceration, poverty, homelessness, HIV/AIDS infection, and/or involvement in the criminal justice system.

Their goal is to decrease rates of recidivism by providing case management, support services, basic skills education, housing and resource coordination that can offer alternatives to habits and choices that may lead to criminal behaviors.

The Empowerment Program offers a number of services including case management and help finding employment, housing or enrolling in education. They also offer family reunification and other specific services, including:

Relapse Prevention is an ongoing therapeutic support group that focuses on cognitive and behavioral skills building to help promote sober living and provide support in recovery.

Seeking Safety is a therapeutic program to help women attain safety from trauma/PTSD and substance abuse. Safety is the main goal - helping women attain safety in their relationships, thinking, behavior and emotions.

Trauma Narrative is a writing and discussion group for women who have experienced trauma in their lives.

Beyond Violence – Anger Management is a course for women who have committed violent/aggressive offenses and/or experienced violence in their own life. The group focuses on developing ways to decrease aggression and learn new ways to manage emotions.

YES! Count me in! I want to support CCJRC and help eliminate the overuse of the criminal justice system in Colorado.
Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution!

Your support makes all the difference!

NAME: _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP _____

EMAIL: _____

- Individual \$35 Low Income/senior \$15
- Household \$50 Prisoner \$3 (cash or stamps)
- Sustainer \$100 or more
- Freedom Fighter \$____ charge me monthly/quarterly

Credit Card # _____

Exp date _____

Please return to:
CCJRC 1212 Mariposa St. #6 Denver, CO. 80204

See Chapter 12 of CCJRC's GO Guide for information on how to connect with medical care and behavioral health treatment across the state after release!

For women who are not eligible because you are not releasing to the Denver metro area or who may not be interested, please connect with any other WAGEES program that may be near you.



CCJRC is a proud member of Community Shares of Colorado!