

## **Wake County Inmate Employment and Education Initiative (WCIEEI)**

### **WCIEEI goals:**

1. To create a sustainable transition and reentry process that ensures coordinated employment and supportive services for offenders released from the Wake County Detention Center (WCDC), leading to careers that provide family-supporting wages;
2. To provide inmates access to educational opportunities that lead to high school completion and postsecondary credentials;
3. To strengthen the network of government agencies, community organizations, businesses, and citizens committed to successful offender transition and reentry; and
4. To ensure public safety and reduce public costs by reducing recidivism through successful employment and community reintegration.

### **Necessary program components:**

- Partnership with Wake County Public School System
  - Courses leading to high school completion
- Specialized NCWorks Career Center in WCDC
  - Career awareness and exploration; providing continuity to employment resources post release
- Vocational training and employer engagement
  - Paid work experience, on-the-job training, and employer recruitment
- Life skills training
  - Personal development and soft skills
- GED (high school equivalent) preparation
- Supportive services
  - Legal assistance, housing, transportation, etc.

### **Next steps:**

- Capital Area Workforce Development Board (CAWDB), with support from WCDC, will collect accessible data on characteristics of the current inmate population at WCDC, in order to specify the target population to be served. CAWDB will also analyze demographic information about the inmate population in Charlotte, as another sample group.
- CAWDB will develop a proposed phased approach for program delivery including proposed budgets as a starting point to determine the financial requirements for this initiative, based on the level of services provided.