INSTITUTE FOR JUSTICE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

IJRD @FSU

PRIORITIZING RAPID DISSEMINATION OF RESEARCH FINDINGS TO ADVOCATES, PROFESSIONALS, AND POLICYMAKERS.

5-Key Model for Reentry Program Demonstration
Research & Assessment Specialist Position

Project Overview:

Mass incarceration continues to be a significant public health and public safety issue in the United States. At the beginning of the 21st century, there was growing excitement and energy surrounding programs designed to aid the transition from prison to the community. Now well over a decade later, innovations in prisoner reentry programs have fallen into a rut as most are found to only have a negligible impact on recidivism and mass incarceration because the programs simply cannot meet the growing demands on reentry services.

In order to disrupt the current state of poor outcomes for prisoner reentry, a team lead by Institute for Justice Research and Development (IJRD) researchers identified and are refining a program that addresses the five key ingredients to successful reentry entitled the 5-Key Model for Reentry Program. This manual was built on a review of over 100,000 program evaluations. Using the most cutting-edge research available, we selected the most potent interventions and combined them into one reentry program manual. The 5-Key Model for Reentry Program focuses on the social mobility and well-being of formerly incarcerated individuals to ensure individuals will remain crime-free and contribute positively to society. Research indicates that a focus on mobility and well-being best maximizes public health and public safety.

The IJRD team is currently researching and refining the 5-Key Model for Reentry Program using a demonstration project in 7 states. We are conducting this research in collaboration with the Safe Streets and Second Chances (S3C) Initiative. The research entails a randomized controlled trial and involves researchers and practitioners in its implementation and refinement process. We are hiring local teams in each state and this position is a part of one of those local teams

ADVANCING SCIENCE, POLICY, AND PRACTICE TO IMPROVE THE WELL-BEING OF INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES IMPACTED BY CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM INVOLVEMENT.

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Position Summary:

The Research & Assessment Specialist position involves interviewing and assessing incarcerated individuals and those recently released from prison who are part of the randomized control trial of the 5-Key Model for Reentry Program. This person will be responsible for administering informed consent to prisoners, their families and social service workers; conducting face-to-face computer assisted personal interviews with study participants to administer behavioral health measures and clinical assessments; tracking and maintaining contact with study participants for up to 18 months after their release from prison; and carrying out all phases of study protocol as required by the Florida State University Institutional Review Board to ensure compliance with protection of human subjects.

Primary Duties:

25%-Recruit and enroll study participants both within and outside of prisons, to include but not limited to, community partner sites, participants homes, and public settings. Confer with participants to explain the purpose of the study and obtain informed consent. Administer computerized assisted personal interviews with participants on behavioral health measures and clinical assessments both within and outside of prisons.

25%-Collaborate with corrections and other professional staff pre- and post-release in evaluation of participant's progress.

25%-Ensure compliance with protocol guidelines and requirements of the Florida State University Institutional Review Board; identify problems and/or inconsistencies with data collection; and monitor study participant's progress to include documentation and reporting of adverse events.

25%-Closely track and maintain contact with study participants once they are released from prison to ensure that follow-up interviews are completed. Follow-up interviews may take place in community partner sites, participants homes, and public settings. Maintain appropriate recordkeeping and organization of all interview data, including data entry.

Required Qualifications:

- Master's degree required in social work, psychology, or related field.
- Ability to adapt to various hours and be able to work evening and weekends.
- Able to work independently while collaborating with a larger team.
- Must be eligible to pass and maintain security clearance in order to conduct interviews in correctional facilities.
- Must have a valid US driver's license, reliable vehicle, and current auto insurance.

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Preferred Qualifications:

- Prior primary data collection on other research projects.
- Prior experience conducting mental health and substance use disorder clinical assessments.
- Working knowledge of computer programs and systems, such as computer assisted personal interview software.
- Excellent communication, organizational, interpersonal skills.
- Experience working with a criminal justice population.
- Ability to engage effectively with both participants and colleagues through verbal and written communication.
- Skilled in writing and maintaining computer-based participants records in an accurate and timely manner.
- Ability to respond to crisis situations and psychiatric emergencies utilizing appropriate crisis response techniques.
- Highly organized, self-starter with good interpersonal, problem-solving, and analytical skills.

Hours: 40 hours per week

Location: Community provider site and travel to participant study locations.

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