



# **Hiring of Formerly Incarcerated Persons by State Vendors FY2020 Report**

**July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020**

This report details the reported number of Illinois residents discharged by an adult correctional center hired by State vendors.

In accordance with 30 ILCS 500/45-70, the Illinois Department of Central Management Services submits the following report to The Honorable Governor Pritzker.

Janel L. Forde  
Director

### **Overview of the Act**

Pursuant to 30 ILCS 500/45-70 the State of Illinois encourages State vendors to hire formerly incarcerated persons and notify the vendors of any available financial incentives or other advantages associated with hiring such persons. The act further requires that the Department of Central Management Services (CMS) report to the Governor and General Assembly the activities undertaken by the Chief Procurement Officers and CMS to encourage potential vendors to consider hiring formerly incarcerated persons. The report must include the number of vendors who have hired formerly incarcerated persons.

### **Hiring of Formerly Incarcerated Persons Annual Report**

Statute requires that all invitations for bids include encouragement to prospective vendors to hire formerly incarcerated persons. In accordance with this mandate, the following language has been incorporated in the standard bid documents:

“Employment Tax Credit: Vendors who hire qualified veterans and certain formerly incarcerated persons may be eligible for tax credits. Please contact the Illinois Dept. of Revenue (312-814-3215) for information about tax credits.”

30 ILCS 500/45-70 also directs CMS to provide the Governor and the General Assembly with a yearly report identifying “the activities undertaken by chief procurement officers and ... (CMS) to encourage potential contractors to consider hiring Illinois residents who have been discharged from an Illinois adult correctional center. The report must also include the number of vendors who have hired Illinois residents who have been discharged from any Illinois adult correctional center”. Efforts to convene a meeting of the Interagency Advisory Committee consisting of representatives from the Department of Corrections, the Department of Employment Security, the Department of Juvenile Justice, the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, the Department of Revenue and 8 members of the General Assembly, 2 appointed by the Speaker of the House or Representatives, 2 appointed by the President of the Senate, 2 appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives and 2 appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate were stalled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. CMS intends to convene a meeting of the Advisory Committee to explore new ways to encourage the hiring of formerly incarcerated persons by State vendors in 2021.

The current procedure for tracking a vendor’s hiring of Formerly incarcerated persons requires self-reporting. Utilizing the contact information in BidBuy, CMS sent emails to over 1,800 vendors identified as having current State contracts. Each vendor was sent follow up emails on two separate occasions asking for the information. 222 responses were received.

The following information was reported:

Number of vendors hiring formerly incarcerated persons:	21
Number of formerly incarcerated persons hired by State vendors:	97

CMS continues to explore alternative methods to gather necessary data and encourage vendors to self-report the hiring of formerly incarcerated persons. CMS is seeking to partner with various agency stakeholders including, but not limited to, the Department of Corrections and the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity on such programs as job-readiness training, subsidized work experience and supportive services.