

# JobsnotJail

**WORK-ORIENTED SERVICES** help parents find work, stay employed, pay child support, and avoid crime - at relatively little cost. Unemployed parents who are behind in their child support payments are referred to a work-oriented program.

## WITH JOB SERVICES, A STUDY SHOWS<sup>1</sup>

- Over **80%** find work within 2 months
- Participants are **33%** less likely to file unemployment
- Participants paid **51%** more in child support
- Families are **21%** less likely to receive public assistance

## Costs \$5/day<sup>3</sup>

- Skills assessment
- Debt management
- Job search assistance
- Job placement
- Follow-up monitoring and support



## \$4,000 child support paid<sup>5</sup>



**JAIL** is more expensive and less effective in producing child support payments than alternatives such as job services. Research shows that jail reduces a person's ability to work, to find work, to be employable, and to make child support payments.

## AFTER JAIL RELEASE, A STUDY SHOWS<sup>2</sup>

- Individuals are unemployed **9** weeks more per year
- Annual earnings are reduced by **40%**
- Hourly wages are **11%** less
- Annual family income is reduced by **22%**

## Costs \$186/day<sup>4</sup>

- Loss of job opportunities
- New barriers to future work
- Uncollectible debt
- Loss of contact with children
- Other collateral consequences



## \$0 child support paid



“ Now I have someone to help [me] to find work... I was worried about going to jail. I was afraid of not seeing my kids -

— Job services participant

“ I feel like it's more unfair to the kids, because now not only do kids not get any money, nor do they even get to spend time with their fathers once they get locked up.

— Iraq War veteran and parent

**Securing regular child support payments for families is the goal of the federal Office of Child Support Enforcement.**

These states connect noncustodial parents to job services.

<sup>1</sup> Schroeder, K., & Doughty, N. (2009). Texas Non-Custodial Parent Choices: Program Impact Analysis, Ray Marshall Center for the Study of Human Resources, University of Texas, Austin. [http://www.utexas.edu/research/cshr/pubs/pdf/NCP\\_Choices\\_Final\\_Sep\\_03\\_2009.pdf](http://www.utexas.edu/research/cshr/pubs/pdf/NCP_Choices_Final_Sep_03_2009.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> The Pew Charitable Trusts. (2010, September). Collateral Costs: Incarceration's Effect on Economic Mobility. [http://www.pewtrusts.org/~media/legacy/uploadedfiles/pes\\_assets/2010/collateralcosts1pdf.pdf](http://www.pewtrusts.org/~media/legacy/uploadedfiles/pes_assets/2010/collateralcosts1pdf.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> OCSE used participant expenditure data from the Texas study in footnote 1 to calculate the average daily cost of job services per participant.

<sup>4</sup> OCSE used Vera Institute of Justice 2014 survey data from 35 survey sites to calculate the average daily cost of jail. <http://www.vera.org/pubs/price-of-jails>

<sup>5</sup> Hayes, M. & Verver, N. (2010, July). NCP Choices: Non-Custodial Parent Employment Program. Presented at the Client Success through Partnership: 2010 State TANF and Workforce Meeting, Dallas, TX. <https://disability.workforce3one.org/view/2001035140852052899>