

## Concrete Methods for Advancing Equity and Opportunity for People Impacted by the Criminal Justice System

## CCF OVERVIEW

College & Community Fellowship (CCF) is a non-profit dedicated to helping women with criminal convictions earn college degrees so that they, their families, and their communities can thrive. We advocate for equity and opportunity for the communities we serve.

CCF supports students until graduation day and beyond, providing academic support, career development, financial coaching, and much more. We approach systemic change through our national advocacy and technical assistance programs.

# Trauma-Informed Service Delivery

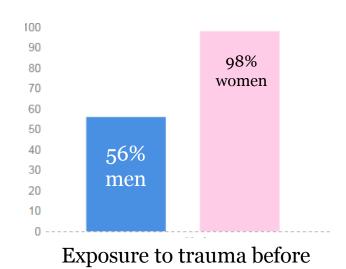
## Trauma & CJ-Affected Population



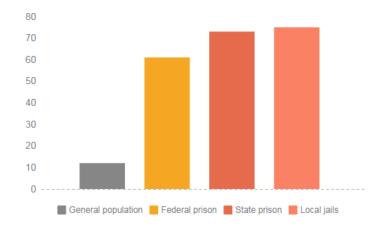


1 in 6 men report being physically and/or sexually abused before incarceration

6 in 10 women report being physically and/or sexually abused beforeincarceration



incarceration



% women who meet criteria for at least one lifetime psychiatric disorder (schizophrenia, depression, antisocial personality disorder, etc.)

Wolf, N. and Jing S., Childhood and Adult Trauma Experiences of Incarcerated Persons and Their Relationship to Adulet Behavioral Health Problems and Treatment, 2012, Center for Behavioral Health Services & criminal Justice Research, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, publi. In Int. J. Environ. Res. Public Health 2012, 9(5), 1908-1926; doi: 10.3390/ijerph9051908

## CCF's Three Program Areas

## **Direct Services**

#### **Community Sisters**

Help women with criminal convictions become ready to enroll in college by paying down old debts, earning their high school equivalencies, or overcoming other barriers to enrollment

#### Academic Support Program

Help women with criminal convictions enroll in and succeed in college

#### Career Education Enhancement Program

Help CCF students earn high-quality career certifications in the areas of business, health, law, and counseling

#### Peer Mentoring Program (re-launching soon)

Match women 180 days pre-release with peer mentors to help them build higher education into their reentry plans

#### **Career Advancement Program (coming soon)**

Help women with criminal convictions find jobs and careers reflective of their education levels and aspirations

## Policy & Advocacy

#### **Policy Advocacy**

Grassroots and grasstops organizing for criminal justice reform, including higher education and other related issues; and advocacy training for impacted women

#### **Theater for Social Change**

Performance ensemble that uses theater to raise awareness about the impact of mass incarceration on women, families, and communities

## **Technical Assistance**

#### **THRIVE**

Training agencies in CCF's core procedures and evidence-based practices to strengthen service delivery to CJ-affected folks, and show employers the value of tapping into this under-utilized labor force

## **Evidence-Based Practices**



#### Trauma-Informed Service Delivery

Most people who have gone through the CJ system have experienced high rates of trauma



#### **Motivational Interviewing**

Tapping into students' aspirations helps develop concrete goals and self-confidence



### Asset-Focused Leadership Development

Assessing their own communities and personal strengths develops social capital



## Financial Development

Ensuring all students have the understanding and resources to make informed financial decisions



#### Organizational Learning and Development

Creating a learning culture that utilizes evidence, and supports change to increase longevity

## Academic Support Program

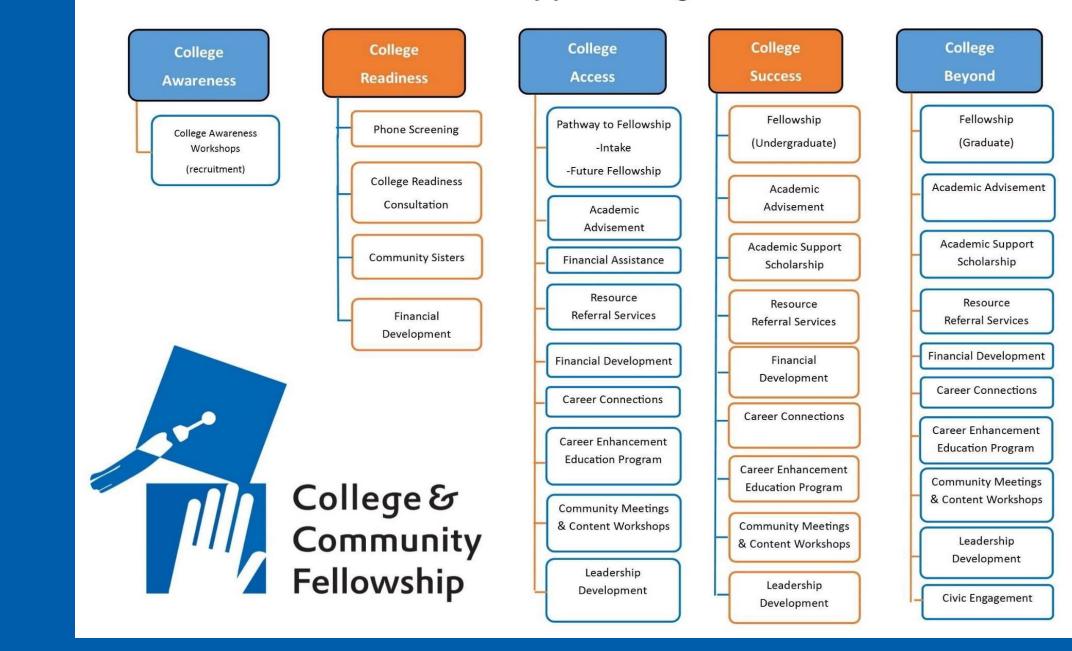
Changing the face of the formerly incarcerated







## Academic Support Program Model



## **Evidence-Based Practices**



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## Raising Education Awareness

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- CCF believes in the transformative power of higher education
- Higher education has not always been part of the reentry conversation
  - Education hasbeen under-recognized asatool for successful reacclimation

## History of Education in Prison

- Education offered in prison as early as 1798, as religious instruction designed for repentance
- Evolved to include subjectsbeyondreligion
- Wasutilizedoverallasameasure of self-improvement for people convicted of crimes

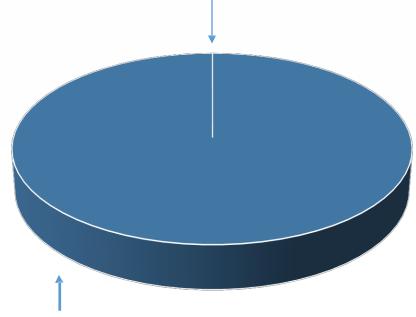
## Federal Pell Grants

- Established in 1965 to increase access to higher education for low-incomes tudents
- Becameakeysupport for CJ-involved students to earn college degrees

## Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act

- 1994 approximately 23,000 stateand federal prisoners used Pell grants
- In that same year, all students would be barred from continuing their education as a result of the law

Pell grants awarded to incarcerated students



Pell grants awarded to nonincarcerated students

## Second Chance Pell

- July 2016 the Second Chance Pell Experiment was enacted
- The goal of the initiative is to learn whether participation in educational opportunities increases after access to financial aid for incarcerated adults is expanded
- Also examining how the reinstatement of college access in federal and state prisons affects overall post-release outcomes

## Prison-Based Education Works

- Participants in correctional education programs are 48% less likely to recidivate
- In prison college programs have fewer violent incidents, creating overall safer correction institutions for both staff and incarcerated people

'...By 2020 65% of jobs will require postsecondary education and training beyond high school. Only 11% of incarcerated people in state prisons have completed at least some postsecondary education.'



## Questions? Comments?