



HOPES Project

Hospitality Opportunity for People (Re)Entering Society

In July of 2019, the National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation (NRAEF) received funding from the U.S. Department of Labor for the **Hospitality Opportunity for People (Re)Entering Society (HOPES)** project: a reentry projects grant to support hundreds of justice-involved young people through training, employment and apprenticeships in the restaurant and foodservice industry.

HOPES is part of the [NRAEF's Restaurant Ready](#) initiative, a national program dedicated to helping young adults acquire the basic job and life skills necessary to pursue jobs in the restaurant industry and jumpstart a pathway to independence.

The HOPES project will focus on the communities of Boston, Massachusetts; Chicago, Illinois; and Richmond and Hampton Roads, Virginia.

KEY STATS:

- Each year, 600,000 individuals exit the criminal justice system.
- [63,000](#) young people are currently confined in the Juvenile Justice System or the Adult Justice System.
- Formerly incarcerated individuals who maintained employment for one year post-release had only a 16 percent recidivism rate over three years as compared to a 52 percent recidivism rate for those who did not maintain employment.

WHY RESTAURANTS CAN HELP:

- **Restaurant careers are accessible.** Restaurant and foodservice operations careers do not require a high school diploma, GED, licensure or certification.
- **Restaurants need a well-trained workforce.** Nearly 1 million unfilled jobs currently exist in the restaurant industry.
- **Restaurants are integral parts of the community.** The industry currently employs 15.3 million people and is expected to add 1.6 million jobs over the next decade.

GET INVOLVED

To learn more about supporting HOPES in your community, contact HOPES@nraef.org.

National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation

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