

Engaging and Advancing Justice-Involved Young Adults through Training, Employment, and Apprenticeship

Hospitality Opportunities for People (Re)Entering Society (HOPES) helps justice-involved young adults gain industry-specific skills, facilitates career exploration, and addresses barriers to sustained employment, with the ultimate goal of increasing employment opportunities and reducing recidivism for young adults.

The NRAEF will enroll over 500 justice-involved young adults (ages 18-24 years) in the [HOPES](#) program. Each HOPES participant works with a case manager to develop an individualized plan, listing their career goals and identifying work-readiness and industry-specific training leading to employment. HOPES participants will complete training, achieve at least one industry credential and receive job placement to successfully graduate from HOPES.

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

The HOPES project is currently in the communities of Boston, Massachusetts; Chicago, Illinois; and Richmond and Farmville, Virginia.

WHY RESTAURANTS CAN HELP:

- Restaurant careers are accessible, diverse, and opportunity-rich. Restaurant and foodservice operations careers do not require a high school diploma, GED, licensure or certification. Restaurants employ more minority managers than any other industry and 90% of all restaurant managers started in entry-level positions.
- Restaurants need a well-trained workforce. Employers are looking for qualified staff familiar with new health and hygiene guidelines, HOPES participants receive ServSafe training which is widely recognized and fulfills many local requirements.

*Prior to COVID 19. National rate: 27% vs. 4% in a 2018 study.

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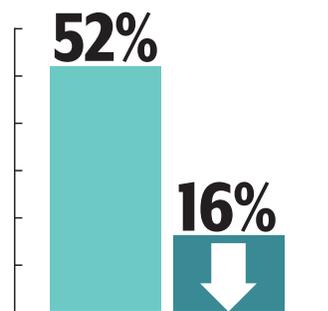
KEY STATS

152,000+

Individuals between the ages of 18 and 24 years old under the jurisdiction of state or federal correctional authorities in 2017.



The unemployment rate of formerly incarcerated individuals is more than 6 times the national rate, and 60% to 75% remain unemployed one year after release.*



Formerly incarcerated individuals who maintained employment for one year post-release had a 16% recidivism rate over three years compared to a 52% recidivism rate for those who did not maintain employment.

Get Involved!

To learn more about how you can support HOPES, visit ChooseRestaurants.org/HOPES or Email HOPES@nraef.org.

National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation

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