

About Inmates to Entrepreneurs

Inmates to Entrepreneurs is a community outreach program developed by Sageworks to educate current and former inmates on how they can start small businesses upon their release from prison. The program was specifically created to help individuals through the challenges in getting re-integrated into society and the workforce. Contact us for free business mentoring assistance and support through group meetings or to have a speaker come out to work with your group.



Reasons for starting a business

1. Independence.
2. A fresh start. You are judged by the marketplace on what you provide.
3. Creativity.
4. Ownership.
5. Building something.
6. Contributing.
7. Money and wealth.

Thinking through the kinds of businesses to start

- Find something you like to do or something that interests you.
- Find something that is really needed in the marketplace.
- Something that people don't want to do.
- Something that you can do that people need to do and cannot do themselves.
- Find something at which you are good.
- Find something that is easy to start.

Basic rules and guidelines for running a business

- Start a low capital business. Start small.
- Keep your overhead low.
- Sell things that people need/want.
- Don't borrow money in the beginning.
- Hire slowly and do without.
- Read good books on entrepreneurship.
- Never rely on government handouts.
- Listen to the customer.
- Continually improve your product or service.
- Ask for help and guidance.

Feedback

“Your passion for teaching others about initiating a business was obvious and well-received. It is also sorely needed in this setting... As a young boy, I had dreams and aspirations. Most of these I successfully achieved only to lose everything to my addiction...Prior to your seminar, I had been contemplating just what I would do with the rest of my life once I am released in a couple of years...I have been so self-centered and self-absorbed but I am now committed to helping others. I only hope to be as passionate about this as you are with your endeavor.” -Tommy, Orange Correctional Center

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