Mission

The Center for Employment Opportunities (CEO) helps men and women coming home from prison successfully enter the workforce. CEO’s evidence-based model combines life skills education; short-term paid, transitional employment; full-time job placement; and post-placement services. Addressing the employment needs of people with criminal convictions through the CEO model reduces the likelihood of re-incarceration and helps participants build a foundation for a stable, productive life for themselves and their families.

Social Enterprise

CEO provides crew-based maintenance and labor services for primarily public sector customers. CEO operates 70+ work crews every day, serving transit agencies, housing authorities, parks departments, and more, and offering participants paid employment within a week of enrolling in the program.

Track Record

With nearly 25,000 job placements made to date, CEO has significantly expanded over the past seven years and currently operates 16 offices across six states.
At 17, Michael was incarcerated for a gang-related offense. He spent 17 years in prison. When he came out, he didn’t have much hope of finding a job—until he walked through the doors of CEO. There, he got the training and support he needed to succeed. “A job is so much more than a paycheck,” he says. “It’s a door back into society. Work helped me overcome the obstacles I faced coming out of prison. Employers should know: When you give someone who was incarcerated a second chance, they will be some of the best employees you can ever hire.” After working as a customer service supervisor and earning a promotion after only three months, Michael became a Case Manager at the Center for Juvenile Justice, where he counseled young people who are on probation. In 2017 he joined #cut50 as a Policy Associate, dedicating his perspective, skills, and passion to cutting the prison population in half by 2050.

Personal Success Story

A Job is So Much More Than a Paycheck

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After seeing the motivation and performance of the work crews, I am fully confident in CEO producing quality outcomes for CalTrans.

— Trent Manning, Litter Abatement Program Manager, CalTrans