



## **Families and Individuals Reintegrating Successfully Together (F.I.R.S.T.)**

### **New Mentor Information and Application**

#### **Who are we?**

Founded in 1787, the mission of The Pennsylvania Prison Society is to advocate for humane prisons and a restorative approach to criminal justice. The Society promotes a more just and restorative criminal justice system by working directly with men and women returning from incarceration. We are committed to helping our neighbors with criminal records come home and stay home.

The Society's mentoring program is a voluntary program for men returning to Philadelphia from incarceration. Each year in the Philadelphia region, more than 12,000 individuals return home, and a staggering 34% will return to prison within a year. The Society's mentoring program is designed to help ease the transition from incarceration back to communities by providing a helping hand and social support network.

The program is currently offered approximately 6 months prior to release for men incarcerated in SCI Chester and SCI Phoenix. Mentees and mentors will meet weekly to develop a personal goal plan and develop social supports.

#### **Who are you?**

Mentors provide consistent and caring support and guidance to mentee participants as they develop the attitudes and skills that will help them become successful in their personal lives and in the workplace. A good mentor actively listens to the mentee, helps that person build his self-esteem and confidence, pushes the mentee to achieve his goals, and offers stability and positive reinforcement in the mentee's life. The mentor meets with the mentee on a regular basis to encourage the mentee to make his own decisions and be responsible for the consequences, develop intangible skills such as problem solving, and help the mentee develop self-esteem and self-confidence. Mentors must be consistent and reliable, as mentees may have limited support networks in their lives. Mentors should be supportive, non-judgmental, and demonstrate the ability to follow through on their commitments. Eligible mentors cannot have been incarcerated in a Pennsylvania facility within the last twelve (12) months.

#### **Important Information.**

- Each mentor will be assigned up to 3 mentees who will be provided support by connecting them to resources and assisting them with building skills to address issues, as needed.



- Mentors are encouraged to meet with mentees post release, in partnership with the Prison Society's Mentoring Associate, who is co-located at Broad Street Ministry.
- Participation is voluntary, but a one year minimum commitment is requested. A full schedule of mentoring meetings will be provided, but mentors can expect to spend at least 1 hour inside the facility weekly.
- All accepted applicants will be required to attend a mandatory mentoring orientation and training. Additional requests for meetings may occur throughout the year.
- Mentors agree to follow program policies and procedures, including confidentiality policies.

Those interested in applying to be a mentor should fill out the attached application and send it to Joe Robinson at [jrobinson@prisonsociety.org](mailto:jrobinson@prisonsociety.org).



PENNSYLVANIA  
**PRISON SOCIETY**  
*justice & compassion*

**New Mentor Application**

\_\_\_\_\_

(First Name) (Middle Name) (Last Name)

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Why do you want to be part of the Mentoring Program? Please include any relevant information such as work history, experience with incarceration, skills, and fluency in any other languages. This information will help guide the Mentoring Associate in matching mentors and mentees. (You may attach additional page if needed).

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What is your weekly availability?

	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
<b>AM</b>					
<b>PM</b>					

Are you comfortable making a one-year commitment?

Yes

No

### **Mentor Application Process**

1. All mentors will be required to submit a Mentor Application.
2. Upon receipt of an application, the Mentoring Associate and one other Prison Society staff member or existing Mentor will conduct an in-person interview.
3. All applicants who move beyond the interview will undergo the DOC clearance process and undergo a mandatory mentoring orientation.
4. Accepted mentees will attend a check-in meeting after 90 days of participation in the mentoring program. The purpose of this meeting is to check in regarding their experience, highlight any challenges, and identify any additional supports that may be needed.
5. If a participating mentor demonstrates a pattern of missing meetings with their mentee and Program Staff, Program Staff may initiate a review of the status of their participation.