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Roots to Re-Entry Job Training & Placement

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Roots to Re-Entry (R2R)

An innovative green jobs initiative created by PHS and partners to provide former inmates of the Philadelphia Prison System with entry level employment through local food production and landscape management.

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A Green Pathway To Employment

Create opportunities for participants to develop self-awareness and work ethic through contextualized learning.

Include formalized testing to gain perspective on individual's knowledge and progress.

Create "real life" situations for participants.

Bring in industry experts to provide additional training.

Engage employers to provide feedback on any gaps in employee performance.

Provide support services and community resources to individuals .

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Participant Outline

Non-violent offenders on work release from the Philadelphia Prison System.

Generally between the ages of 18-45 with a basic level of literacy and a strong interest in working in the landscaping industry.

These offenders tend to be poor, low skilled, and face limited employment prospects upon reentry.

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Deep employer commitment.

Seamless pathway from prison to employment.

Best-practice training program at both a prison-based greenhouse and a public garden/park.

Training directly benefits the community by beautifying public garden/park in underserved neighborhood.

Contributed value of trainee work significantly offsets program costs.

Integrated collaboration between a diverse and non-traditional group of partners and stakeholders.

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R2R Model

Outcomes

Participants
575 inmates have been trained through the City Harvest Program since 2006.

68 candidates were identified for the Roots to Re-Entry program.

61 participants graduated from the Roots to Re-Entry program

52 have been placed or given opportunities with area landscape contractors.

Site Improvements
The program impact on public spaces since 2010 totals over $200,000