



FY-2021

**Hiring of Formerly
Incarcerated Persons
by State Vendors
Annual Report**

July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021

This report details the reported number of formerly incarcerated persons hired by State vendors.

In accordance with 30 ILCS 500/45-70, the Illinois Department of Central Management Services submits the following report to The Honorable Governor Pritzker.

Janel L. Forde
Director

Overview of the Act

Pursuant to Section 45-70 of the Illinois Procurement Code (30 ILCS 500/45-70, “the Act”), the State of Illinois encourages State vendors to hire formerly incarcerated persons and notify the vendors of any available financial incentives or other advantages associated with hiring such persons. The Act further requires that the Department of Central Management Services (CMS) report to the Governor and General Assembly the activities undertaken by the Chief Procurement Officers and CMS to encourage potential vendors to consider hiring formerly incarcerated persons. The report must include the number of vendors who have hired formerly incarcerated persons.

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Statute requires that all invitations for bids include encouragement to prospective vendors to hire formerly incarcerated persons. In accordance with this mandate, the following language has been incorporated in the standard bid documents:

“Employment Tax Credit: Vendors who hire qualified veterans and certain formerly incarcerated persons may be eligible for tax credits. Please contact the Illinois Dept. of Revenue (217-524-4772) for information about tax credits.”

The Act also directs CMS to provide the Governor and the General Assembly with a yearly report identifying the activities undertaken by Chief Procurement Officers and CMS to encourage prospective vendors who have hired formerly incarcerated persons. The report must include the number of vendors who have hired formerly incarcerated persons. There exists within the statute the Interagency Advisory Committee consisting of representatives from the Department of Corrections, the Department of Employment Security, the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, the Department of Revenue and 8 members of the General Assembly (2 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, 2 appointed by the President of the Senate, 2 appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives and 2 appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate) to explore new ways to encourage the hiring of qualified formerly incarcerated persons by State vendors. The Interagency Advisory Committee did not meet during the time-period represented in this report.

The current procedure for tracking vendor hiring of formerly incarcerated persons requires vendor self-reporting. In prior fiscal years, CMS sought vendor reporting about their program participation via multiple published requests posted on the BidBuy informational pages. For 2021, CMS emailed all vendors registered in BidBuy and conducted multiple follow up requests over a span of several weeks for responsive information. 96 responses were received.

Based on the results of the e-mailed survey, the following information was reported:

- Number of vendors hiring formerly incarcerated persons: 4
- Number of formerly incarcerated persons hired by State vendors: 16

CMS and the Committee continues to explore alternative methods to gather necessary data and encourage vendors to self-report the hiring of formerly incarcerated persons. CMS is seeking to partner with various agency stakeholders including, but not limited to, the Department of Corrections and the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity on such programs as job-readiness training, subsidized work experience and supportive services.