

For Immediate Release

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The Center for Self Sufficiency awarded grant to assist former female offenders

Milwaukee (June 12, 2013) - The Center for Self-Sufficiency (the Center) today announced that it is the recipient of a U.S. Department of Labor, *Strategies Targeting Characteristics Common to Female Ex-Offenders* grant. The Center is one of eight organizations across the county to receive awards of approximately \$1.5 million each.

These grant awards represent the second year of a new initiative to serve adult and youth ex-offenders through strategies targeted to characteristics common to female ex-offenders. While female ex-offenders are the focus of the grants, they may serve male ex-offenders as well.

“We are honored to have been selected as one of only eight organizations nationally to receive funding to further our work in the area of workforce development as it pertains to former offenders,” said Angela Turner, President and CEO, the Center for Self-Sufficiency. “Several of the programs offered by the Center are focused on working with former offenders to deliver effective services and community resources to assist them with a successful transition to mainstream society and self-sufficiency.”

Approximately \$12 million in total funding has been awarded to grantees that will utilize integrated strategies that include empowerment and self-development, workforce development, education, and case management strategies. Grantees must also collaborate with many organizations to support the success of their projects, including establishing partnerships with state and local criminal justice agencies; ; American Job Centers and workforce investment boards; mental health providers; alcohol and drug abuse treatment centers; and child and family services agencies that administer child support and enforcement programs.

“The unique design feature of sector-based skills training the Center uses is that, in contrast to traditional programs in which participants receive training and then are helped to find employment, offenders are instead trained to qualify for jobs that are pre-committed by existing employers in high-demand industries,” said Turner. “They are then enrolled in a paid training program consisting of classroom training (work-readiness and skill-based) and placed on a work crew within its own construction business in which offenders learn skills and earn state occupational certifications and, upon attaining a given level of skill, are placed into crews that do siding, roofing, finished carpentry and demo work for a developer/general contractor.”

Based in Milwaukee, Wis., and founded in 1997, the Center for Self-Sufficiency (CFSS) is a nonprofit organization that promotes and facilitates the design, delivery, and growth of high- impact programs and partnerships that increase the self-sufficiency of individuals, families, organizations and communities. Under the leadership of President and CEO Angela Turner, CFSS partners with federal agencies, states, local governments and school districts, as well as community and faith-based organizations to develop effective service delivery models nationally in the areas of healthy relationships/marriage, teen pregnancy prevention, offender reentry, mentoring children of prisoners, green jobs and organizational capacity building.