

POSITION 6: POST-INCARCERATION WRAPAROUND SERVICE PLAN RESEARCHER

Position Overview

The Post-Incarceration Wraparound Service Plan Researcher designs and validates TXFPPF's comprehensive reentry service model by conducting needs assessments, surveying formerly incarcerated individuals, studying best practices, and developing the operational framework for the Bridge Forward Initiative's integrated support approach.

Primary Responsibilities

Needs Assessment & Survey Research (35%)

- Design survey instruments assessing post-release needs in first 72 hours, 30 days, 90 days, and one year
- Conduct surveys with formerly incarcerated individuals about their reentry experiences
- Identify service gaps and unmet needs in current Harris County reentry ecosystem
- Document barriers to successful reintegration (housing, employment, benefits, healthcare, transportation)
- Assess technology access and digital literacy needs
- Survey family members about support challenges and resource needs
- Analyze survey data to prioritize wraparound service components

Best Practice Research (30%)

- Study comprehensive reentry models nationwide (Fortune Society NYC, Homeboy Industries LA, Pioneer Human Services Seattle)
- Research Benefits Identification Bureau models and SSI/SSDI advocacy programs
- Examine healthcare integration in reentry programs (including mental health and substance use treatment)
- Investigate vocational training programs with high employment placement rates
- Study housing-first approaches and transitional housing models
- Research banking partnerships and financial literacy programs for justice-impacted individuals
- Analyze record sealing clinics and legal services integration

Service Design & Planning (25%)

- Develop service pathway maps from initial 72 hours through 12 months post-release
- Create client flow charts for Benefits Identification Bureau operations
- Design intake assessment tools and case management protocols
- Plan co-located state agency model with TDCJ, TWC, HHSC coordination
- Develop partnership frameworks for medical clinics, banks, and vocational programs
- Create staffing models and supervision structures
- Design program evaluation metrics and outcome tracking systems

Stakeholder Engagement (10%)

- Interview current reentry service providers about collaboration opportunities
- Conduct focus groups with formerly incarcerated individuals
- Consult with parole officers and TDCJ staff about transition challenges
- Engage family members in program design process
- Connect with potential employer partners about hiring practices

Learning Objectives

- Apply social work and human services frameworks to program design
- Develop skills in needs assessment and community-based participatory research
- Understand wraparound service models and case management approaches
- Learn program evaluation and outcome measurement
- Practice stakeholder engagement and collaborative planning
- Analyze barriers to successful reentry and evidence-based solutions

Required Skills & Qualifications

- Research design and survey methodology skills
- Strong analytical and organizational abilities
- Empathy and cultural humility when working with justice-impacted populations
- Ability to synthesize complex service delivery models
- Written communication skills for reports and planning documents
- Understanding of trauma-informed practices (preferred)

Ideal Academic Background

Social Work, Public Health, Criminal Justice, Psychology, Public Policy, Urban Planning, Sociology

Projects & Deliverables

- Comprehensive needs assessment report based on 50+ surveys of formerly incarcerated individuals
- Bridge Forward Initiative service delivery blueprint with timelines and resource requirements
- Benefits Identification Bureau operational manual
- Partnership development plan with target agencies and organizations
- Program evaluation framework with outcome metrics and data collection tools

Time Commitment: 15-20 hours per week