



RIVERSIDE COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT

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September 2, 2020

California Workforce Development Board
800 Capitol Mall, Suite 1022
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support Letter for The Presley Center of Crime & Justice

To Whom It May Concern:

The Riverside County Probation Department (Probation) is pleased to support The Presley Center of Crime & Justice's (Presley Center) application to the California Workforce Development Board Intent to Award for the Prison to Employment grant. This funding would allow the Presley Center to conclude the final portion of a three-part research project to evaluate the effectiveness of the California Prison to Employment Initiative (P2E).

Phase three of the project involves the quasi-experimental design that will determine the efficacy of formerly incarcerated individuals' participation, recidivism and employment outcomes of P2E program in the Inland Empire counties. The results of the evaluation process will have a fundamental impact on the services provided and required for formerly incarcerated individuals within the Inland Empire region which includes both Riverside and San Bernardino counties. Both officers and clients will be able to use this resource as a tool in the continued effort to reintegrate into the community.

Probation is currently in a three-year partnership with the Presley Center to evaluate the effectiveness of Probation's Day Reporting Centers (One-Stop-Shops) offering re-entry programming services throughout the county. As such, Probation has established procedures and requirements in place to share data with the Presley Center and would readily provide information when needed.

Probation, a progressive criminal justice agency, strongly supports the endeavors being undertaken by Presley Center and their ultimate goals to establish program efficacy. We strongly recommend the California Workforce Development Board give this application strong consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ron Miller II".

Ron Miller II
Chief Probation Officer



Riverside County Workforce Development Centers
1325 Spruce Street, Suite 110, Riverside, CA 92507

August 24, 2020

California Workforce Development Board
800 Capitol Mall
Sacramento, CA 95814

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of Riverside County Workforce Development to express our full support of the Robert Presley Center of Crime & Justice Studies' proposed Prison to Employment (P2E) research project. We are proud to partner with the Presley Center on this study through our involvement with the Inland Empire Regional Planning Unit (IERPU) to improve the employment opportunities of justice-impacted individuals in Inland California.

The Presley Center's proposed P2E project is a novel, multi-phase empirical analysis of employment opportunities and outcomes in our region with the potential to empower regional organizations and our workforce – especially marginalized groups, like the justice-impacted – to be active participants in the search for good jobs and trainings to secure them. The final research phase will evaluate the efficacy of the Prison to Employment initiative through a mixed-methods design that identifies which services are the most successful in helping the justice-impacted maintain employment and avoid recidivating and pushes toward the root cause of employment issues and solutions for this population.

Lessons from the P2E evaluation will help us better understand how to address barriers to employment for justice-impacted individuals, augment our understanding of the relationship between employment and recidivism, and will likely hold insight as to employment solutions for the broader population.

The Presley Center is deeply committed to conducting research that is scientifically rigorous and relevant to the needs of our region and its practitioners. They have solicited feedback on this project from stakeholders, including the IERPU, and actively participate in the P2E Initiative by attending planning meetings, service provider workshops, and other events. They are well-connected with our region's workforce development and criminal justice agencies and we are confident in this project's potential to inform our approach to employment – both for non-justice- and justice-impacted individuals.

■ **web:** www.rivcojobs.com

■ **phone:** 951.955.3100

■ **fax:** 951.955.3131



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Riverside County Workforce Development fully supports the Presley Center and will assist on this project in any way we are able to ensure its success. We look forward to continued partnership with the Center as they invest in our region's workforce. If you have questions about our endorsement of the Presley Center or this project, please let us know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carrie Harmon", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Carrie Harmon
Director
Riverside County Workforce Development



Jamil Dada
Chairperson

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August 25, 2020

California Workforce Development Board
800 Capitol Mall
Sacramento, CA 95814

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of the Riverside County Workforce Development Board to express our enthusiastic support and belief in the potential for impact of the Robert Presley Center of Crime & Justice Studies' proposed Prison to Employment (P2E) project.

The Presley Center's P2E project speaks directly to Inland California's need for innovative solutions that empower our workforce to advance economically by obtaining good jobs and the training to secure them. Using a mixed-methods, interdisciplinary design, the Presley Center will evaluate the efficacy of Riverside and San Bernardino counties' Prison to Employment initiative. Rigorous quantitative analysis will allow for the evaluation of the success of specific services and programs and is complemented by qualitative study to help identify the mechanism driving these successes.

As you know, justice-impacted individuals are an especially at-risk group with respect to economic security, but understanding the barriers to employment and advancement that they face has the capacity to inform our approach to targeted workforce development and integrative solutions across the broader population.

We believe in this project's potential to equip our region with the information and tools to meaningfully transform our approach to employment. The Presley Center has a demonstrated track record of conducting research to inform evidence-based practice in our region and their engagement with diverse stakeholders in this area bodes particularly well for this project's success and potential for impact.

The Center has already demonstrated their collaborative approach in laying the groundwork for this project by partnering with the Inland Empire Regional Planning Unit's work with P2E – a cooperative effort with Riverside and San Bernardino counties' workforce development and criminal justice agencies, regional employers, and non-profit service providers – and two additional research centers within the UC Riverside School of Public Policy.

The Riverside County Workforce Development Board lends its full support to this project and will assist the Presley Center in any way we are able to ensure its success. Please do not hesitate to reach out should you have questions about our endorsement of this project.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Jamil Dada".

Jamil Dada, Chairman
Riverside County
Workforce Development Board



MICHELLE SCRAY BROWN
Chief Probation Officer

TRACY REECE
Assistant Chief Probation Officer

August 27, 2020

California Workforce Development Board
800 Capitol Mall
Sacramento, CA 95814

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of the San Bernardino County Probation Department to express our support of the Robert Presley Center of Crime & Justice Studies' proposed Prison to Employment (P2E) research project.

In the wake of California's prison realignment, the state invested in a collection of prison to employment initiatives to help answer how the formerly incarcerated can be better supported during community re-entry. Being gainfully employed contributes to an offender's successful re-entry, including by decreasing recidivism, but there are barriers to employment – on the side of the employer (e.g. hiring norms, etc.) and the individual (e.g. a lack of soft skills, education, etc.) – unique to the formerly incarcerated.

The proposed P2E project unpacks this dynamic to identify opportunities to better serve justice-impacted individuals through re-entry services (e.g. trainings, etc.) and to better understand the types of employers (e.g. size of company, etc.), sub-regions, and industries that are most willing to hire the formerly incarcerated. These insights have the capacity to refine our region's approach to community re-entry and are an important next step as we consider the implications of mass decarceration for policy and practice across the state.

The San Bernardino County Probation Department values the Presley Center's commitment to conducting empirical research that is relevant to real-world application and can inform evidence-based practice. We are familiar with their recent projects and believe they have the expertise and ability to undertake the type of applied research proposed here.

Please let us know if you have any questions about our endorsement of the Presley Center or this project's potential to inform practice.

Sincerely,


Michelle Scray Brown
Chief Probation Officer