

## Are you ready to partner with us on a fresh start in life?

The Mayor's Second Chance Program operates in partnership with the Tennessee Career Center.

The Career Center offers a variety of services to assist participants with job development, job skills and opportunities/resources to work in collaboration with partners in helping to remove barriers to employment. For job seekers, the center provides computerized labor market information, Internet access, workshops, an on-line talent bank, job placement, recruitment and training.

The same assistance will be provided for ex-felons with a negative background in the Career Center system.



### **Tennessee Career Center at Jackson**

362 Carriage House Drive  
Jackson, TN 38305

Telephone: (731) 668-2040

FAX: (731) 660-8085

TDD: (731) 426-1414

Hours of Operation: 8:00 AM – 4:30  
PM Monday – Friday

## A Program of Neighborhood Services

Operated by the City of Jackson Neighborhood Services Division, the Mayor's Second Chance Program was created in 2009. A public/private partnership, the program links participants with job opportunities in the City of Jackson. Second Chance for nonviolent offenders makes neighborhoods safer, decrease crime and unemployment, and increase household income and housing values.

### Program Partners

- City of Jackson
- Workforce Investment/Career Center
- Probation and Parole
- West Tennessee Legal Services
- Area Churches
- Employers of Jackson-Madison County



## Mayor's Second Chance Program

For Non-Violent Offenders

*Strengthening  
Neighborhoods  
by Reducing Recidivism  
through Employment*

### **CITY OF JACKSON NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES**

74B Conalco Drive

Jackson, TN 38301

Telephone: 731-425-8239

Email:

[mmerriweather@cityofjackson.net](mailto:mmerriweather@cityofjackson.net)

Website: [www.cityofjackson.net](http://www.cityofjackson.net)

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Jackson Neighborhood Services  
Mayor's Second Chance

Jerry Gist  
Mayor, City of Jackson

Each year, thousands of inmates will be released from prison and returned to their communities and families. Many of them will return home without attachments to their families, communities and most certainly jobs.

Ex-Felons immediately find that re-integrating into society is a feat. As an ex-felon, an individual is given the impression that, when he or she has served their time and paid their debt to society, life will resume as normal.

To the contrary, being an ex-felon is a “life sentence,” as the repercussions of such a label have far-reaching implications. In many cases, the labels of ex-felon can permanently prevent an individual from becoming a productive citizen again.

The loss of basic rights, combined with the inability to find gainful employment can be devastating.

## Do you have problems obtaining employment due to a criminal conviction or record?

The Mayor’s Second Chance Program was designed to help you. You can register and enroll in the program by visiting the Tennessee Career Center at Jackson, 362 Carriage House Drive - 731) 668-2040

## Guidelines

### The MSP Liaison will

- Conduct an assessment interview
- Arrange job readiness and life skills training and career development counseling
- Work to remove barriers to employment
- Assist with job search and job placement

### As a participant, you will:

- Make and keep all scheduled appointments
- Complete the registration form
- Be open and honest with your liaison and employers
- Present yourself professionally
- Maintain a positive attitude
- Undergo random drug screening

## Drug Screening Procedure

Participants will be required to call **265-1868**, Monday – Friday, between **7:30 AM** and **9:00AM**. A recorded message will advise each participant if a drug screen is required for that day. After listening to the complete recording, each participant will be required to record his/her name for verification. If a participant is required to come in for screening, he/she will report to the office by **10:00AM** (unless otherwise stated).

Participants who fail to report for screens are terminated from the program (pending a vote by the team).

## Since employers consider ex-offenders a risk to hire, ask your MSP liaison about the following:

### Fidelity Bonding

This free business insurance protects employers and encourages them to hire job applicants considered “at risk” due to their criminal record.

To qualify, you must:

- (1) Be of legal age to work
- (2) Have a firm offer of employment with employer confirmation of a start date

### Federal Work Opportunity Tax Credit

- This tax credit reduces an employer’s cost of doing business while helping those in need of valuable work experience. The credit provides tax savings to employers who hire job seekers who have traditionally faced barriers to employment – ex-offenders, welfare recipients, veterans, and youth.
- To qualify as an ex-offender, you must have been convicted of a felony under any state or federal statute; and have a hire date of not more than one year after conviction or release from prison.
- If you qualify your liaison will provide a *Conditional Certification Letter*.