



Working for Change

The *Working for Change* forum is an effort to mobilize a core group of advocates, practitioners, philanthropists and public officials to act in concert to increase workers' wages and improve workplace benefits. The series is sponsored by the **Community Service Society of New York (CSS)** in collaboration with the **Coalition on Human Needs**. We invite you to visit our website – www.cssny.org – for further information on the forum and to learn about efforts in New York City to raise the quality of life of low-wage workers. You may also contact Walter Fields, CSS Vice President for Government Relations and Public Affairs, at (212) 614-5453 to determine how you can be an active participant in the *Working for Change* forum.

David R. Jones
President & CEO

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Working For Change

Advancing an Economic Mobility Agenda

for Low Wage Workers in

Urban America



Second Chance at Work **Reentry and Workforce Opportunities**

Friday, April 25, 2008

**U.S. Capitol
Room H-137
12:00 p.m.—1:30 p.m.**

April 25, 2008

Dear Friend:

Thank you for joining us for our 11th “Working for Change” Capitol Hill public policy forum. Today we are focusing on the formerly incarcerated and potential policy remedies to aid their transition to the workforce. In the wake of President Bush’s recent signing of the “Second Chance Act,” our distinguished panel we have assembled today will examine the role that the federal government can play in assisting states and localities in supporting the needs of individuals released from correctional facilities.

Reentry is an often overlooked problem that affects an increasing number of Americans. Over two million people are incarcerated in this country. The number of individuals with felony records is close to 12 million and over half a million people are released from correctional facilities every year. In New York State upwards to 25,000 people are released from state correctional facilities annually and return to a handful of communities in New York City. In addition, as many as four times that number gets released from local jails. Disproportionately Black and Latino neighborhoods are impacted.

The Community Service Society is involved in a number of programs to facilitate the successful reentry of the formerly incarcerated into society. In 2005 CSS established the New York Reentry Roundtable as a monthly forum for advocates and the formerly incarcerated to address the obstacles faced upon returning to civic life after having been released from prison. Last year the Roundtable sponsored its first Advocacy Day in the state capital, bringing over 100 people to Albany to meet with state legislators on a variety of issues. CSS also recruits volunteers through its Retired & Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) to work in our Planned Reentry of Incarcerated Adolescents and Adults (PRIAA) program and our Mentoring Program for the Children of Incarcerated Parents (MentorCHIP).

I hope this forum will be informative and provide a new impetus to work on behalf of poor Americans.

Sincerely,

David R. Jones
President & CEO

Working for Change Forum
A Second Chance at Work: Reentry and Workforce Opportunities

Welcome

Dr. William Spriggs
CSS Senior Fellow
Chairman, Department of Economics
Howard University

Deborah Weinstein
Executive Director, Coalition on Human Needs

Introduction of Panelists

Margy Waller
CSS Senior Fellow
Director, The Mobility Agenda

Panel

Dr. William Spriggs
Moderator

Mr. Fred Davie
President, Public Private Ventures

Dr. Wilson Goode
Director, The Amachi Program

Helen Mitchell
Director, Strategic Planning & Policy Development
Office of Rep. Danny Davis (D-IL)

Paul Keefe
Staff Attorney, Community Service Society

Gabriel Torres-Rivera
Director, Reentry Initiatives, Community Service Society

Dr. James R. Lanier
Program Director, Re-Entry and Sanctions Center
District of Columbia Court Services

Q & A

Final Remarks

David R. Jones
President & CEO
Community Service Society