

HIRING OF EX-OFFENDERS BY STATE VENDORS 2019 ANNUAL REPORT



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2019 Annual Report on Hiring of Ex-Offenders by State Vendors

Overview of the Act

Pursuant to 30 ILCS 500/45-70 the State of Illinois encourages state vendors to hire ex-offenders and notify the vendors of any available financial incentives or other advantages associated with hiring such persons. The act further requires that the Department of Central Management Services (CMS) report to the Governor and General Assembly the activities undertaken by the Chief Procurement Officers and CMS to encourage potential vendors to consider hiring ex-offenders. The report must include the number of vendors who have hired ex-offenders.

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Statute requires that all invitations for bids include encouragement to prospective vendors to hire ex-offenders. In accordance with this mandate, the following language has been incorporated in the standard bid documents:

“Employment Tax Credit: Vendors who hire qualified veterans and certain ex-offenders may be eligible for tax credits. Please contact the Illinois Dept. of Revenue (312-814-3215) for information about tax credits.”

30 ILCS 500/45-67 also directs CMS to provide the Governor and the General Assembly with a yearly report identifying “the activities undertaken by chief procurement officers and ... (CMS) to encourage prospective vendors who have hired ex-offenders. The report must also include the number of vendors who have hired ex-offenders”. CMS intends to convene a meeting of the Interagency Advisory Committee consisting of representatives from the Department of Corrections, The Department of Employment Security, the Department of Juvenile Justice, the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, the Department of Revenue and 8 members of the General Assembly, 2 appointed by the Speaker of the House or Representatives, 2 appointed by the President of the Senate, 2 appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives and 2 appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate to explore new ways to encourage the hiring of ex-offenders by state vendors in the first quarter of 2020.

The current procedure for tracking vendor hiring of ex-offenders requires vendor self-reporting. During the past fiscal year, CMS sought vendor reporting about their program participation via multiple published requests posted on the BidBuy informational pages. Currently, a limitation of the BidBuy system prevent CMS from directly contacting all the vendors registered in the system for direct communication to encourage them to self-report the hiring of ex-offenders. BidBuy System enhancements forthcoming in 2020 will allow CMS to directly communicate with registered vendors requesting the data.

The following information was received:

Number of vendors hiring ex-offenders:	0
Number of ex-offenders hired by State vendors:	0

CMS continues to explore alternative methods to gather necessary data and encourage vendors to self-report the hiring of ex-offenders. CMS is seeking to partner with various agency stakeholders including, but not limited to, the Department of Corrections, the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity on such programs as job-readiness training, subsidized work experience and supportive services.