

Felony■Friendly Jobs & Reentry Checklist – Chicago & Cook County

Stan Martin Jobs • Updated December 11, 2025

Quick 5■Step Path to Your Next Job

- 1 Connect with a reentry employment program: Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership (American Job Centers), Safer Foundation.
- 2 Apply for transitional or second■chance work: City of Chicago DFSS Transitional Jobs; CTA Second Chance Program (via partner referral).
- 3 Use statewide tools: IDES Re■Entry Employment Service Program and IllinoisJobLink.com; ask employers about Fidelity Bonding and WOTC.
- 4 Pursue record relief in parallel: Expungement/Sealing help desks (CGLA), or Certificates of Good Conduct / Relief from Disabilities (OSAD).
- 5 Bookmark trusted directories: Illinois DHS Reentry Resource Hub; CareerOneStop Reentry Program Finder; City Office of Reentry fair■chance policies.

Top Contacts (Keep This Page Handy)

- Safer Foundation – Main: (312) 922■2200; South Side Job Placement: (872) 298■1617; 571 W Jackson Blvd, Chicago, IL 60661
- Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership (American Job Centers) – (708) 580■8686; 1 N. Dearborn St., Ste 750, Chicago, IL 60602
- DFSS Transitional Jobs – See operator list & phone numbers on the City page (Cara, NLEN, Haymarket, Westside Health Authority, Salvation Army Harbor Light)
- CTA Second Chance Program – Apply via partner referral (Cara: 312■798■3300; St. Leonard's: 312■226■6270; St. Sabina ERC: 773■783■3760; Westside Health Authority: 773■786■0226)
- Cabrini Green Legal Aid (Expungement/Sealing) – (312) 738■2452; Help Desk at Daley Center, Room 1006; Markham Courthouse, Room 102J
- Cook County Clerk – Adult Expungements (help desk info & locations) – see Clerk's website
- OSAD Certificates – Forms & instructions for Certificates of Good Conduct / Relief from Disabilities
- IDES Reentry (RESP) – IllinoisJobLink.com + employer incentives (Fidelity Bonding, WOTC)
- Illinois DHS Reentry Resource Hub – comprehensive navigation & assistance
- CareerOneStop Reentry Program Finder – Chicago directory with phone numbers & directions

How to Apply – Mini Guide

- American Job Centers (AJCs): Call to schedule intake; bring ID, any certificates, and resume. Ask about Road Home (reentry navigation) and ConstructionWorks.
- Safer Foundation: Register online or call; complete job■readiness; get matched to immediate placement or training (light industrial, logistics, janitorial, construction).
- DFSS Transitional Jobs: Contact the nearest operator; enroll for paid transitional work with coaching.
- CTA Second Chance: Complete job■readiness with a partner agency; request referral; complete onboarding steps.
- IDES: Create an IllinoisJobLink.com profile; meet a workforce specialist; ask for Fidelity Bonding letter & WOTC guidance.

Document Checklist to Bring

- Government photo ID
- Social Security card
- Resume + references
- Training certificates (OSHA, ServSafe, Forklift, etc.)
- RAP sheet (for expungement/sealing work) and any court orders
- Proof of address and phone/email for employer contact

Record Relief – Quick Guide

- Expungement/Sealing: Visit CGLA help desks (Daley Center Room 1006; Markham Room 102J). If arrested by CPD, obtain your Chicago RAP sheet (3510 S Michigan Ave).
- Certificates of Good Conduct / Relief from Disabilities: Download standardized forms & instructions from OSAD; confirm eligibility & waiting periods.
- Cook County Public Defender Info: Review record■relief overview & referrals to legal aid providers.

Useful Links (Upload to your site or bookmark)

- Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership: <https://chicookworks.org/>
- Programs & Road Home: <https://chicookworks.org/programs/> and <https://chicookworks.org/initiative/road-home/>
- Safer Foundation (Job Placement): <https://saferfoundation.org/job-placement/>
- City of Chicago DFSS Transitional Jobs Locations:
https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/depts/fss/supp_info/transitional_jobsforex-offendersprogramlocations.html
- CTA Second Chance Program: <https://www.transitchicago.com/secondchance/>
- IDES Reentry (RESP): <https://ides.illinois.gov/jobs-workforce/programs/re-entry.html>
- CGLA Contact & Help Desk: <https://www.cгла.net/contact-us> and Clerk page:
<https://www.cookcountyclerkofcourt.org/cгла-cabrini-green-legal-aid>
- Cook County Adult Expungements: <https://www.cookcountycourtill.gov/case-type/expungements-adults>
- OSAD Certificates guide & forms:
<https://osad.illinois.gov/expungement/certificates-of-good-conduct-and-relief-from-disabilities.html>
- Illinois DHS Reentry Resource Hub: <https://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=168659>
- CareerOneStop Reentry Program Finder: <https://www.careeronestop.org/LocalHelp/EmploymentAndTraining/find-reentry-programs.aspx?location=Chicago,%20IL>

This checklist is provided for general guidance and resource navigation. Verify program schedules and eligibility directly with each organization.