

Portland Partners Re-entry Initiative (PPRI)

Volunteer Opportunities

One-to-one Mentor

An individual mentor helps an adult who has been incarcerated transition back into our community. A mentor can be an advocate, friend, positive role model, resource, and listening ear. Mentoring activities may include helping a participant brainstorm positive ways to deal with challenges, practice for a job interview, navigate public transportation, participate in community service, and enjoy recreational activities. Training is provided by PPRI staff and professional partners.

Group Mentoring

Two community volunteers, in collaboration with PPRI staff will facilitate group mentoring sessions to help participants develop supportive relationships and overcome obstacles to successful transition. Topics for group mentoring may include problem solving skills, job related skills, visioning and life goals, communication and teamwork, life skills such as health and wellness, parenting, and family reconciliation, and overcoming obstacles specific to transition. Training is provided by PPRI staff and professional partners.

Workshop and Activity Facilitators

Like group mentoring, community volunteers, in collaboration with PPRI staff, will conduct group workshop-style activities for both participants and mentors in a broad range of topics. These topics will be chosen based on the interests and expertise of the volunteers but may include living a balanced lifestyle, financial planning and budgeting, literacy, computers, arts and crafts, nutrition and cooking, book clubs and creative writing, and exercise such as walking, hiking, martial arts or yoga. Training is provided by PPRI staff and professional partners.

Specialized Mentoring

Specialized mentor positions differ from one-to-one relationships in that a mentor specializing in a certain field will assist many participants in overcoming obstacles specific to their expertise. For example, a mentor specializing in expunction will assist participants in the process of removing fines or setting up payment plans in order to acquire a driver's license or other documentation. A mentor specializing in domestic violence will assist participants in need with the process of finding emergency housing, accessing a DV advocate, and obtaining a restraining order. You need not be an expert in a field to become a specialized mentor. A sincere interest and willingness to attend special training provided by PPRI staff and professional partners is necessary. There are many areas where specialized mentors are needed.