



Second Chance Program

CTA's Second Chance program is a nationally recognized program that provides valuable job skills and career opportunities to Chicago residents who often face challenges re-entering the workforce.

The Second Chance program takes a holistic approach to preparing individuals to be self-sufficient. It not only provides jobs to returning citizens, victims of abuse and others who face barriers to employment, but also offers a wide range of training, education, mentoring and networking opportunities.

Since 2011 the program has doubled in size to become one of the largest re-entry programs in the country. So far, more than 1000 Chicagoans have participated—gaining experience they might not have received elsewhere. More than 300 Second Chance participants have been hired permanently by CTA, with many others moving on to private-sector jobs.

The program has helped hundreds of people turn their lives around, and provide for their families.

How to apply

Job seekers need to actively participate in one of the 19 designated agencies' work readiness programs. The CTA Second Chance program is in regular communication with the agencies listed below. The agencies' top participants are referred to CTA for consideration as candidates for the Second Chance Program.

Breakthrough Urban Ministries

402 N. St. Louis
Chicago, IL 60624
773-346-1785

www.breakthrough.org

Cara Chicago

237 S. Desplaines
Chicago, IL 60661
312-798-3300



www.carachicago.org

Community Assistance Programs (CAPs)

11717 S. Halsted St.
Chicago, IL 60628
773-568-1782

www.capsinc.org

Goodwill Industries of Metropolitan Chicago

6054 S. Western Ave.
Chicago, IL 60636
773-627-5752

www.goodwillchicago.com

Family Enrichment Center - Haymarket Center

McDermott Center
124 North Sangamon St.
Chicago, IL 60607
312-226-7984

www.hcenter.org

**Howard Area Community Center,
Employment and Resource Center**

7637 N. Paulina
Chicago, IL 60626
773-262-3515

www.howardarea.org

Inner Voice

212 W. Van Buren St., 3rd flr.
Chicago, IL 60607
312-994-5839

www.innervoicechicago.org

Metropolitan Family Services

Calumet Center
235 E. 103rd St.
Chicago, IL 60628



773-371-3600

www.metrofamily.org(Opens in a new window)

New Moms

5317 W. Chicago Ave.

Chicago, IL 60651

www.newmoms.org

**North Lawndale Employment Network
U-Turn Permitted Job Readiness Training**

3726 W. Flournoy

Chicago, IL 60624

773-638-1825

www.nlen.org

OAI, Inc.

180 N. Wabash, Suite 750

Chicago, IL 60601

312-528-3504

www.oaiinc.org

Phalanx Family Services

837 W. 119th St.

Chicago, IL 60643

773-291-1086

www.phalanxgrpsservices.org

A Safe Haven Foundation

2750 West Roosevelt Rd.

Chicago, IL 60608

773-435-8300

www.asafehaven.org

Safer Foundation

571 W. Jackson

Chicago, IL 60661

312-922-2200

info@saferfoundation.org

Salvation Army



825 N. Christiana Ave.

Chicago, IL 60651

312-733-0500

www.centralusa.salvationarmy.org

St. Leonard's Ministries

The Michael Barlow Center of St. Leonard's Ministries

2120 W. Warren Blvd.

Chicago, IL 60612

312-226-6270

www.slministries.org

St. Sabina Employment Resource Center

(an outreach arm of St. Sabina Church)

1210 W. 78th Pl.

Chicago, IL 60620

773-783-3760

www.saintsabina.org

Universal Family Connection

1350 W. 103rd St.

Chicago, IL 60643

www.ufcinc.org

Westside Health Authority

Community Re-Entry & Employment Center

5816 W. Division St.

Chicago, IL 60651

773-786-0226x2100

www.healthauthority.org

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the eligibility requirements and qualifications?

- Job seekers interested in participating must:
 - Reside within the City of Chicago



- Be 18 years or older
- Participate in 4-6 weeks of Job Readiness Training and obtain a certificate of completion from one of the 19 referring agencies.
- Be referred by one of the 19 agencies
- Second Chance applicants that are referred are required to be released from the following:
 - Drug/alcohol treatment program
 - Work release center

How many Second Chance positions are available?

Up to 315 Second Chance participants may be employed by CTA at one time. Start and end dates per Second Chance participant are on a rolling basis.

How long does the program last?

Based on job performance and attendance, a participant may participate for 12 months.

How much does the program pay?

Participants are paid at a rate of \$13.50 per hour and may work up to 40 hours per week. Pay checks are issued on a bi-weekly pay period.

Once the referring agency recommends an applicant, what happens?

- Applicants complete an application.
- Applicants are fingerprinted for background processing.
- Applicants complete a medical review.
- If the applicant passes background and medical what are the next steps?
 - Orientation/pre-hire



- Applicants attend a new employee orientation thoroughly outlining program guidelines, eligibility requirements, job functions, placements, and Union participation.
- Completion of additional hiring documentation and application inserts.
- Training
- Participants are required to complete (paid) training prior to reporting to assigned work location.

Once in the program, what are the expectations?

- Remain engaged with referring with agency.
- Come to work everyday and on-time.
- Adhere to all CTA rules, policies and procedures.
- Be available to work any shift assigned at any location (CTA is a 24-hour operation).

What happens when the participant successfully completes the program?

- After 12 months, participants in good standing will receive a certificate of completion and letter of reference from CTA.
- Successful program completors will have gained advanced skills to compete for permanent positions.
- Program graduates are encouraged to apply for CTA vacancies.

Who can you call if you have questions?

If you still have questions about this program, you can contact the CTA Second Chance Hotline - 1-312-681-2293.