



# **HOPE IN ACTION**

**WORKFORCE PATHWAYS BUILT ON EDUCATION, HOPE, AND  
WORKFORCE READINESS**

# THE DRUG EPIDEMIC

## In 2017, West Virginia Faced:

- An economic crisis
- A social services crisis
- A health crisis

## The Impact Was Staggering

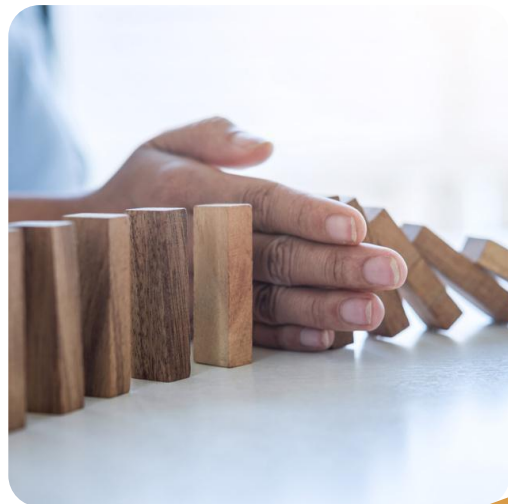
- West Virginia lost \$8.8 billion annually due to the drug epidemic.
- In 2017 overdose deaths in the state of West Virginia hit an all-time high with 1,017 deaths reported.
- Available treatment beds in 2017 were limited to under 200 in the state.



# CATEGORIES OF RESPONSE

The response to the drug epidemic is centered around three key areas: prevention and early intervention, treatment, and recovery supports.

## Prevention & Early Intervention



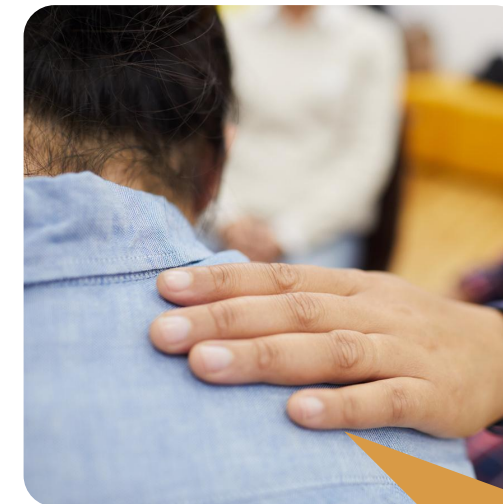
Prevention efforts focus on education, awareness, and early intervention to reduce risk factors and stop substance use before it starts.

## Treatment



Treatment provides individuals with the medical, therapeutic, and behavioral support needed to address substance use and begin the path to recovery.

## Recovery Supports



Recovery support plays a vital role in helping individuals sustain progress through continuous care, social support, and skill-building opportunities.



**STAKEHOLDER COLLABORATION**

# STATE'S RESPONSE

Jobs & Hope West Virginia is the state's comprehensive response to the substance use disorder crisis



Established in 2019 by the state of West Virginia Legislature

Offer support through a statewide collaboration of agencies that provide West Virginians in recovery the opportunity to obtain training and secure meaningful employment

# MISSION

Empowering West Virginians by collaboratively addressing barriers to employment and fostering access to career opportunities. Inspiring hope through community collaboration and sustainable employment pathways

# TARGET POPULATION

**West Virginia residents  
with a barrier to  
employment**

**Individuals who are in  
recovery from a  
substance use disorder**

**More specifically, those  
who have completed or  
are in the process of  
completing a recovery  
and/or treatment  
program**

# FUNDING



Funded annually through the State Legislative budget process



Utilizes state tax dollars to support program operations



Staff positions fall under the West Virginia Board of Education



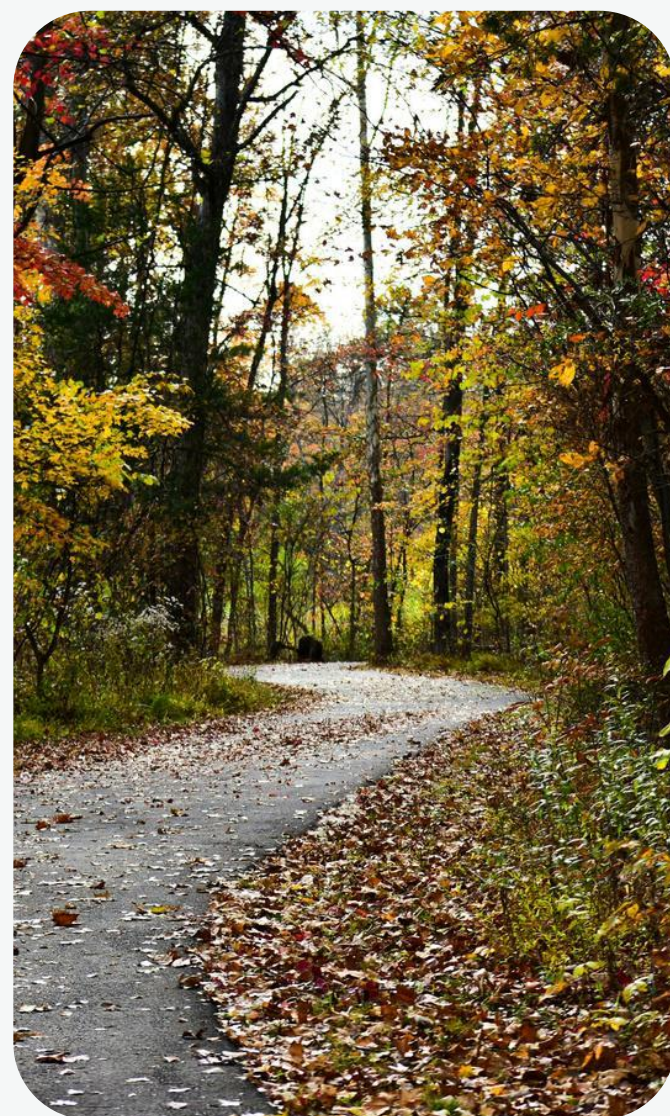
**Funding goes to:**

- West Virginia Board of Education (WVBOE)
- West Virginia Department of Human Services (WVDOHS)

# WHO QUALIFIES

Jobs & Hope WV is available to West Virginians who are facing barriers to employment and are seeking support to build skills, overcome challenges, and achieve long-term career success.

Participants must meet the following eligibility.



## **18 Years of Age or Older**

Participants must be 18 years of age or older to start their journey with Jobs & Hope WV.

## **Ready for Training/Employment**

Participants must be ready in their recovery for training and employment.

## **Have Barriers to Employment**

Barriers are addressed on an individual basis.

Participants meet with their Transition Agent and develop a Job Development Plan to address their barriers.

## **Committed to Recovery**

Participants have access to Peer Recovery Support Services as an active participant in the program.

## **Willing to Submit a Drug Test**

In recovery or not, all participants must submit a monthly drug test to remain eligible in the program.

# Barriers

## Barriers to Employment & Self-Sufficiency in West Virginia

Participants in Jobs & Hope WV often face barriers such as transportation, employment history gaps, education needs, and access to certifications, which the program helps address through coordinated support and resources.

Barriers to employment and stability vary for each individual. However, some of the most common challenges include transportation, employment history gaps, education and training needs, and access to certifications or credentials.

Education

Employment

Transportation

Childcare

Housing

Criminal Background

Driver's License Restrictions

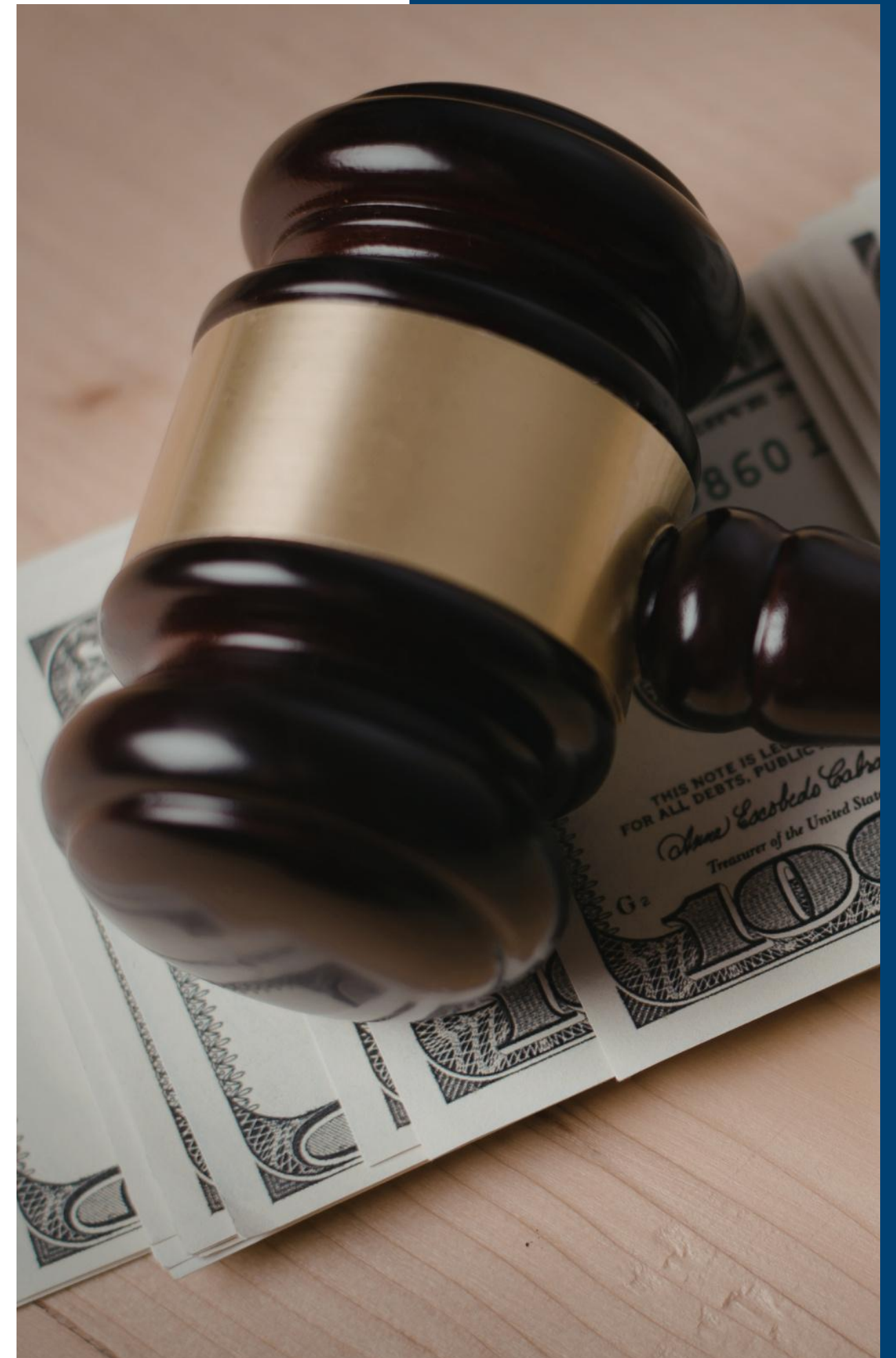
Financial Burdens

Dental / Vision

Recovery Supports

Rural Landscape

Broadband Restrictions



# HOW JOBS & HOPE WV WORKS

## Transition Agents

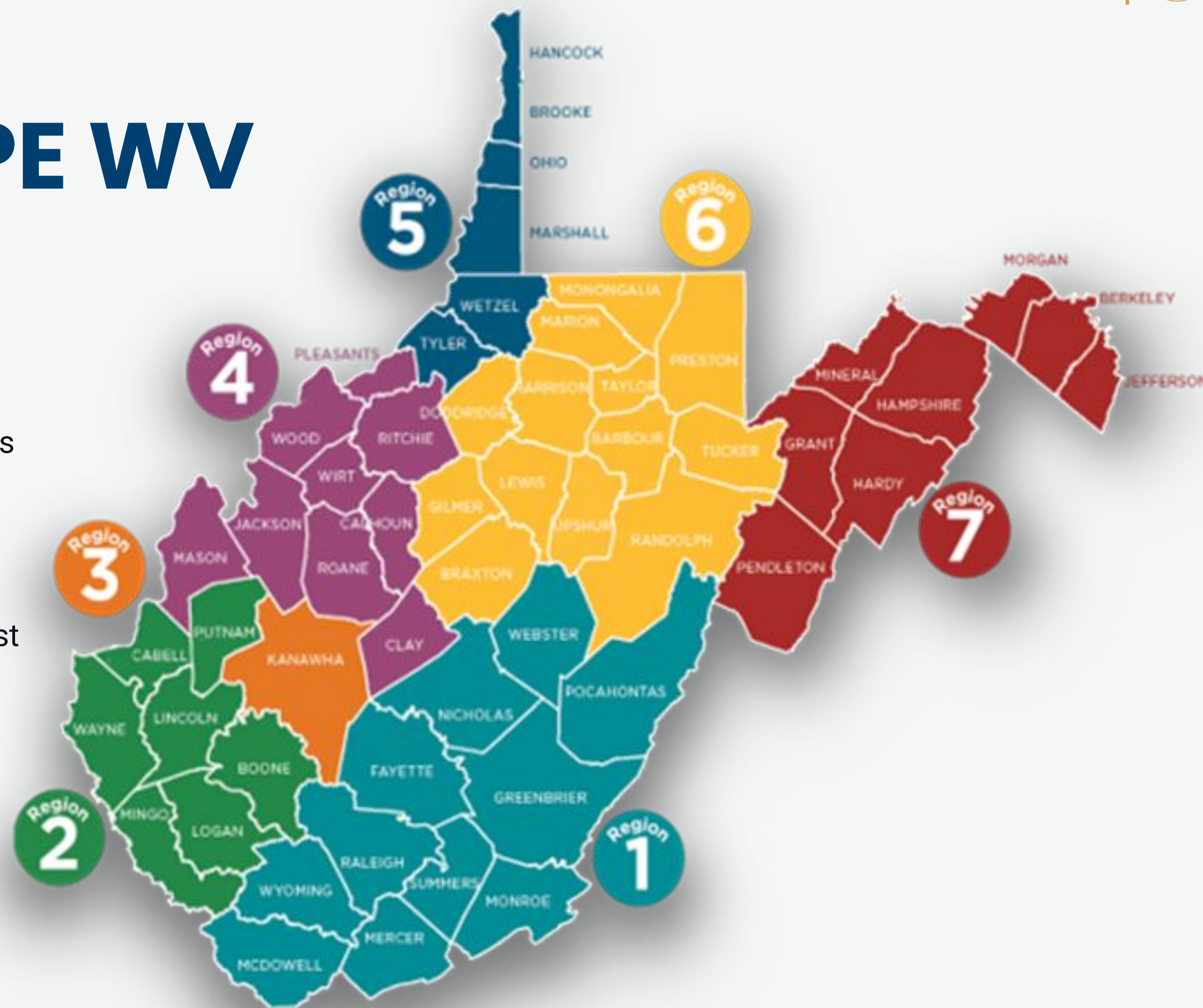
24 Transition Agents work across seven designated regions of the state.

## Statewide

Transition Agents are split up across all 55 counties in West Virginia to ensure all communities have support.

## Resource Liaisons

Transition Agents act as resource liaisons in their communities.



# ASSESSMENT & PLANNING



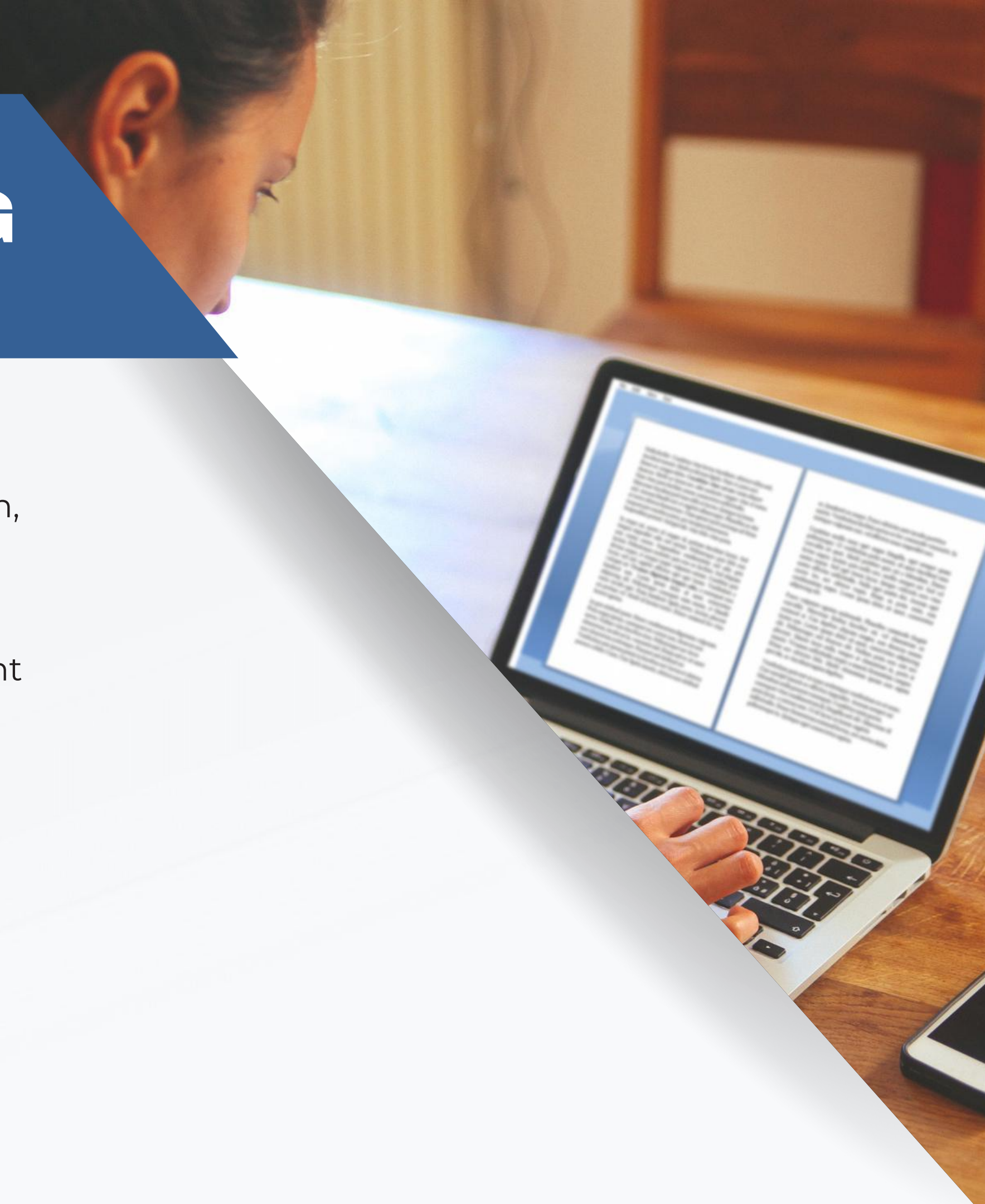
## ***Needs Assessment***

- Barriers: Fees/fines, identifying documentation, expungement, transportation, housing, childcare
- Participant Request: What does the participant want out of the program
- Employment Goal: Transferrable skills, work experience, training needs



## ***Job Development Plan***

- Information gathered is compiled into a plan with specific goals and action steps



# SUCCESS NUMBERS

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Active  
Participant

s

1,726



Completed  
Expungement

s

48



Employed  
Participant

s

12,413



Driver's License  
Reinstatements

3,501

# SUCCESS NUMBERS

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Jobs & Hope  
WV Graduates

**682**



Average Annual  
Salary

**\$24,069**



Total Combined  
Salaries

**\$104.6M**

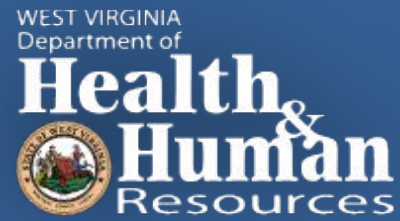


No Longer Receiving  
SNAP Benefits

**2,382**

# PARTNERS

Jobs & Hope WV relies on strong partnerships across the state to remove barriers, provide opportunities, and support West Virginians on their journey to employment and recovery.



DIVISION OF REHABILITATION SERVICES



modivcare

2,700+ Jobs & Hope participants have completed Adult Ed modules

- High School Equivalency
- Microsoft Credentials
- Customer Service
- Food Safety



# EMPLOYER INCENTIVES

## Workforce Employment Program

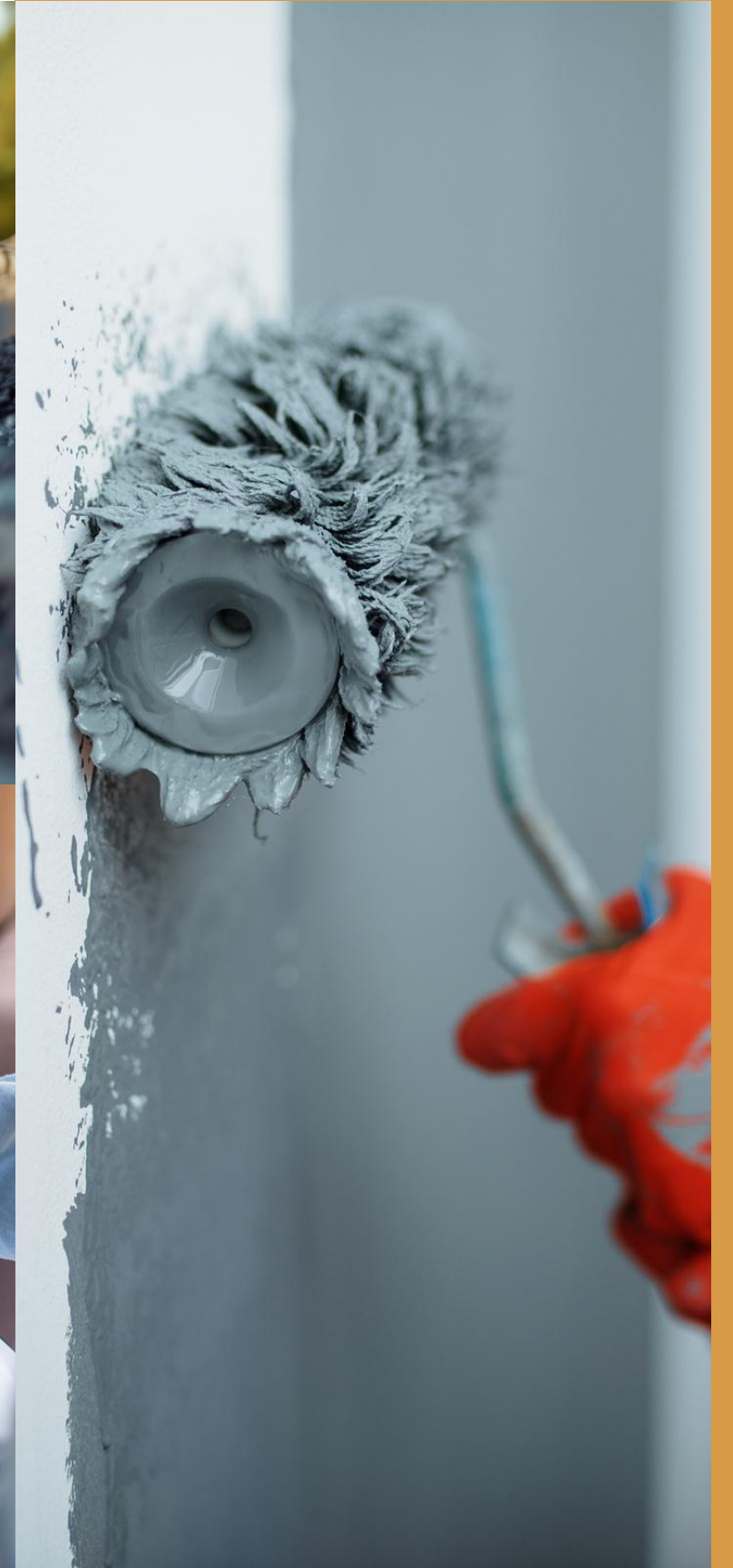
Collaboration with the West Virginia Military Authority, offering subsidized job placement(s) for WV employers who hire Jobs & Hope WV participants



WEST VIRGINIA  
**MILITARY AUTHORITY**

## Benefits Include

- Salary reimbursement (\$20,000)
- Free drug screening
- Additional support services through Jobs & Hope WV





# HEAVY EQUIPMENT TRAINING

## West Virginia Military Authority

Jobs & Hope WV in partnership with the West Virginia Military Authority, provides training to operate heavy equipment at Camp Dawson

### Training Includes:

- 28-Day hands on training
- OSHA-10 Safety Certification
- First Aid Certification
- Resume/Interview Preparation
- Expert Instruction by professional instructors

### Successes

- Over 350 participants trained through the Jobs & Hope WV and WVMA partnership.
- Graduation ceremonies include employer attendance from the West Virginia Contractors Association.
- On-site interviews conducted with graduates during the event.
- 60% of graduates are hired during graduation, demonstrating strong



Workforce outcomes.

WEST VIRGINIA

**MILITARY AUTHORITY**



# DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLES

## Division of Motor Vehicles

Division of Motor Vehicles and Jobs & Hope WV collaborate and work together to help participants with citation reports, interlock, and driver's license testing & reinstatement.

This partnership is crucial in allowing participants to work on removing one West Virginia's largest barrier, transportation.

- Over 3,500 driver's licenses reinstated for program participants through DMV coordination.
- Participants may qualify for restricted driving privileges and assistance with fines under Senate Bill 90.
- DMV's online system includes a Jobs & Hope WV participant option to streamline reinstatement.
- Transition Agents assist with paperwork, scheduling, and transportation to DMV appointments.
- The partnership helps remove barriers to employment by restoring mobility and independence.

# MODIVCARE

Modivcare is a national provider of non-emergency medical transportation services, helping connect individuals to essential healthcare appointments and services. Through its partnership with Jobs & Hope WV, Modivcare supports participants by facilitating reliable transportation, removing barriers to care and improving overall health outcomes.

## How it Works:

- Coordinates statewide transportation services for active Jobs & Hope WV participants.
- Provides transportation or gas mileage reimbursement based on individual transportation barriers.
- Supports participant travel to key destinations, including:
  - Training and education programs
  - Employment opportunities
  - Recovery support and Peer Recovery Support Services (PRSS)



modivcare



# GOOD NEWS MOUNTAINEER GARAGE

Jobs & Hope WV partners with Good News Mountaineer Garage to provide reliable transportation to eligible participants through donated and refurbished vehicles. This partnership removes a critical barrier to employment, helping individuals access work, education, and essential services as they build stable, independent lives.

## How it Works:

- Receives donated vehicles and reassigns them to eligible participants to remove transportation barriers.
- Donates approximately 75 vehicles per year to Jobs & Hope WV participants.
- Over 275 vehicles have been received from the partnership
- Provides two Jobs & Hope WV-branded vehicles for active participants to use for driving practice and DMV license testing.



# LEGAL AID OF WV

Jobs & Hope WV partners with Legal Aid of West Virginia to provide participants with legal support services, including expungements and removal of barriers to employment, helping individuals achieve greater stability and workforce readiness.

## Assists Participants With:

- Expungement
- Tenant Issues
- Divorce
- Custody
- Adoption
- Child Support
- Name Changes
- Driver's Licenses

## Successes

- Completed 48 expungements, removing legal barriers for participants.
- Hosts "Ask An Attorney" events in collaboration with Transition Agents to provide legal guidance and support.





# WVSDT

## Mission

The mission of the **West Virginia Schools of Diversion** is to prepare juveniles and adults for successful transition to school or employment and to life in their communities as responsible and productive citizens.

## How it Works

WVSDT provides educational services to over 6,000 juveniles and adults in residential and other state-operated facilities. WVSDT are responsible for the education of:

- Juveniles in state correctional facilities;
- Juveniles placed in secure pre-dispositional juvenile centers and diagnostic centers;
- Adults in state correctional facilities and regional jails; and,
- Juveniles placed in residential facilities for custody and treatment.



# SERVING STATEWIDE

*West Virginia Schools of Diversion & Transition* serves West Virginia statewide across multiple facilities and programs, providing educational services that support student growth, achievement, and successful transitions back to their communities.

**300+**

Staff  
Members

**59**

Educational  
Sites

**23**

Correctional  
Facilities

# WVSDT OFFERS

*West Virginia Schools of Diversion & Transition* offers students multiple pathways to success, including diploma completion, industry-recognized certifications, life skills development, and access to digital learning tools. These opportunities are designed to build both academic achievement and practical skills, preparing students for meaningful reentry, employment, and long-term success beyond the classroom.



## Diploma Pathways

Through WVSDT, individuals can earn a high school diploma, prepare for the GED or HiSET, and access a range of adult education opportunities.

## Life Skills

WVSDT focuses on developing life skills, workplace readiness, and technology proficiency for real-world application.

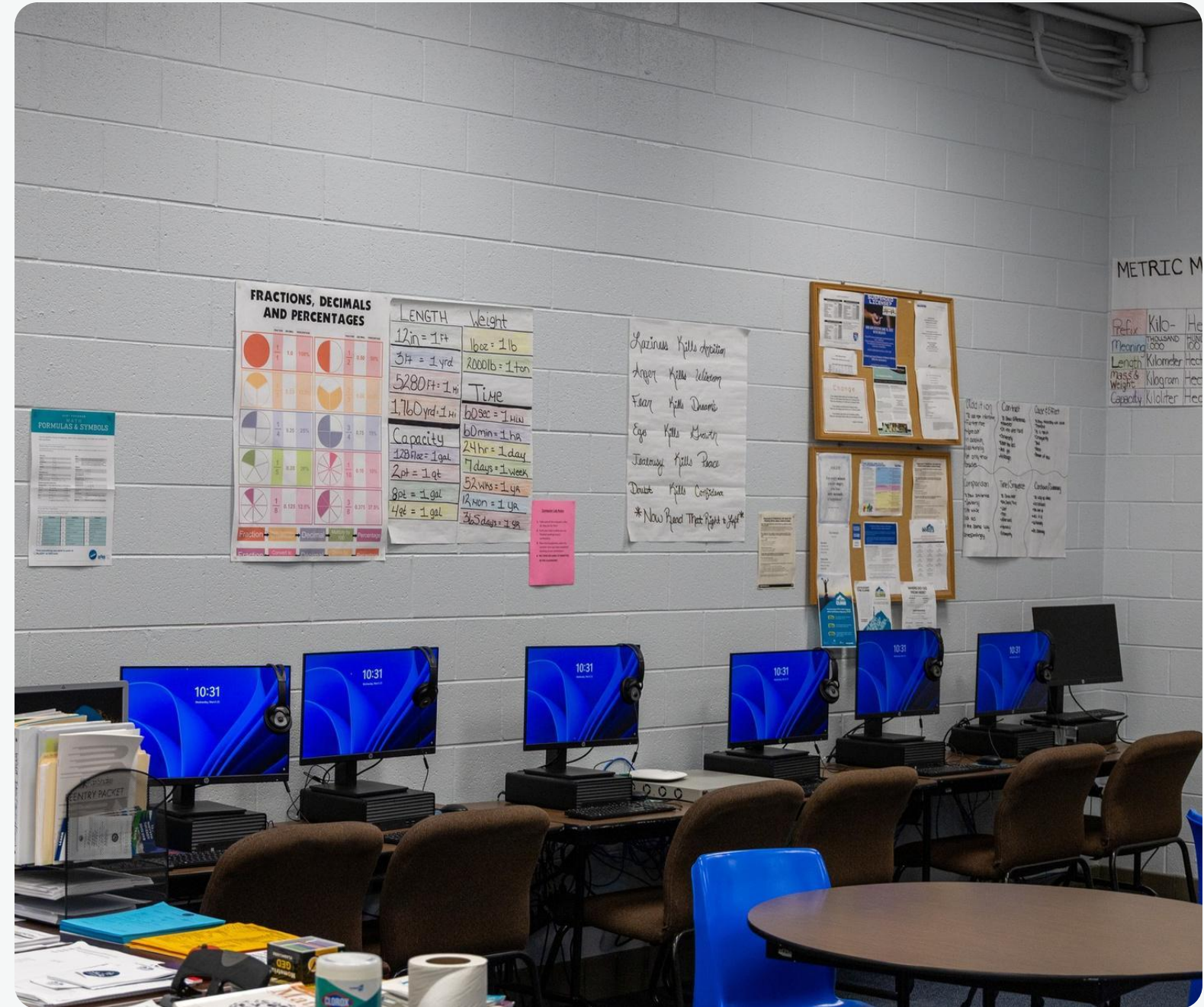
## Certifications

Career & Technical Education at WVSDT empowers students with practical skills and certifications aligned with real-world job opportunities.

## Apprenticeships & Micro Credentials

WVSDT partners with local trade unions and industry partners to provide apprenticeship & certification opportunities within facilities, allowing students to gain hands-on experience, build valuable skills, and prepare for in-demand careers upon reentry.



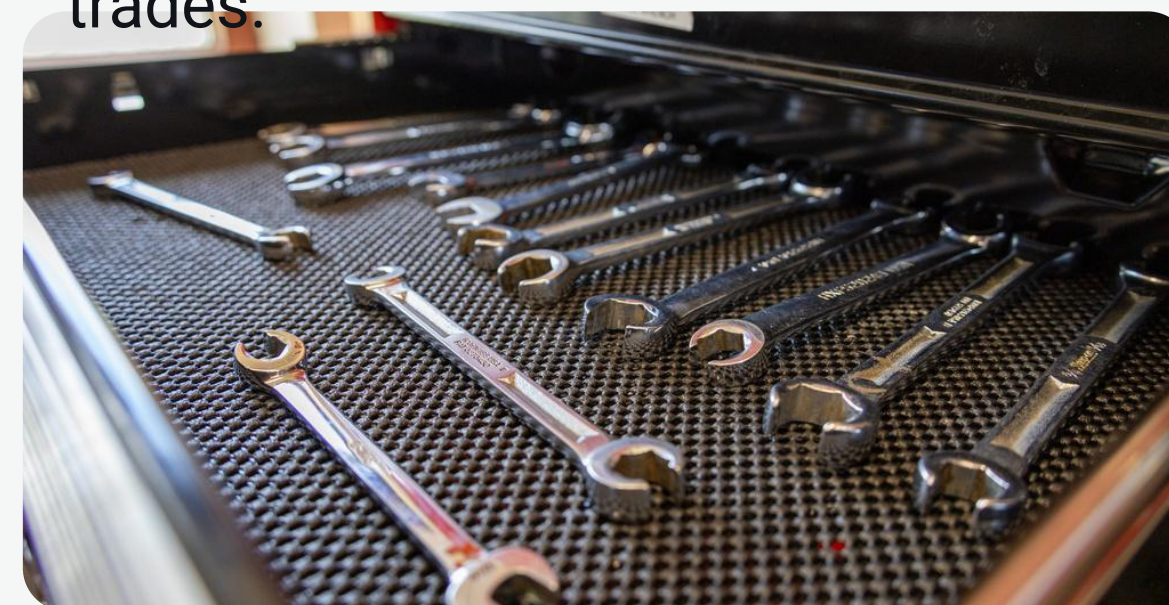


# LEARNING BEYOND BARRIERS

An Inside Look at Mr. Barnette's Adult Basic Education Classroom. Photos from Central Regional Jail highlight a structured learning environment where individuals build foundational skills in reading, writing, and math.

# TRAINING FOR SKILLED TRADES

An Inside Look at HVAC Training in Action. At Salem Correctional Center, the new HVAC classroom provides hands-on learning that builds technical skills and opens doors to future career opportunities in the trades.



# Apprenticeships/certifications

**9**

## Facilities

9 facilities across WVSDT offer registered apprenticeships, providing students with hands-on training and industry-recognized credentials in high-demand career fields.

**12**

## Distinct Pathways

WVSDT offers 12 distinct pathways preparing students for careers in construction, manufacturing, automotive, cosmetology, culinary, and technical trades.

**65**

## Current Students

Currently 65 students are enrolled in apprenticeship programs across WVSDT facilities, gaining hands-on training and industry-recognized credentials to support career readiness and reentry success.

# REENTRY INITIATIVE

## Education & Transition Support

The Reentry Initiative is designed to support individuals completing their education and preparing to transition out of correctional facilities.

## Community Connections

Participants are connected with partner agencies and community programs prior to release, ensuring access to vital support services.

## Early Reentry Coordination

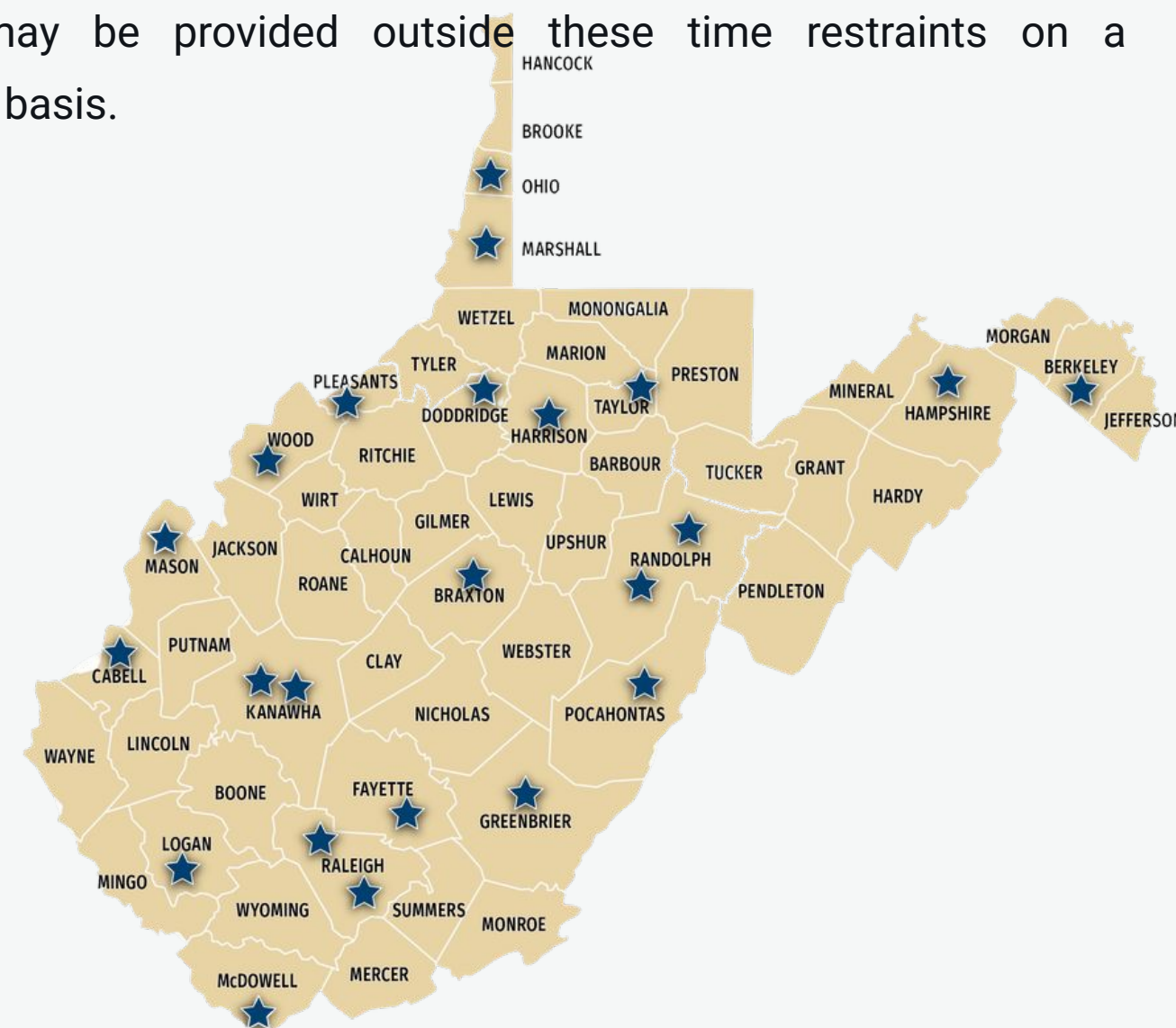
Reentry Liaisons play a critical role by initiating early coordination with partners to facilitate a smooth, well-supported reentry.

## Seamless Reintegration

The goal is a seamless transition from incarceration to community reintegration through proactive planning and personalized support.

### Eligibility

- Must reside in a Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (DCR) facility.
- Requires enrollment in or completion of a WVSDT education program.
- The student must be no more than 120 days and no less than 60 days from release.
- Resources may be provided outside these time restraints on a case-by-case basis.



# REENTRY INITIATIVE

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We currently have four dedicated staff develops individualized plans and connects individuals to essential resources and support services to help guide successful transitions and long-term stability.

**20**

**Educational  
Facilities**

**417**

**Active  
Participants**

**726**

**Program  
Graduates**

**691**

**Referred to  
Jobs & Hope WV**

# Resource Fairs Inside Facilities



**Tygart Valley  
Regional Jail**



**Central Regional  
Jail**



**Eastern Regional  
Jail**



**Parkersburg Correctional  
Center & Jail**



**Potomac Regional Jail  
& Correctional Facility**



**South Central  
Regional Jail**



**Salem Correctional  
Center**



**Pruntytown  
Correctional Center**





# REENTRY FOCUSED GRANTS

West Virginia Schools of Diversion & Transition received **\$250,000** from the West Virginia First Foundation to hire four staff members to work with G.O.A.L.S. and RSAT units inside five facilities.

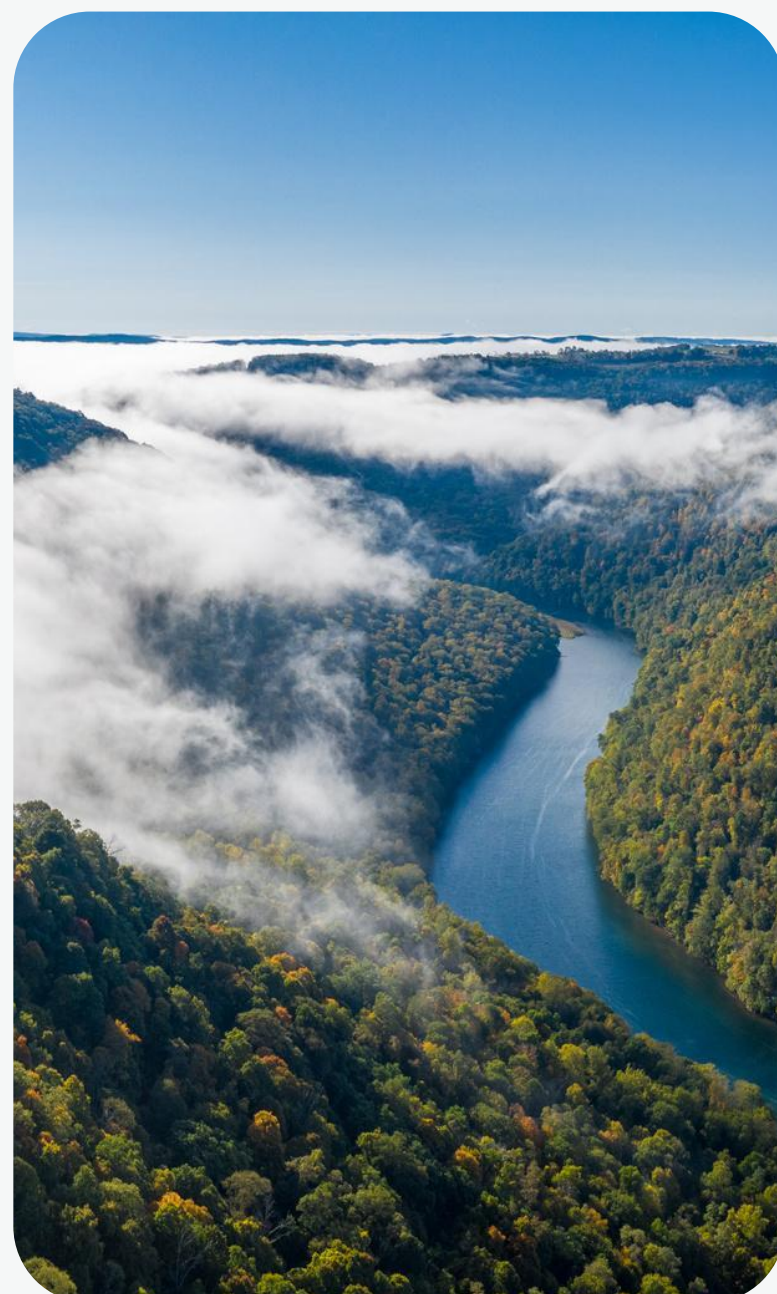
## Reentry Specialist

Two Reentry Specialist will be hired to work at Charleston Correctional Center, Lakin Correctional Center, South Central Regional Jail, and Western Regional Jail, working directly with their G.O.A.L.S. and RSAT units.

## Peer Recovery Support Specialist

Two PRSS will be hired to work at Charleston Correctional Center, Lakin Correctional Center, South Central Regional Jail, and Western Regional Jail, working directly with their G.O.A.L.S. and RSAT units.

# REENTRY FOCUSED GRANTS



Jobs & Hope West Virginia has been awarded a **\$1 Million** grant as a sub-recipient through The Fletcher Group as part of Connect Appalachia, a multi-state initiative funded by the Appalachian Regional Commission's (ARC) ARISE grant program.

This five-year, multi-state initiative is designed to support the hiring of individuals in recovery, increase workforce participation rates and optimize productivity for participating employers. Through this funding, Jobs & Hope WV will support West Virginia's role in the broader regional effort by equipping employers with the tools and resources needed to implement recovery-friendly workplace practices.

As part of the initiative, Jobs & Hope WV will support an estimated **83** businesses annually that register for Recovery Friendly Workplace trainings. These trainings provide education and guidance to employers on best practices for fostering workplaces that understand and accommodate the unique needs of employees in recovery.

An estimated **63** businesses each year are expected to achieve measurable improvements through the adoption of recovery-friendly workplace practices, demonstrating a commitment to building supportive workplace cultures that reduce stigma and promote long-term employment success.

# SECOND CHANCE JOB FAIR

## Innagural Job Fair

The Second Chance Job Fair, a groundbreaking event to bridge barriers and empower futures, brought together job seekers, employers, and community resource partners for a daylong initiative addressing labor market disparities and the broader challenges facing West Virginia. Held in Beckley, WV and featured 100 preregistered job seekers, 34 community partners, and 24 employers.

Federal Prison Camp Alderson allowed inmates nearing reentry to attend the job fair

## Upcoming Job Fairs

Plans to visit all seven regions in West Virginia over the next year starting on May 28, at the Charleston Town Center Mall!



# STORY OF HOPE

## MATTHEW JENKINS In Facility

While at **Salem Correctional Center**, Matthew worked with our Career Development Specialist and Adult Education instructors to complete multiple certifications and programs, including OSHA 10, WV Welcome, Through the Customer's Eye Levels 1 & 2, Bridging the Gap, and Open Gate. He worked with **Reentry Liaison Jamie Oates** to prepare for a successful return to Kanawha County.

## After Reentry

After reentry, Matthew continued building momentum. Working alongside **Transition Agent John Kangas**, Matthew refined his resume and certifications, including:

- WV Licensed Journeyman Wireman
- C-Tech (Low Voltage, Copper, Fiber Optics)
- First Aid/CPR and ServSafe

With referrals to and support from community partners, he:

- Reinstated his driver's license through the WV DMV partnership
- Received transportation assistance through Modivcare
- Obtained tools and work boots with help from Catholic Charities of WV
- Completed soft skills training, computer basics, and financial literacy with Truist Bank

The NUCOR logo is displayed in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters on a dark blue rectangular background. A registered trademark symbol (®) is located to the upper right of the letter 'R'.

## Jobs & Hope WV Graduate

His determination paid off. Matthew was hired at **NUCOR** and quickly promoted to Foreman, now earning over **\$50,000** annually.

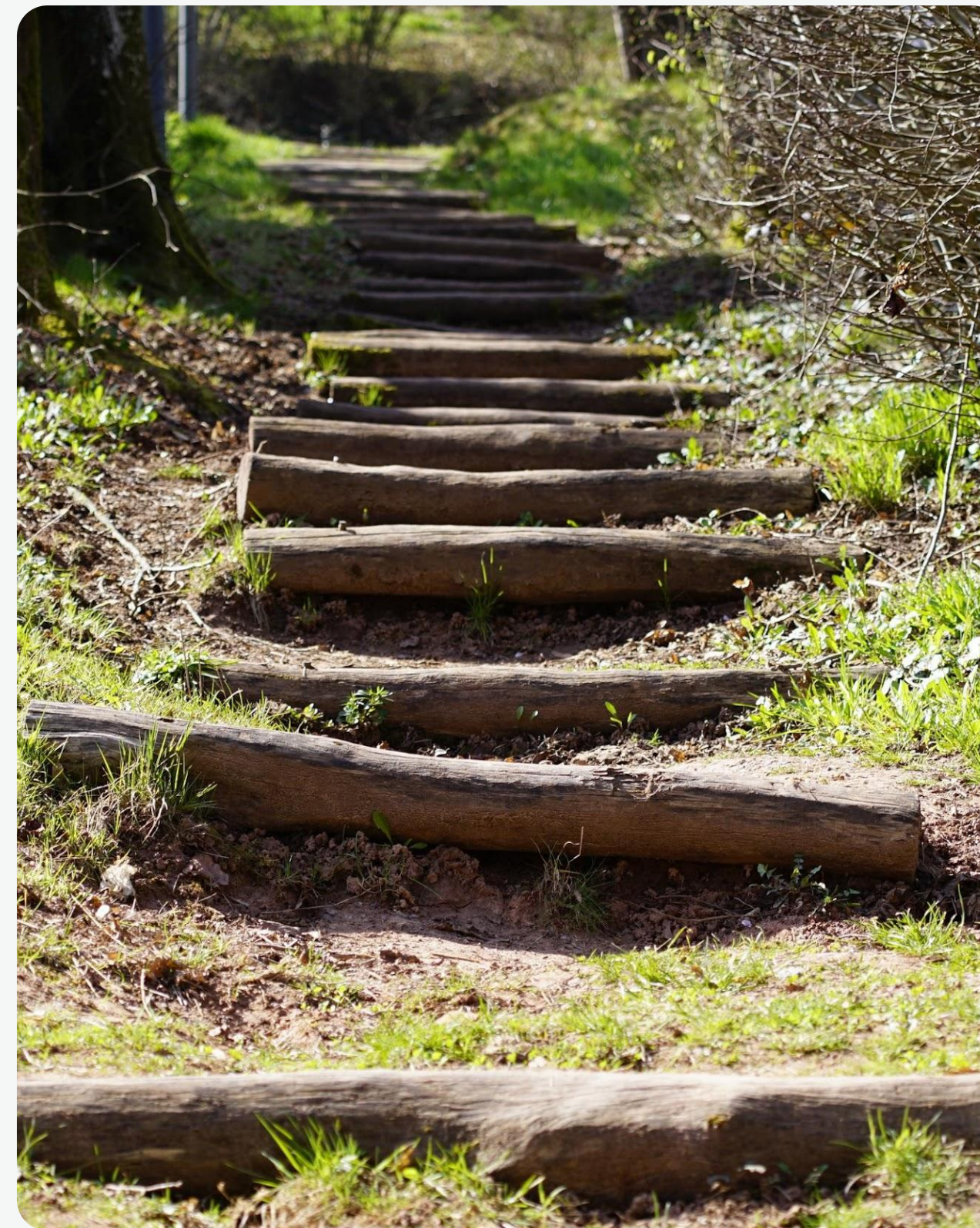
Today, Matthew is a proud graduate of the Jobs & Hope WV program, graduating in April 2026, — and a **Veteran** whose future is stronger than ever.

# NEXT STEPS

The journey toward successful reentry begins long before individuals return home. That's why continued advocacy for education inside correctional facilities is essential—it lays the foundation for long-term success. By helping build bridges to the community and remaining actively involved in cross-sector partnerships, we can ensure that reentering individuals have the tools, support, and connections they need to thrive. Together, we can make a lasting difference.

## Next Steps

- Continue advocating for access to education within correctional facilities.
- Recognize that reentry preparation begins before release.
- Help build bridges that connect individuals to resources and opportunities in the community.
- Stay engaged with community partnerships—collaboration leads to lasting impact.



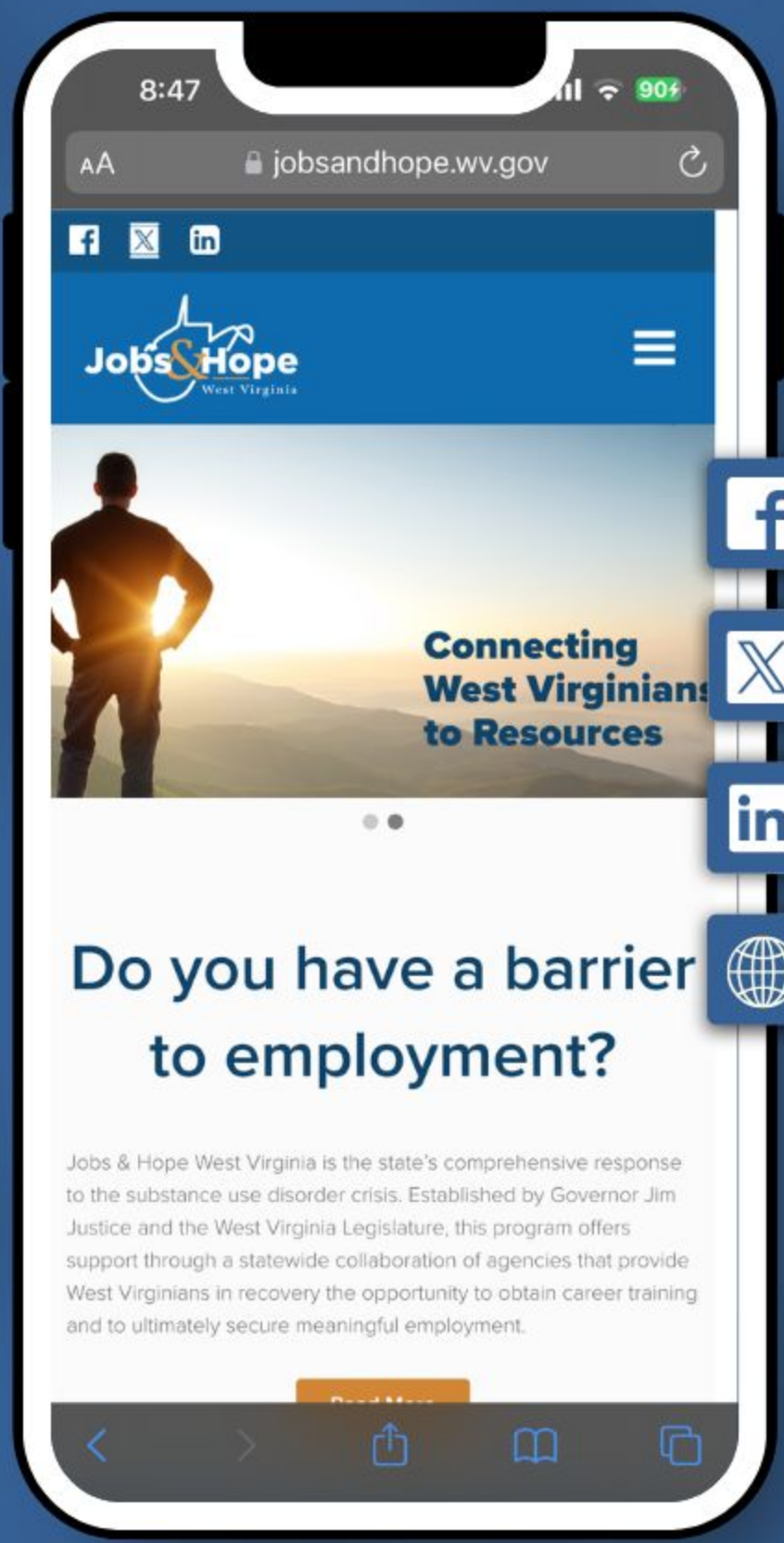


## STAY CONNECTED

-  [Jobs & Hope WV](#)
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-  [Jobs & Hope WV](#)
-  [Jobsandhope.wv.gov](#)

WE ARE THE  
**STATE'S  
RESPONSE**

TO THE SUBSTANCE USE  
DISORDER CRISIS.



# SCAN TO CONNECT

