

Voting Rights of Convicted Felons, Convicted Misdemeanants and Pretrial Detainees

Information provided by Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of State

Who can register to vote? You may register and vote if you:

- Hold citizenship in the United States for at least one month before the next election
- Are a Pennsylvania resident and resided in your election district for at least 30 days before the next election
- Will be at least 18 years of age on the day of the next election.

If you meet the above requirements, you can still vote if you:

- Are a pretrial detainee confined in a penal institution awaiting trial on charges of a felony or a misdemeanor;
- Are convicted of a misdemeanor and are confined in a penal institution;
- Were released (or will be released by the date of the next election) from a correctional facility or community confinement facility upon completion of your term of incarceration for conviction of a misdemeanor or a felony;
- Are on probation or released on parole;
- Are a parolee living in a community confinement center (except for state intermediate punishment (SIP) inmates);
- Are under house arrest (home confinement), regardless of conviction status or the status of the conditions of confinement.



Questions?



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facebook.com/WestendPOWER15204
and facebook.com/PIINPAORG/

Register Here



piinpa.org/expo/
or
westendpower.org

In partnership with:



West End P.O.W.E.R. and Pennsylvania Interfaith Impact Network (PIIN) are training formerly incarcerated people to organize for change in the criminal justice system and build their employment prospects.

Classes are held on weekdays and are accessible by Public Transit.

DO YOU HAVE A COLORFUL BACK GROUND?

*Your past should
never limit
your future.*

There is often a negative stereotype that surrounds the label of "formerly incarcerated". We're looking to counter this way of thinking in every way.

About the Program

Colorful Backgrounds/ E.X.P.O. (Ex-Incarcerated People Organizing) is a program chartered by West End P.O.W.E.R. and Pennsylvania Interfaith Impact Network to train formerly incarcerated people to organize for change in the criminal justice system and build their employment prospects with a 12 week class. A certificate will be provided completion to participants.

Workshop Topics

- **Job Readiness**
 - Including resume writing and mock interviews
- **Basic Computer Skills**
 - Including Internet Security, Social Media Basics and Google Workspace training
- **Financial Literacy**
 - Including Bank Account Basics, Budgeting and Credit Repair
- **Leadership Skills**
- **Mental Health / Anger Management/ Self Care**
- **Expungement Clinic**
- **Community Organizing and more!**

From Terri Minor-Spencer

Terri Minor Spencer coined the phrase, "Colorful Backgrounds," to redefine what it means to be an individual who has been formerly incarcerated. It allows acknowledgment of the fact that everyone has a story, and at times, these stories, experiences, struggles, failures and triumphs can at times create the most impactful legacies.

Terri Minor-Spencer, founder of West End P.O.W.E.R., community activist and the mind behind Colorful Backgrounds created this program with inspiration from her own life experience having great success in a similar career development course.

"...After serving 16 years I was, you know, honest enough with myself, first of all, to let my counselor know that, you know, I never held a real job. So I don't know how to fill out a resume. I don't know what to say on the job interview, I need mental help. I don't even know how to...



I don't even know what, where to start with any of it," Spencer said.

It was then that her counselor guided her to a program that helped her approach life with a different mindset and become the leader in the community that she is today.

This career development course went on to teach Terri much of what she'd missed in her last 16 years and much of what she would need to know to be successful.

From the basics of working a computer and Microsoft Office to proper etiquette in a business meeting, this program worked to prepare people for the world where they may have missed the opportunity due to life's circumstances. Less than 90 days after Terri graduated from the program, the state cut it's funding.

"It has always stayed on my heart like... so what happens when we come home? Like, who got us now?... Like three months ago, we had a young man, he was 15 years old when he went in. When he came home three months ago, he was 85 years old."

Terri hopes that Colorful Backgrounds EXPO (Ex-Incarcerated People Organizing) can be a tool to help place people where they need to be in life and point them in a better direction.

"They're just searching for answers... whereas we shouldn't have we shouldn't have nobody vulnerable and just out there like that, you know what I'm saying? When we have the means to help?"

