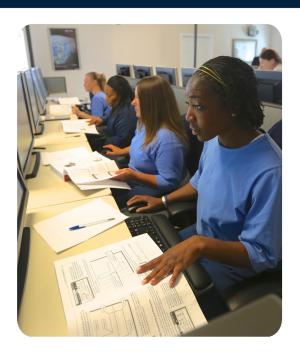
# Changing Lives: The Prison Industry Enhancement Certification Program (PIECP)



#### BENEFITS OF PIECP

The Bureau of Justice Assistance's Prison Industry Enhancement Certification Program (PIECP) enables correctional agencies to establish partnerships with private industry employers providing opportunities for incarcerated men and women to participate in employment and earn competitive wages. PIECP Workers receive on-the-job training, marketable skills, and often employment upon release. This program is instrumental in providing individuals with soft skills training and preparing them for their futures. Statistics show that men and women who participate in the PIECP are more successful and less likely to return to incarceration.



45

Certificate
Holders

A Department of Corrections, or an alternate umbrella authority, which is approved by Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) for PIECP Project certification.

**232** 

Cost Accounting
Centers

A separate accounting entity managed by a Certificate Holder within the Correctional Industries system, where all PIECP production occurs. 4,359

PIECP Workers Programwide

The incarcerated men and women who voluntarily work in Cost Accounting Centers for the PIECP, receiving training and work experience.

#### PRODUCT FOCUS AREAS

Below are a few examples of industries in which incarcerated individuals are able to gain skills and training.

- Metal Fabrication/Welding
- Trade Carpentry/Woodworking
- Furniture/Cabinetry Fabrication
- Textile Design and Manufacturing
- Food Safety/Sanitation/Production
- Custodial Services
- Graphic Design/Computer Coding
- Printing/Bindery Services
- Apparel/Uniform Design and Production
- Warehouse Scanning/Shipping

#### **EMPLOYMENT OPTIONS**

There are three employment options, which are referred to as models. Certificate Holders and Vendor Partners select the best model for their organizations' partnership.



**Customer Model:** This model is designed to focus on smaller volume customers that are looking for custom design and manufacturing. Customers include nongovernment entities.

**Employer Model:** This model is designed for larger scale production. In this model, the program partner operates as the employer, providing education, training, and equipment and all production needs. Customers include both government and non-government entities.

**Manpower Model:** This model is designed for operations such as call centers and graphic design services. The employer provides all the tools, training, certifications, and services needed. Customers include both government and non-government entities.

Below is the current number of partnerships using each model.

155

Customer Model 61

**Employer Model** 

16

Manpower Model





# **AUTHORIZED DEDUCTIONS**

Deductions are taken from PIECP Workers' wages, including to build savings and satisfy legal obligations. All deductions are reviewed, discussed, and agreed upon prior to completing the PIECP voluntary agreement form and prior to the start of employment.

There are four authorized deductions when participating in the PIECP.



#### **Taxes**

Upon employment, just like any private citizen, federal, state, and local taxes are deducted from wages.



#### Reasonable Charges for Room and Board

Each Certificate Holder retains flexibility in determining appropriate room and board charges that may be deducted from PIECP Workers' gross wages. The room and board deduction is intended to lower the costs of incarceration. This is a fraction of the cost of incarceration.



#### **Allocations for Family Support**

Deductions for both court-ordered and voluntary family support may be taken from wages. These are deducted according to state statute, court orders, and/or agreement by the PIECP Worker.



### **Contributions to Compensate the Victims of Crimes**

Between 5 and 20% of gross wages shall be deducted, by law, for the victims of crime. This deduction may include victims' restitution.

The above deductions shall not exceed 80% of gross wages earned. A minimum of 20% of gross wages shall be deposited into the PIECP Worker's expense account and/or savings account and/or applied toward settling the worker's legal obligations, including the payment of legal fines and restitution.

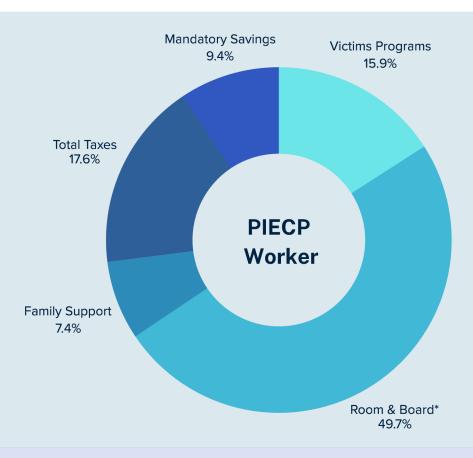


#### **Savings Accounts**

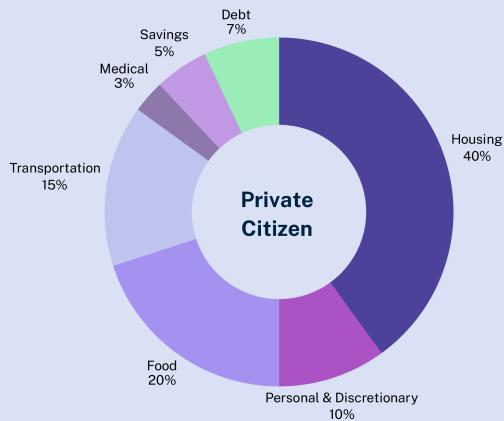
Savings accounts are established for each PIECP Worker to educate and prepare them to transition back into the community. Good spending habits are encouraged when using funds.

# **DEDUCTIONS COMPARISON**

# Below is a comparison of the authorized deductions for PIECP Workers vs. the average cost of living for private citizens.



\*This helps offset the cost of incarceration to the tax payer. The median state spent \$65,000 per incarcerated individual per year as of May 2025 according to the Bureau of Justice Statistics.



# **VENDOR PARTNERS**

Below is a listing of PIECP Certificate Holders that have Vendor Partners who offer job opportunities for PIECP Workers upon release.





| Certificate Holder   | Vendor Partners   |
|--|---|
| Arizona Correctional Industries                            | Sun Country Trailers  |
| Correctional Enterprises of Connecticut                    | Pursuit Aerospace   |
| Georgia Correctional Industries                            | Union Supply  |
| Idaho Correctional Industries                              | All American Publishing, ZoRoCo<br>Packaging, Targhee Brands, and Blue<br>Ribbon Linen  |
| Maryland Correctional Enterprises                          | Total Electric  |
| North Carolina Correction Enterprises                      | Union Supply Group  |
| Ohio Penal Industries                                      | JBM, Lima Pallet, Call Wizard, ACI<br>Industries Converting Ltd., and ParKan<br>Company |
| Strafford County DOC (New Hampshire)                       | Stonewall Kitchen and INGU  |
| Tennessee Rehabilitative Initiative in Correction (TRICOR) | Shaw Industries and American<br>Hardwood Flooring                                       |

#### **SUCCESS RATES**

The figures below are from a Certificate Holder tracking the rate of return to incarceration for PIECP Workers. These individuals are voluntarily monitored to measure their rate of return upon release.

The average rate of return to incarceration for Non-PIECP Workers is 30.3%\*

- Tennessee Rehabilitative Initiative in Correction (TRICOR)
  - FY22 18.5%
  - FY23 13.3%
  - FY24 7.1%
  - FY25 0.0%



\*National Correctional Industries Association (NCIA) 2026 Directory, average recidivism calculated from self-reported statistics submitted by State and Federal Correctional Industries Agencies