

Benefit to the State Economy

The constructive use of inmate time and labor has a direct and positive impact on the State of Arizona budget. The employment of state workers through ACI's program, as well as the employment of inmates, contributes to our communities. Inmate wage deductions go to the state general fund, victim and court restitution, and family support. As the State of Arizona faces budget challenges and high unemployment rates, ACI provides a steady source of revenue and new job opportunities for Arizona businesses. These contributions come from two areas: actual raw materials and services that ACI purchases from Arizona businesses and consumer expenditures generated as a result of ACI related employment.

According to the Arizona State University, WP Carey School of Business, Seidman Research Institute, the financial contribution ACI made to the State's economy in FY 2011 was \$197,441,000. *More significant is the creation of an estimated 2,093 jobs for the State of Arizona.* The real impact of the Correctional Industries Partnership with the Private Sector is difficult to estimate due to the lack of public information on privately held companies; therefore, the estimates by the WP Carey School of Business are made utilizing available data.

Additionally, reports indicate that Correctional Industry programs such as ACI, have the greatest impact on reducing recidivism. The Arizona Prosecuting Attorneys' Advisory Council report titled: PRISONERS IN ARIZONA, A Profile of the Inmate Population, March 2010, authored by Dr. Daryl Fischer states: "Among the programs evaluated, Arizona Correctional Industries (ACI) proved to be the most effective reducing recidivism by 31.6%." Over time, the impact of reducing recidivism is substantial when considering the average cost of housing an inmate is \$60.73* per day. With a median sentence of 2.5 years the average cost savings could be as much as \$55,428 per inmate.

One of ACI's longest existing private sector labor programs, Televerde, began in 1995 with 5 female inmates. This program has expanded to four locations and currently employs 198 female inmates at the Perryville Prison in Goodyear, Arizona. Televerde offers a program called TOPS, Televerde Out-Placement Services, for the inmates that work in their call centers. Utilizing volunteers, TOPS is a program that is designed to facilitate a holistic approach to reintegration with a focus on professional employment and a reduction in recidivism. It helps them prepare resumes, learn job interviewing skills, how to dress professionally, and how to access other useful resources to assist them upon release.

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"We believe that skills and education are the great equalizers and that no matter where a person started, with a thirst for knowledge and higher education, they can climb higher. To that end, we train, educate and employ a group of disenfranchised women who have a genuine desire to change the course of their lives for the better."

Jim Hooker
CEO, Televerde

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Since the program began, 1,075 female inmates have worked inside the Prison for Televerde; 898 have been released from prison and of those 83.5% have not returned. Because of the intensive training and work experience the females gain while incarcerated, Televerde has transitioned 109 ex-offenders to a wide variety of job classifications at their corporate office. In addition, Televerde Endowment for New Scholars (TENS) offers scholarship opportunities for female ex-offenders to achieve life goals through higher education. Partnerships, like Televerde, helps reduce the cost of incarceration and also benefits Arizona by providing new skilled workers paying taxes and contributing to the economy.

* ADC Planning, Budget and Research