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***Mayor Fulop, Acting Governor Guadagno, Hudson County Executive DeGise, and JCEPT Executive Director McGreevey Announce \$4.2 Million State Contract for JCETP to Provide Reintegration Services for the Hudson County Parolee Community***

***JCETP is the First Municipal Non-Profit to be Awarded a State Community Resources Center Contract in New Jersey***

JERSEY CITY – **Mayor Steven M. Fulop, Acting Governor Kim Guadagno, Hudson County Executive Tom DeGise** as well as **Executive Director Jim McGreevey** announced that Jersey City Employment and Training Program (JCETP) was awarded **\$4.2 million contract over three years** as a Community Resource Center (CRC) in Hudson County, the first municipal non-profit to be awarded a CRC contract in New Jersey. The elected officials made the announcement during a tour of the newly modernized facility, at Sacred Heart Church on Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive.

JCETP received the designation in a competitive bidding process, which included the multinational corrections firm GEO Group.

“Once again Jersey City and the JCETP program are leaders on the issue of prisoner re-entry and parole services,” said **Mayor Fulop**. “We were eager to receive this contract and are excited to be able to bring the Hudson County parolee community the important services they need as they re-integrate into the work environment. This is an exciting day for Jersey City and Hudson County.”

Community Resource Centers provide court-ordered services to persons with court involvement, such as assessment and case management, job training, resume skills, and contacts for employment opportunities. Contracts for operating CRCs are awarded by New Jersey’s Division of Parole and Community Services. Until JCETP’s contract was awarded on Friday, nearly all CRCs in New Jersey were operated by large corrections corporations, such as the Hudson County CRC’s other bidder, GEO Group.

“We know the power of second chances, but we also know that they can be impossible without services that prepare ex-offenders for their new lives,” said **Acting Governor Guadagno**. “That’s what the Community Resource Center offers to those who have the desire to succeed: employment training and placement, addiction and mental health treatment, and resources to ensure that participants have every chance to succeed. Thanks to the Center, we face down the harsh reality of recidivism with hope.”

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Shortly after taking office, Mayor Fulop established Martin's Place, Jersey City's prisoner re-entry program to work with the ex-offender community, in coordination with the Jersey City Employment and Training Program. Considered a national model, Martin's Place connects recent ex-offenders with counseling, addiction recovery, transitional housing, job training and employment placement.

Martin's Place participants have a 61 percent job placement rate and a recidivism rate of 22 percent, which is substantially lower than the national average of more than 60 percent. JCETP's long track record of improving employment outcomes for its clients was central to winning the NJ Division of Parole and Community Services contract.

The Jersey City Employment and Training Program, Inc. is a multi-service 501(c)(3) private non-profit organization, working with diverse populations including men and women on parole, administering workforce development funds on behalf of the City of Jersey City. JCETP won the contract as a joint venture with Integrity House, a non-profit treatment center with over 40 years of proven success in assisting individuals in recovery from substance abuse and mental disorders.

"Integrity House has had a tremendous working partnership with Jersey City and Martin's Place," said **Robert Budsock, CEO of Integrity House**. "We look forward to this next challenge for the benefit of Hudson County parolees."

The new Community Resource Center, to be known as "Martin's Place Community Resource Center at Sacred Heart" (named after Martin Luther King, Jr.) will replace the current CRC at 2835 John F. Kennedy Blvd in Jersey City. The new CRC, administrated by JCETP, will be located at the Dominican Priory at the Sacred Heart Church, Archdiocese of Newark.

"Ultimately a lack of resources, a lack of support on the outside, is what has doomed many of Hudson's parolees to a frustrating cycle of re-incarceration," said **County Executive DeGise**. "But not anymore. The awarding of this competitive CRC contract is evidence that our partnership with JCETP is truly providing those resources and living up to it's sterling reputation in the re-entry field. It is the next step forward in making our approach to corrections policy ever more focused on effective rehabilitation."

JCETP's preexisting contracts with the Parolee Employment Placement Program (PEPP), a contractor of the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce (NJLWD), were further factors that led to JCETP's win of the CRC contract.

The success of JCETP initiatives have been commended by the Department of Justice, Office of Justice Program which awarded JCETP as the "Gold Standard" of reentry. The National Institute of Justice and Bureau of Justice Assistance have recognized JCETP as being "at the forefront of the reentry field."

The [National Institute of Justice \(2011\) reported](#) that the majority of Community Resource Centers or "Day Reporting Centers" in New Jersey are ineffective at improving outcomes for their client bases of persons with court involvement. The NIF report found that day reporting centers did not have better results than traditional parole programs and in fact "treatment effects were significantly worse." JCETP's unique solutions to the flaws in CRCs helped earn them the contract in Hudson County.

The Martin's Place Community Resource Center at Sacred was constructed by the Hudson County Building Trades, and the leadership at JCETP thanks them for their volunteer service in modernizing the facility, as well as the Archdiocese of Newark with whom JCETP is partnering to provide for a state of the art facility.

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The Martin's Place Community Resource Center will create a strengths-based, therapeutic environment, grounded in evidence-based practice, to improve the lives of participants, encourage their reintegration into the community, and enhance public safety. The Community Resource Center will be operated in partnership with Integrity House, a non-profit with extensive experience in implementing evidence-based practice modalities.

Participants will attend a minimum of 20 hours of employment training during the first two weeks of entering the program. Those with a demonstrated need for further services will continue to receive two hours of employment training a week for the length of their participation in the program. Services provided will include: Essential workforce skills, work ethics, positive self-talk, dressing for success, apprenticeship and union programs, among many other employment-related skills.

“We are indebted to the Governor and the Chairman of the Parole Board, Jim Plousis, for recognizing our efforts and, today, on behalf of the clients we serve, I would like to express my gratitude to the Mayor and the County Executive for making this dream a reality,” said **JCETP Executive Director McGreevey**.

**All media inquiries should be directed to Jennifer Morrill, Press Secretary to Mayor Steven M. Fulop at 201-547-4836 or 201-376-0699. ///**