



**For Immediate Release  
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### **Dallas County Partners on Job Readiness Program for Inmates**

**DALLAS, Texas** ---The Dallas County Commissioner's Court gave final approval today to a new partnership with Workforce Solutions Greater Dallas, the Dallas County Sheriff's Department and El Centro College, part of the Dallas County Community College District. Together, they will establish a new Dallas LEAP2 program, a federal grant program that offers job readiness training to inmates housed at the County's Lew Sterrett detention center.

LEAP2 is the U.S. Department of Labor's "Linking to Employment Activities Pre-release through Specialized American Job Centers" program and aims to prepare soon-to-be-released inmates with workforce training to increase their opportunities for employment and reentry into the community. Workforce Solutions Greater Dallas and El Centro College will work with approximately 225 inmates pre and post release, and perform risk assessment tests to attain job readiness status and tailor career paths for each individual.

"Job training and readiness pre-release is smart on crime if we want to end the costly and heart breaking cycle of our circular pipeline to prison," said Judge Jenkins, who serves as the CEO of Workforce Solutions of Greater Dallas.

Laurie Bouillion Larrea, President of Workforce Solutions Greater Dallas, added, " Workforce Solutions Greater Dallas is pleased to partner with the Dallas County Sheriff's Department and Dallas County Community College District to offer the Dallas LEAP2 project uniting workforce development, the justice system and the community college to deliver pathways to work to inmates at Lew Sterrett detention facilities."

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