



Pardon Coach Training

We see it all the time: individuals and families straining to get ahead but being held back because of a crime they committed a decade or more ago. Available 24/7/365 over the internet, criminal records are used to discriminate against people every day in dozens of ways – not to mention the psychic toll it takes whenever they have to “check the box” and identify themselves as having a record. Things are changing, fast!

- **Pennsylvania is leading the nation in pardon reform.** The application for a pardon is free, a lawyer is not necessary, and over 80% of the people going before the PA Board of Pardons are actually ending up with a pardon!
- Over a ten-year period, **pardons brought over \$16.5 million dollars in higher wages into communities all across the state.** Lackawanna did not get its fair share of that money!
- With the enthusiastic support of the Scranton Mayor’s Office, the Bar Association, the District Attorney, the Court, and a dozen other organizations, we have created the **Pardon Project of Lackawanna County** to help individuals with records know about this great news and help them apply.

Our goals are to get the word out to as many people as possible – those who have criminal records they want to get erased, individuals who are willing to be trained in how to help them write the best application they can (“Pardon Coaches”), and places where they can go for information and help (“Pardon Hubs”).

On Wednesday, July 14, at 10:00, the Director of the statewide Pardon Project will give a one-hour zoom training on pardons in Pennsylvania and the pardon application. This training is free and open to anyone who is willing to learn and consider helping.

We are asking as many community non-profits as possible to encourage as many of their employees as possible to attend this training. No fee or commitment is required. At the end of the training, we are hoping that you and your organization will be willing to let your clients know how exciting this is, and help them apply for pardons.

To register, contact Jane Augustine jaugustine@outreachworks.org for the Zoom link and training materials.

For more information about the pardon process:

<https://www.northpennlegal.org/blog/pardon-process-pennsylvania>

For more information about the economic impact of pardons:

<http://economyleague.org/pardonimpact>