



**BUILDING PROMISE USA**  
"Peer-Led, Peer-Run & Peer-Driven"

## OUR MISSION:

We are a peer-led, peer-run, and peer-driven organization working to dismantle the cycle of incarceration, unemployment, and homelessness among people with justice involvement by providing both transitional and support programs and services to them, their families and their communities.

## Did You Know?

- The unemployment rate of formerly incarcerated individuals is:
  - **16 times higher** rate than the general population
  - **2.5 times worse** than the worst years of the Great Depression
- **5 out of 6** people who were incarcerated in state prison will recidivate within nine years.
- People who were formerly incarcerated are **nearly 10x more likely** to experience homelessness.

## What Sets Us Apart

### Supportive Services

Through our One Stop Shop Pilot Initiative, we work as a central point of access through warm handoffs to service providers and our Emergency Support Fund.

### Workforce Development

Under our Workforce Development Program, we've launched:

- Hiring Initiative for Reentry Empowerment (HIRE) Event, a job fair with onsite supportive services, hiring employers, and job and interview prep and coaching;
- Reentry Empowerment Self-Sustainability Pilot Initiative (RESPI), is a four-week earn-as-you-learn program aimed to provide the necessary tools and skills one needs to succeed in the workplace after being incarcerated.

## Who We Are

Building Promise USA (BPUSA) is a peer-led, peer-run, and peer-driven organization that was founded in 2017 on the premise that those closest to the problem are often closest to the solution. Together, we seek to dismantle the cycle of incarceration through our programs and services by filling the gaps and meeting the unique needs of those re-entering society.

In September 2021, BPUSA was named the City of Austin's Coordinating Agency for Reentry Services. Since then, we have been developing and launching reentry initiatives that are built to eliminate the barriers formerly incarcerated individuals and their support systems face. We understand the collateral consequences and social stigma of incarceration and aim to empower those impacted through our programs and services.

### Housing

Through the City of Austin's Homelessness Organizational Capacity Building Program, BPUSA is receiving technical assistance to develop our organizational skillsets to address homelessness and housing insecurity among formerly incarcerated individuals.

### Education

Through our strategic partnerships with Workforce Solutions Capital Area, Austin Community College, Pryde Foundation, the City of Austin Equity Office, and other like-minded organizations, we are able to provide access to educational opportunities that can transform their lives.



 **Check Us Out!**



OUR MISSION:

We are a peer-led, peer-run, and peer-driven organization working to dismantle the cycle of incarceration, unemployment, and homelessness among people with justice involvement by providing transitional and support programs and services to them, their families and their communities.

# Meet Our Team

LEADERSHIP:

BPUSA was founded in 2017 on the premise that those closest to the problem are often closest to the solution. With this in mind, 51% of our leadership and staff have been impacted by the carceral system. Together, we seek to dismantle the cycle of incarceration through our programs and services by filling the gaps and meeting the unique needs of those re-entering society.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Reginald Smith, *Founder*
- Hank Perret, *Board Treasurer*
- Kenneth D. Thompson, Sr., *Board Chair*
- Lynda Frost, J.D., Ph. D
- David Johnson
- Frank Ringer, Jr.
- Tommie Dorsett

STAFF & CONSULTANTS

- Carl F. Hunter, II, M. Div. *Executive Director*
- Theo Adams-Hernandez, MPAff, *Project Manager*
- Jeremy Jones, *Re-entry Peer Support Specialist*
- Lily Graham, MPAff, *Grant Consultant*
- Navare Carter, *IT Consultant*

APPRENTICES

- Bill Burns, *Peer Support Apprentice*
- Chelsea Collier, *Peer Support Apprentice*

OUR PARTNERS

- African American Youth Harvest Foundation
- Austin Urban Technology Movement
- Blacks in Technology
- Black Male Health Clinic
- COA Equity Office
- Communities for Recovery
- Community Coalition for Health
- Connect ATX
- Dress for Success
- Jail to Jobs
- Indeed (Sponsorship Agreement)
- Indeed Transitional Outreach Ministries
- Mentoring & Recovery
- Open Door Consulting
- Profit Consulting LLC
- SkillPoint Alliance
- Texas Fair Defense Project
- Technology 4 Tomorrow
- Thrift-ish
- Time Done/Alliance for Safety & Justice
- Travis County Reentry Roundtable
- Travis County Sheriff's Department
- Travis County Vaccine Partner Program
- Via Hope
- Vuka Impact Hub
- Workforce Solutions Capital Area
- Walking by Faith