Career Development Websites for Female Clients with a History of Incarceration

Rating System

⭐⭐⭐⭐⭐ = Excellent (Highly Recommended)
⭐⭐⭐⭐ = Very Good
⭐⭐⭐ = Good
⭐⭐ = Fair
⭐ = Limited Use

Interest Inventories

1. O*NET Interest Profiler

Website: https://www.mynextmove.org/explore/ip

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The O*NET Interest Profiler is a free career assessment that helps individuals identify careers based on their interests using Holland's RIASEC model. Because many women leaving incarceration have limited work experience or uncertainty about career options, this assessment provides an excellent starting point for career exploration. After completing the inventory, users receive career suggestions matched to their interests along with salary information, required education, and job outlooks. The assessment is easy to understand, free to use, and does not require creating an account, making it highly accessible for reentry populations.

2. CareerOneStop Interest Assessment

Website: https://www.careeronestop.org

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CareerOneStop's Interest Assessment allows users to discover occupations that fit their interests while also connecting them to local training programs and educational opportunities. The website is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Labor, making it reliable and regularly updated.

Women returning to the workforce can explore careers they may never have previously considered while learning about education requirements and potential earnings. The website also includes career planning tools, résumé resources, and interview preparation, making it a valuable all-in-one resource.

Ability/Skill Inventories

3. O*NET Skills Search

Website: https://www.onetonline.org

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ONET Online includes an extensive skills search that allows users to identify occupations based on their existing abilities and transferable skills. This is particularly helpful for women with incarceration histories because it highlights skills developed through previous employment, volunteer work, parenting, vocational training, or correctional education programs. Instead of focusing on employment gaps, the website emphasizes strengths and competencies. Counselors can also use ONET during sessions to discuss realistic career pathways and required skill development.

Occupational Information

4. My Next Move

Website: https://www.mynextmove.org

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My Next Move is one of the most user-friendly career exploration websites available. Users can browse careers by interest, industry, or keyword while viewing job descriptions, salary information, educational requirements, and projected job growth. For women reentering society, the site provides a realistic understanding of career pathways without overwhelming technical language. Because it is maintained by the National Center for O*NET Development, the information is accurate, current, and evidence-based.

Additional Occupational Information

- Occupational Outlook Handbook (https://www.bls.gov/ooh) ⭐⭐⭐⭐⭐
- CareerOneStop Occupation Profile (https://www.careeronestop.org) ⭐⭐⭐⭐

Job Openings & Reentry Employment

5. Honest Jobs

Website: https://www.honestjobs.com

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Honest Jobs is one of the best employment websites specifically designed for individuals with criminal records. The platform partners with employers who have demonstrated a willingness to hire applicants with felony convictions, reducing uncertainty and fear of discrimination during the job search process. Users can search thousands of "second chance" jobs across the United States while accessing résumé tips and career resources. For female clients transitioning back into the workforce, Honest Jobs provides hope by connecting them with employers committed to fair hiring practices.

6. Indeed

Website: https://www.indeed.com

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Although Indeed is a general job search website, it includes filters and keywords that help users locate second-chance employers and reentry-friendly positions. The platform also provides salary information, company reviews, résumé-building tools, and interview preparation resources. Women with incarceration histories can use the site to compare job opportunities while researching employers before applying. Because of its large number of postings and ease of navigation, Indeed remains an essential employment resource.

Additional Job Opening Resources

- Second Chance Jobs (https://www.2ndchancejobs.com) ⭐⭐⭐⭐
- CareerOneStop Job Finder (https://www.careeronestop.org) ⭐⭐⭐⭐

Reentry & Career Resources

7. National Reentry Resource Center (NRRC)

Website: https://nationalreentryresourcecenter.org

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The National Reentry Resource Center offers extensive resources to support successful community reintegration after incarceration. Although it is not solely a job search website, it provides valuable information on employment, education, housing, workforce development, and local reentry programs. Counselors can use this website to identify evidence-based resources and connect clients with community organizations that support employment success. Because sustainable employment often depends on addressing barriers beyond finding a job, this website is an invaluable resource for both counselors and clients.

8. The Doe Fund

Website: https://www.doe.org

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The Doe Fund helps individuals with histories of incarceration achieve permanent self-sufficiency through paid transitional work, career training, housing assistance, and employment support. Although some services are region-specific, the organization provides an excellent model of comprehensive workforce reintegration. Female clients can benefit from learning about supportive employment programs that combine vocational development with life-skills training and case management. This website also demonstrates the importance of addressing employment alongside housing, mental health, and financial stability during reentry.

General Career Resources

- CareerOneStop https://www.careeronestop.org ⭐⭐⭐⭐⭐
- O*NET Online https://www.onetonline.org ⭐⭐⭐⭐⭐
- U.S. Department of Labor https://www.dol.gov ⭐⭐⭐⭐
- Goodwill Career Centers https://www.goodwill.org ⭐⭐⭐⭐
- Dress for Success https://dressforsuccess.org ⭐⭐⭐⭐⭐ (particularly valuable for women preparing for interviews and employment)