

Own Your Future Colorado

*Brought to you by College In Colorado
A Division of the Colorado Department of Higher Education*

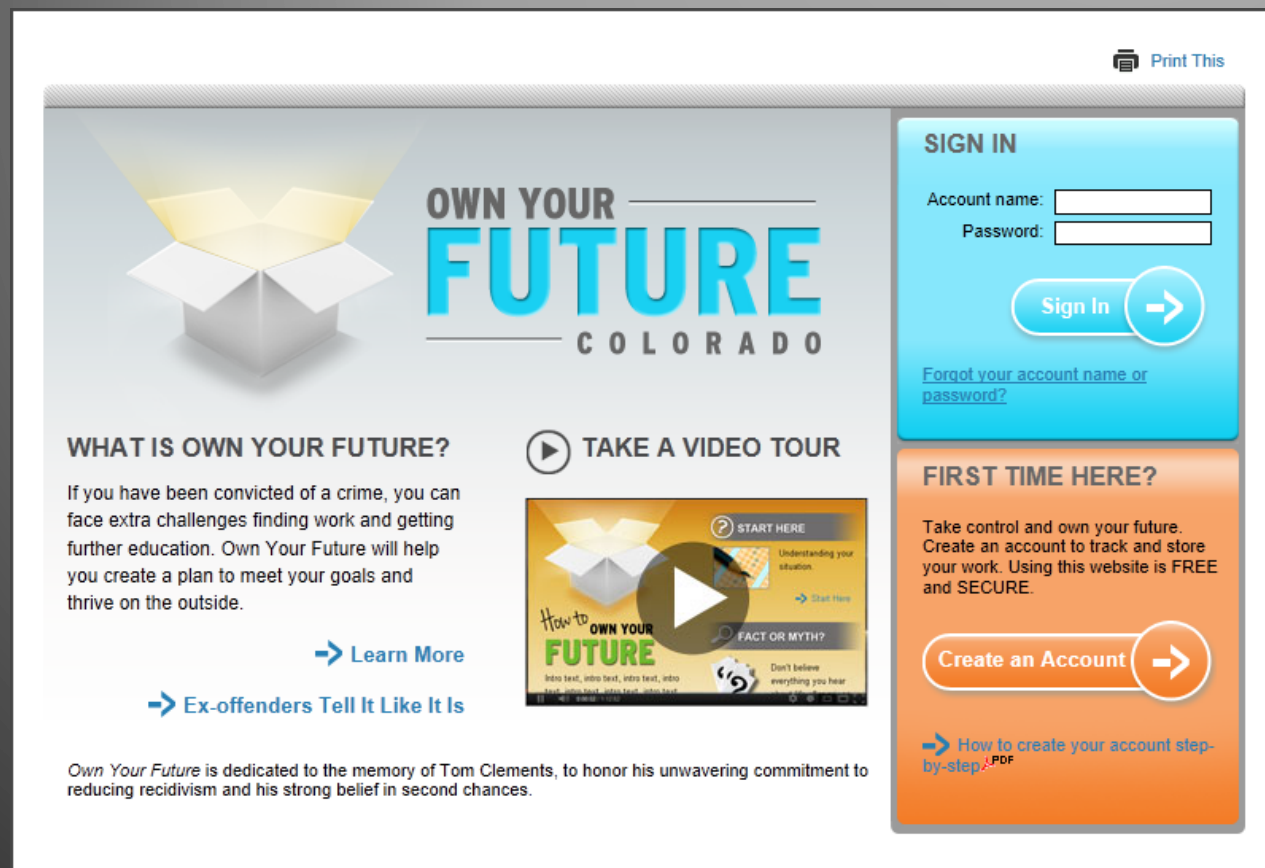


Presented to the Colorado Commission on
Criminal and Juvenile Justice, 8/9/13

Why Own Your Future?

Ex-offenders face many challenges rebuilding their lives after prison. Studies show that finding employment is a key factor in preventing recidivism.

Own Your Future has the tools and features to help find job and career pathways, understand barriers they may face and begin to move down the road to personal success.



The screenshot displays the 'Own Your Future Colorado' website. At the top right, there is a 'Print This' link. The main header features a logo with an open box and the text 'OWN YOUR FUTURE COLORADO'. Below the logo, the text 'WHAT IS OWN YOUR FUTURE?' is followed by a paragraph: 'If you have been convicted of a crime, you can face extra challenges finding work and getting further education. Own Your Future will help you create a plan to meet your goals and thrive on the outside.' To the right of this text is a 'TAKE A VIDEO TOUR' button with a play icon. Below the paragraph are two links: 'Learn More' and 'Ex-offenders Tell It Like It Is'. A video player is embedded in the center, showing a thumbnail with the text 'How to OWN YOUR FUTURE' and 'FACT OR MYTH?'. On the right side, there is a 'SIGN IN' section with fields for 'Account name' and 'Password', a 'Sign In' button with a right arrow, and a link for 'Forgot your account name or password?'. Below this is a 'FIRST TIME HERE?' section with the text 'Take control and own your future. Create an account to track and store your work. Using this website is FREE and SECURE.' and a 'Create an Account' button with a right arrow. At the bottom of this section is a link for 'How to create your account step-by-step PDF'. A footer note states: 'Own Your Future is dedicated to the memory of Tom Clements, to honor his unwavering commitment to reducing recidivism and his strong belief in second chances.'



Design Principles

Complex topics such as financial aid are explained in a straightforward manner.

An intuitive design means that anyone can use the site independently. >>>

Pages are not text-heavy.

Activities are interactive when possible.



Project Research



To ensure we met the needs of ex-offenders, we:

- Conducted more than a dozen focus group discussions.
- Held workshops with incarcerated individuals in two local correctional facilities.
- Researched the barriers ex-offenders face.
- Asked subject matter experts to review content as the site was built.



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Professional Support


Professionals that work with this population have access to user portfolios and Individual Career and Academic Plans >>>


- Monitor work
- Analyze use
- Provide the guidance critical for success




CollegInColorado.org GO FURTHER GO TO COLLEGE Professional Center


Students & Groups Reports Resources Communication Administration

 **Students & Groups**
Find individuals, define groups of students and manage your groups.
Students & Groups

 **Reports**
Create reports showing site usage, assessment results and outcomes.
Reports

 **Resources**
Find lesson plans for your subject, and get help using the system.
Resources

 **Communication**
Send or review messages and set up your events calendar.
Communication

 **Administration**
Configure the student site, including course plans, featured content, preferences and access controls.
Administration

Colorado 2-1-1 Assistance

In the Housing content,
for example...



Need hope? Need help? There are people ready to assist.

STEP 1

☒ Select a topic

Homeless Shelter

Or

☐ Enter your own keyword

STEP 2

Enter your zip code

80202

And/or select the county where you are searching

*

STEP 3

Search

I DON'T KNOW WHERE I WILL BE STAYING TONIGHT

Your best bet may be an emergency overnight shelter. Your parole officer may be able to help you find one or [click here](#) to search for housing-related assistance organizations in your area. You may also call 211 or 866-860-6489.



Are you on parole?

If so, you must get in touch with your parole officer or a community re-

Multiple locations in the site
for dozens of topics.

Service Search

"Homeless Shelter"

Search

Advanced search

Print

91 results for "Homeless Shelter"
Sorted by distance from zip code: 80202

Expand/collapse all details

Hotel Voucher - GA/Homeless Unit -- Denver Department of Human Services 1.6 miles from 80202

(720) 944-2031 · 1200 Federal Blvd, Denver, CO, 80204 · [Map](#)
... nights per calendar year. When the Cold Weather Overflow Shelters are activated and at capacity, these vouchers are available to women, families and the disabled without the 60 day residency requirement.

Details

PetAid Day of Care - Father Woody's Haven of Hope 1.6 miles from 80202

(303) 607-0855 Ext 4 · 1101 W 7th Ave, Denver, CO, 80204 · [Map](#)
PetAid of Colorado will be at Father Woody's Haven of Hope to do general pet exams and vaccines, all services will be free of charge. This will be for one day only and by appointment ...

Details

Day Shelter - Father Woody's Haven of Hope 1.6 miles from 80202

(303) 607-0855 · 1101 W 7th Ave, Denver, CO, 80204 · [Map](#)
Day shelter for homeless persons. Offering the following service: - Showers - Laundry services - Personal Hygiene items on specific days.

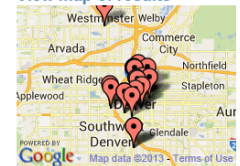
Details

Transitional Housing - Family HomeStead 1.6 miles from 80202

(303) 623-8514 · 999 Decatur St, Denver, CO, 80204 · [Map](#)
... housing (up to six months) and case management to homeless one and two parent families with children.

Details

View map of results



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How the site works

[College in Colorado – Live Site
Demonstration or Video Tour](#) *



* Link requires internet connection



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Let's Get Started

Get the most out of Own Your Future by starting with three simple activities:

- How to Own Your Future
- Start Here
- Fact or Myth

The screenshot shows the 'OWN YOUR FUTURE COLORADO' website. At the top, there's a navigation bar with icons for email, calendar, home, and links to 'CAREER PLANNING', 'GET A JOB', 'COLLEGE PLANNING', 'FINANCIAL AID PLANNING', and 'YOUR PORTFOLIO'. Below this is a progress bar with four stages: 'OWN YOUR FUTURE' (selected), 'YOUR LIFE', 'YOUR WORK', and 'BACK TO SCHOOL'. The main content area is divided into three sections: 1. 'START HERE' featuring an open box icon and a button 'Start Here' with a pencil icon. 2. 'FACT OR MYTH?' featuring a magnifying glass icon and a button 'Fact or Myth' with a question mark icon. 3. 'LOCAL RESOURCES' featuring a video player with a play button and a button 'GO' with a group of hands icon. The footer of the website shows the 'OWN YOUR FUTURE COLORADO' logo and the text 'Brought to you by College In Colorado'.



START HERE — QUESTIONS

What are your biggest concerns about life now? (check your biggest concerns)

- ☐ Where to live
- ☐ Finding work right now
- ☐ Not having enough money
- ☐ Having reliable transportation
- ☐ Reconnecting with family and friends
- ☐ Staying healthy, clean and sober
- ☐ Going back to school
- ☐ Staying out of prison
- ☐ Deciding on long-term career goals
- ☐ Telling people I was in prison
- ☐ Staying organized and fitting everything in
- ☐ Finding services for Veterans like me
- ☐ Other

Choose the ones that concern you most. On the next page you can find ways to deal with each concern.

Are you currently? (select at least one of the following)

- ☐ In prison
- ☐ In a detention center
- ☐ On parole
- ☐ Off paper
- ☐ In a diversion program
- ☐ On adult probation
- ☐ On juvenile probation
- ☐ I have never been convicted of a felony
- ☐ None of these apply to me

This information is used to continually improve this system for people with different needs.

Start Here

This screen allows ex-offenders to select what their greatest concerns are... and then the system provides links to assistance content and activities.

START HERE -- NEXT STEPS

Check out the tips and resources for each of your main concerns. You can return back here at any time to focus on these areas.

Your Main Concerns

Tips and Resources

Where To Live

Learn about your options, come up with a plan, and make sure you can afford it:

- [Housing Options](#)
- [Where You're Living](#)

Finding work right now

Finding a job is often an important first step to success after prison. Get started here:


- [How to Find a Job](#)
- [How Convictions Affect Employment](#)
- [Job Search Activities](#)
- [Next steps](#)
- [Job Applications](#)
- [Understanding Resumes](#)
- [Resume Builder](#)
- [Understanding Job Interviews](#)
- [Job Interview Practice](#)

Your Life Landing Page

Includes information about housing, transportation, budgeting money and time, and maintaining and creating healthy relationships



Print This | E-mail This | PDF This

 **OWN YOUR FUTURE**
COLORADO

HOW TO OWN YOUR FUTURE **YOUR LIFE** YOUR WORK BACK TO SCHOOL


→ A Place to Live

→ Getting Around

→ Your Money

→ Your Time


→ Your People



A PLACE TO LIVE

Having a safe and secure roof over your head is an important step to building a new life. Find out about your options for housing.


→ [A Place to Live](#)



GETTING AROUND

Discover the different ways you can get to where you have to go.


→ [Getting Around](#)



YOUR MONEY

Once you start earning some money, you'll need to know how to manage it.


→ [Your Money](#)



YOUR TIME

Take control of your time and you'll find it easier to get everything done.

→ [Your Time](#)



YOUR PEOPLE

Other people can play an important role in helping you own your future, whether they're friends who support your goals or professionals with access to the resources you need.

→ [Your People](#)



HOW TO OWN
YOUR FUTURE

YOUR
LIFE

YOUR
WORK

BACK TO
SCHOOL

→ A Place to Live

→ Getting Around

→ Your Money

→ Your Time

→ **Your People**

YOUR PEOPLE

YOUR SUPPORT NETWORK

Managing all the people in your life can be challenging when you are adjusting to life on the outside. But working on these connections will be very rewarding.

You might be facing a few different situations when you get out of prison:

- Figuring out how to reconnect with all of the people in your life as you keep your life on track
- Reconnecting with a husband or wife, boyfriend or girlfriend
- Being single and feeling lonely
- Reconnecting with children
- Finding new friends and reconnecting with old ones



"It is of practical value to learn to like yourself. Since you must spend so much time with yourself, you might as well get some satisfaction out of the relationship."

- Norman Vincent Peale



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Getting the Job; Content and Activities Series

Includes tools to create a resume that can be saved, tips for interviews and sample job applications

Print This | E-mail This | PDF This

OWN YOUR FUTURE COLORADO

OWN YOUR FUTURE YOUR LIFE **YOUR WORK** BACK TO SCHOOL

→ Finding a Job
→ Getting the Job
→ Planning Your Career

JOB APPLICATIONS

A properly filled out job application can make the difference. Get some tips on how to make yours stand out from the rest!

→ [Learn About Job Applications](#)

UNDERSTANDING RESUMES

A resume can help you get an interview, which may get you the job! Get the facts on putting together a good resume.

→ [Start Understanding Resumes](#)

→ Now that you have reviewed the basics about how to create an effective resume you can use the Resume Builder to create your own resume. Click "Create a new resume" below to get started.

RESUMES

→ [Create a new resume](#)

UNDERSTANDING JOB INTERVIEWS

A job interview is your chance to tell the potential employer what you have to offer them. Get some tips on how to succeed.

→ [Get Going on Understanding Job Interviews](#)

→ Use the activity below to help you prepare for your job interviews by reviewing typical questions and practicing your answers. Remember the information covered above in "Understanding Job Interviews."

INTERVIEW PRACTICE

→ [Try practice interview questions](#)

Finding a Job: Work in Progress View

Completed
Portfolio
Activities:
Work Experiences
Job Search Activities

→ Finding a Job

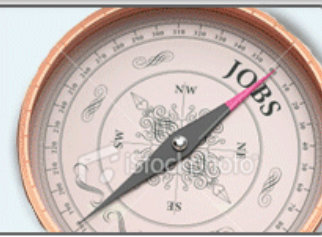
→ Getting the Job

→ Planning Your Career

HOW TO FIND A JOB

Where are all the jobs -- and what does it take to get one of them? Find some answers here.

→ [Learn How to Find a Job](#)



WORK EXPERIENCES (includes volunteering, part-time work, and community service)

Receptionist

ABC Company

[Edit](#)

June 1, 2012 to June 2, 2012

Full Time

→ [Add new work experience](#)

HOW CONVICTIONS AFFECT EMPLOYMENT

Having a record can impact the types of jobs you can do. Learn more about the consequences of conviction.

→ [Find Out How a Conviction Affects Your Employment](#)



JOB SEARCH ACTIVITIES

Activities I have started and/or completed:

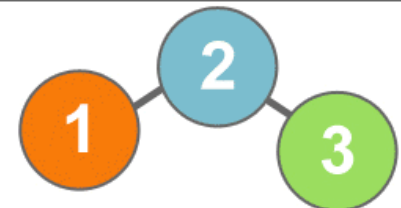
[Edit](#)

- Ask employers, colleagues, and others who know my skills for letters of introduction and/or recommendations and to serve as my references. June 8, 2012
- Update or prepare a resume (Use the [Resume Builder](#)) June 8, 2012
- Prepare a sample cover letter (Use the [Cover Letter Creator](#)) June 8, 2012

→ [Try practice interview questions](#)

NEXT STEPS


→ [Figure Out Your Next Steps](#)



Your Work Landing Page with Progress Notes

Marked Activities
not Yet
Completed:
Navigation helps user
continue where they
left off

Print This | E-mail This | PDF This



OWN YOUR
FUTURE
COLORADO

OWN YOUR
FUTURE

YOUR
LIFE


**YOUR
WORK**

BACK TO
SCHOOL

→ Finding a Job

→ Getting the Job

→ Planning Your Career




FINDING A JOB

How can you sort through all the different types of jobs out there to find one that's a good fit for you? Check out tips on investigating your options.

→ Finding a Job

You last viewed this activity on March 07, 2013

→ Continue where you left off.




GETTING THE JOB

Once you find a job you think is a good fit, you need to prove why you should be hired. Discover how to sell your skills.

→ Getting the Job

You last viewed this activity on March 13, 2013

→ Continue where you left off.



PLANNING YOUR CAREER

Creating a clear and realistic plan will boost your odds of career success.

→ Planning Your Career

Back to School Landing Page



OWN YOUR
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COLORADO

HOW TO OWN
YOUR FUTURE

YOUR
LIFE

YOUR
WORK

BACK TO
SCHOOL

→ Need to Complete High School?

→ College Options

→ Financial Aid for School



NEED TO COMPLETE HIGH SCHOOL?

If you didn't finish high school, you'll want to make a plan to earn your GED.

→ [Need to Complete High School?](#)



COLLEGE OPTIONS

Going back to school can be a big step in owning your future, whether your plans find you in a classroom or completing an apprenticeship. Learn about some training and education possibilities.

→ [College Options](#)



FINANCIAL AID FOR SCHOOL

How are you going to pay to go back to school? There is help available -- be sure to research your choices.

→ [Financial Aid for School](#)



OWN YOUR
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COLORADO

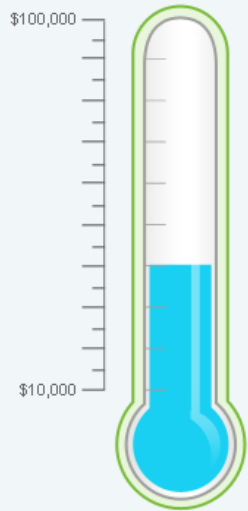
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Why education is important

WHY GO BACK TO SCHOOL

Better pay and job prospects top most people's lists. But is that really the case? Does more education equal more money?

The answer is a definite YES!



- Professional degree
- Doctorate degree
- Master's degree
- Bachelor's degree
- Associate's degree
- Some college, no degree

Annual salary: \$37,024

Hourly rate: \$17.80

Years of schooling: Any schooling beyond a high school diploma

Possible careers:

- Chef
- Food service manager
- Locksmith
- Real estate broker
- Sales representative
- Transportation manager

- High school diploma
- Less than high school diploma

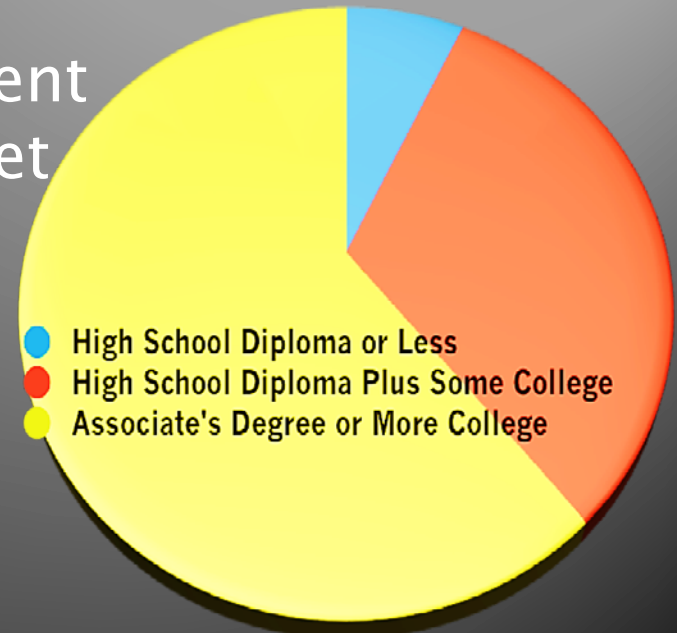
Think about this: if you get a two-year associate degree, you could earn \$750,000 more in your lifetime than someone who only has a high school diploma or GED.

By getting a certificate or license in a technical field, or earning an associate (two-year) or bachelor's (four-year) degree, you'll advance in your career and, more importantly, your life! Employers will see that you have more skills and knowledge - which means you'll be more likely to be hired. It will be easier for you to keep jobs and get promotions. There are benefits outside of work too. Continuing your education can help strengthen your place in your community and your family.

→ Continue

- Research shows there is a drastically decreased likelihood of an educated ex-offender reoffending
- Even if education does not immediately translate into a job, education has been shown to improve confidence, which reduces recidivism
- Possibilities of finding a job increase with higher education

The Current Job Market



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Own Your Future helps people realize education is obtainable for anyone

FIGURING OUT FINANCIAL AID

FAFSA FIRST

The [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#) is the first required step to most financial aid programs. It serves as the application for all federal and many state programs as well as aid from colleges and universities and many scholarships. The FAFSA results help schools figure out what type of aid package is appropriate for you.

Even if you are not sure whether you will need financial aid, we recommend that you complete the FAFSA anyway - it's free. File the FAFSA as early as possible in the year you plan to attend school.

Some types of convictions may impact your ability to get federal student aid. During FAFSA completion you may be asked whether you had a drug conviction for an offense that occurred while receiving student aid or if you are subject to an involuntary civil commitment for a sexual offense. Get all the [information](#) and a [worksheet](#) to see if your aid could be impacted.

NOTE: Before you may complete your FAFSA, you'll need a Social Security number or [green card](#), as well as a high school diploma or a [General Education Development \(GED\)](#) certificate.

[→ Continue](#)

[→ Back to Financial Aid](#) OR [Figuring Out Financial Aid](#)

Ex– Offender Videos

Seth Lee:*

https://secure.collegeincolorado.org/own_your_future/videos/seth.aspx

Ken Sierra:*

[College in Colorado – Ex-offender Testimony – Ken](#)

* Link requires internet connection



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Questions?

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OwnYourFutureColorado.com

