

Arkansans newly released from prison will soon be able to attend an annual service event aimed at providing a range of opportunities for employment, among other services. The Rights After Wrongs program, in its third year, provides Arkansas residents entering society after serving their time the ability to get job readiness assistance, alongside other services like health screenings. This year's event is on Saturday, January 19.

Little Rock Mayor Frank Scott Jr. says Little Rock needs to economically support its citizens who are re-entering society in order to better the city overall.

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"...into the fold"

"We all understand that we have brothers and sisters that are re-entering society and we as the city of Little Rock have to be great ambassadors to them as they re-enter society and make sure that we focus on workforce development for them, that we focus on entrepreneurship for them. We [need to] make sure we have welcoming arms to them to let them know Little Rock is an open city to all returning residents as they come back into the fold."

Ericka Benedicto, the diversity program manager for the city's Racial and Cultural Diversity Commission, says the service helped an average of 350 people in each of the past two years. She expects at least the same number of people to attend this year's event too.

Pulaski County residents have the additional opportunity to attend leniency court. According to Benedicto, it must be a court located in Pulaski county and the cases must be either misdemeanors, outstanding fines or a failure to appear in court. Those interested in leniency court must be at the event by 9:30.