

STRIVE delivers a personalized and practical introduction to the world of work itself. You will most likely hear, if you have not already heard from some of our graduates tonight, of the impact that this program has had on their personal and professional lives.

Finally, I want the appropriations committee to understand that as a non-profit community we have done everything possible to reduce the cost of this program without sacrificing the quality and the integrity of the STRIVE model. In an effort to hold down both program and administrative costs the STRIVE Connecticut program merged all under one non-profit, Career Resources. As a result, CRI sought additional funding and was able to secure federal dollars for STRIVE, but the potential loss of the State funding may mean that our federal funding would now become jeopardized. The bottom line is that is that STRIVE model serves any Connecticut resident who chooses to participate, regardless of skill level, incarceration history or financial means. STRIVE shows outstanding results compared to other employment and training programs, while operating at a fraction of the cost. I am therefore asking that you please consider supporting this critical program – A program that actually pays for itself.