

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI
PROBATION OFFICE**

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REPLY TO: EAGLETON OFFICE

January 30, 2017

Aspire Challenge Award Committee
Small Business Administration

Dear Award Committee:

The U.S. Probation Office supports WRS Solutions in its application to the Small Business Administration for grant funding for the Aspire Challenge. U.S. Probation has been recognized as a model for others at the local, state and federal levels for our workforce development and family programs, which have reduced recidivism and revocations, by providing education and employment training resulting in careers for ex-offenders and rebuilding family relationships. This is made possible through partnerships with community agencies such as WRS.

During the past 16 years, we have collaborated and partnered with the Father's Support Center, Connections to Success and a network of community agencies to expand access to education, career training, mentoring, employment, retention, and family support services for ex-offenders, many of whom are returning to low income families with children. We are excited to add this entrepreneur education program provided by WRS Solutions with access to funding to provide much needed business development in St. Louis communities.

If the proposal is funded, the U.S. Probation Office will provide in-kind contributions/services that include: referring ex-offenders for training and services provided by WRS, assessing interests and screening for appropriate applicants for the entrepreneurship education program, supervising participants under our supervision and assisting with follow-up to assist them in becoming small business owners. A donated laptop and bag will also be provided to each participant.

With the support of the SBA, W.K. Kellogg Foundation, and Justine Petersen, we look forward to building upon the initial success of this initiative in the St. Louis region. Thank you for your consideration. Please contact me at (314) 244-6701 if we may provide additional support.

Sincerely,

Scott A. Anders

Deputy Chief U.S. Probation Officer