**Organizational Background:** Uplifting People Inc. is a Non-Profit Organization incorporated in Georgia since 1995 to Reduce Recidivism, implement crime prevention programs and assist Returning Citizens with addressing and overcoming various aspects of Returning to society and becoming a Productive, Law Abiding, Community Oriented Citizen in our communities. The contact person for the organization is The *Executive Director, Ponchellis Jackson* and he can be reached at [pjackson@upliftingpeople.org](mailto:pjackson@upliftingpeople.org) or via phone *(404)536-3343*. Uplifting People, Inc. (UP) maximizes its capacity to achieve this by forming collaborative relationships and partnerships with various businesses, entrepreneurs, service providers and community organizations which are willing and able to assists with the successful placement and treatment of the Returning Citizens. Uplifting People assists individuals who have paid their debts to society and are eager to take advantage of their opportunity to be a Law Abiding, Tax Paying, and Productive Citizen in our communities whom are not feared, but instead valued for the qualities and attributes they possess. Uplifting People, Inc. (UP) does this by partnering with Faith Based Organizations, Government Agencies, Human Service Providers, Non-Profit Organizations, Human Resource Managers, Business Owners/Entrepreneurs and various Staffing/Employment Agencies. Our organization promotes self –sufficiency, educational advancement, Long Term Employment, Entrepreneurial/ Career Development, Mentoring, Housing, Parenting, Family Unification and Recidivism prevention. Uplifting People, Inc. (UP) services the Returning Citizens in Fulton, Clayton, Cobb, DeKalb, Henry, Gwinnett, and Rockdale Counties. UP Implements innovative programs and supportive services which are designed to address and prevent poverty, homelessness, and educational deficiencies on the state and local level. We have done this by Providing strategic planning and leadership in the administration of social programs for diverse multi-cultural backgrounds. As we assist the Returning Citizens, we have been responsible for program development, fundraising, marketing and community involvement. Uplifting People, Inc. (UP) also develops alliances and builds community awareness for the economic improvement activities through public relations, fundraising and outreach efforts. Uplifting People, Inc. (UP) has a proven record in conceiving and transmitting vision into reality, mission into action and philosophy into practice. Uplifting People is well positioned to deliver entrepreneurship training to the Returning Citizens because we have formed relationships with Current Entrepreneurs whom are willing to take individuals whom we accept into our program on as an apprentices, thus equipping them with the skills and tools necessary to then become successful businessmen or women themselves. They would not only learn the skill to perform the job, but they would also obtain knowledge as to how to operate and successfully manage themselves and their business entity. Uplifting People, Inc. has potential participants referred to us by the GOTSR, The Department of Community Supervision as well as the Individuals and Families of the Individuals we have helped with their Transition. Our Management Team consists of **The Exec. Director** *Ponchellis Jackson*, a Lab Technician for Exide Technologies and Returning Citizen, **Board Chair**-*Free Polazzo* , a Corporate Accountant, **Board Member**-*Bonnie Horton*, a Social Worker, **Board Member**-*Sarah Walton*, Attorney, Educator and Author, and **Board Member** *Kemmie McNeese* – Chaplin, Georgia Department of Corrections.

**Uplifting People Inc. Entrepreneurial Education Delivery Solution:** Participants would be identified for our services by the staff of the prisons, i.e. Wardens, counselors and Correctional Officers, parole officers, probation officers (Department of Community Supervision), families of the Returning Citizens as well as the Former Participants of our program who have successfully Transitioned and become successful with the assistance of our placement and planning. We would encourage those whom are incarcerated to reach out to us via mail and for those who have been released to reach out to us via phone, email, or visit us to apply for our assistance and become an active participant in our program. Once identified, we would test their aptitude and assess what their interest /skillsets are which would transfer into an attribute for success. We would then sit with them and map out a plan and timeframe for placement and training which would put them on a road to success. As they become successful in their lives and careers, we would also have them to voluntarily return to the prisons periodically to speak to the inmates about their successful transition into society thus serving as not only an example of the Successful Returning Citizen, but also a mentor to those whom are soon to be released as well.

Classroom instruction would consist of providing GED training for those individuals who have not obtained their High School Diploma. For those who have obtained their GED, High School Diploma or any additional education, we would offer “On The Job Training” as well as Trade School options which would enhance Career Development. We would have agreements with the various Tradesmen or Women, Business Owners and Executives whom are willing to provide Entrepreneurship training to reduce recidivism as well as supplement a portion of their income for the First 90 Days while they are being trained in their line of work or expertise. Our program would have online Webinars available for those participating to enhance their career development and entrepreneurial experience/visions. The process would begin by the Returning Citizen reaching out to us after being referred to us on hearing about the services we provide. We will set up in person meeting with the returning citizen and discuss their GOALS, ASPIRATION S and how we would work together to achieve those GOALS. Once we have identified the area or directions they would like to pursue for their Educational Success towards Career Advancement, we would have them to contact the resources we have partnered with to enhance those GOALS which they would like to achieve. We would teach and advise them throughout the process to develop and enhance their Resume’ with the skills and knowledge they are obtaining as well as devise a business plan which would coincide with the entrepreneurial development they are receiving.

As we guide these individuals towards success, we would have successful business people, government officials and educators participate with our organization serving as active MENTORS to the individuals who are involved in our organization. In addition, as the individuals whom are participants in our organization transition into successful entrepreneurial men and women as well as career oriented individuals, they would also serve as mentors to those coming behind them as well as by voluntarily going back into the prisons to talk to those who will be being released about their experience and their success with transitioning into society.

We are actively serving as a community coordination organization for the Governor’s Office of Transition, Support and Reentry and the Department of Community Supervision i.e. Parole and Probation. We have also developed a relationship with the Georgia Stakeholders and The Chamber of Commerce. With these relationships we are able to cross reference Returning Citizens with Career and Volunteer Opportunities which over time builds positive relationships and opportunities for those involved. As our participants are equipped with these skills, we would then provide them with financial literacy education and parenting classes for those whom are parents or have aspirations to become parents. To address Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome (PTSD), we would provide counseling and advisors for our participants as they transition. Through these services, we will produce successful, actively involved citizens, parents and mentors whom are then able to serve as examples as to how successful Re-entry can produce productive economically stable leaders in our communities.

Our organization will create opportunities to connect with the local business community and social service providers to increase our participants’ financial literacy, access to transitional services, and all other service which improves the economic well-being of the returning citizens by producing a directory of each of the business/community partners we establish working relationships with. As we successfully build these relationships, we will report the success and have the individuals involved testify to others, both businesses and individuals as to the success of our program. Then as these relationships are built, we will continuously look to establish additional relationship which would help us to expand our portfolio.

**Access to Capital:** Uplifting People, Inc. (UP) would link our participants with participating micro lenders (and when appropriate SBA Microloan Intermediaries to fund and grow new business) by identifying which loans would be appropriate for GOALS and/or Aspirations of the participants. Once identified, we would then get the individual qualified for the Microloans or funds. While qualifying them, we would send an application to the micro lenders or SBA Microloan Intermediaries along with a request for an appointment for our participant. Our organization would prepare our participants by going through a checklist of the requirements from our capital providers in an effort to prepare them for all things necessary for qualification and approval. All documentation would be completed and reviewed prior to submission. We would host matchmaking and community events for local lenders, businesses and funders to promote the entrepreneurial ecosystem.