

The Labor and Public Employees Committee
Informational Public Hearing
September 28, 2015

New Hope Destiny, Inc.
Testimonial

My name is Latoya Howard founder of New Hope Destiny, Inc. (NHD). Our mission is to create solutions to the growing epidemic of homelessness to underserved populations (re-entry and others). How many of you are aware that we cannot address homelessness until we deal with unemployment issues that faces these populations. As a Property Manager for over a decade I have encountered many individuals that were under served. This is one of the reasons NHD was founded, "to help fill the gap".

NHD is dedicated to providing a holistic approach to their needs.

Our services include (but are not limited to) the following:

- Assist participants with obtaining the essentials such as identification, benefits and more.
- As technology continues to advance the integration of technology is a pivotal tool in the reaffirming process for an ex-offender. The computer lab will expose participants to unlimited resources and opportunities while reducing the digital learning gap. In addition, it enhances their skills and increases social interaction.
- Many of these individuals are at a major disadvantage for employment opportunities due to the minimal literacy and math skills they possess. We will offer access to vocational services, trainings and seminars.
- Provide access to proper clothing for interviewing.
- Provide access to housing opportunities.

I have witnessed the effects of such a consolidation process with the Social Service Department. Due to this consolidation our residents that receive benefits suffered greatly. I have had many residents' benefits be terminated because paperwork they have submitted was not processed timely. This caused many to not be able to buy food or pay the rent.

I am concerned that the consolidation of the Department of Labor job centers will endure the same challenges. In addition, my other concern about the consolidation process is the contract being automatically granted to agencies that already have contracts which eliminates the opportunity for small minority owned business like New Hope Destiny, Inc. to be granted such funding. My hope is that the funding opportunities will be diversified to increase service opportunities in our community.