

Chelsea Farrell, Criminology and Criminal Justice & Natalie Pifer, Criminology and Criminal Justice

### CNC Machinist Training Program in Prison: A Pilot Evaluation and Fidelity Assessment

Rhode Island continues to face two critical issues: a gap in skilled labor to fill manufacturing machinist positions and a revolving door in and out of the prison system. The “Fast Track to CNC Machining” program aims to address both issues simultaneously by offering training to incarcerated individuals that yields a CNC (Computer Numerical Control) Machinist Certification, OSHA Certification, and college credit upon graduation. This program has been operating in the Rhode Island Department of Corrections (RIDOC) since late 2022 but has yet to be evaluated to understand its effectiveness. To examine how the in-prison “Fast Track” program is operating, we are proposing a mixed-methods pilot study that begins to assess both program impact and program fidelity. Our aim is to utilize retrospective data collection techniques with former participants and collect data concurrently with the next cohort of participants to document how the program is operating, understand the ways in which it is impacting participants and employers, and to prepare the materials necessary for larger funding opportunities.

Award: \$19,665