To be eligible for the program, individuals must meet the screening and evaluation criteria based on the following:

- Major infraction free for at least 90 days
- High School Diploma or GED
- Willing to work in all weather
- No less than five months to earned release date (ERD), no longer than 36 months to ERD
- Able to physically lift and carry 80 lbs.

“Coming out of prison can be an overwhelming and intimidating experience, often leaving one feeling scared and isolated about the future. However, with the discovery of TRAC, the pre-apprenticeship class, a glimmer of hope emerged, presenting a golden opportunity for a better future.

Through unwavering dedication and commitment, I completed TRAC's rigorous 16-week course, marking a significant milestone in my journey toward transformation. Joining the Ironworkers union upon leaving prison, I was warmly welcomed by community partners and Local 86, feeling as if they rolled out the red carpet for me. The only obstacle in my path to success was my self-sabotage, a realization that empowered me to strive for a brighter future.

Through the support and benefits provided by the union, I have been able to pave the way for a new and improved life, breaking free from the chains of the past. Not only have I been able to transform my own life, but I now can provide a better future for my children, breaking the cycle of hardships and setting a new standard for generations to come. This newfound sense of purpose and stability is a testament to my resilience and determination to create a better life for myself and my loved ones.”

— Marilyn Redd, Former TRAC Participant

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Up to 12 incarcerated individuals, per 16-week session, receive 460 hours of theoretical and practical instruction aimed at preparing them for competitive eligibility within a variety of union trade apprenticeship programs.

TRAC covers a broad range of academic, safety, and technical skills training as well as behavioral, lifestyle, and soft skills training. Upon completion of the training, participants’ carpentry, iron-working, and labor skills are tested. To graduate, the student must successfully pass a minimum of one of the three skills tests.

Since its creation in 1997, TRAC has graduated hundreds of women. Commencement ceremonies are held after each 16-week program. Participants and their families are encouraged to participate in this special occasion.

Once TRAC graduates are back in their communities, they are qualified to enter apprenticeship programs for the International United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, the International Association of Bridge, Structural, Ornamental, and Reinforcing Iron Workers, the Operative Plasterers and Cement Masons International Association, and the Laborers International Union of North America.

"The TRAC program ignited a fire in me. I was finally able to see and believe in my potential. I think that helps people. It plants the seed and gives opportunity for growth. But it's up to the individual to take the steps necessary to make this their new way of life in their new opportunity."

— Amber Fisher, Former TRAC Participant

Participants can expect to receive the following:

Safety and technical training:
- Ergonomics
- Scaffold User
- Flagging
- Oxy/Acetylene Cutting and Burning
- Fall Protection
- Personal Protective Equipment

Soft skills training:
- Financial Tools for the Trades
- Survival of the Fittest
- Makin' It Work
- Work Safety and Etiquette