
The President's Prisoner Re-entry Initiative



The Prisoner Re-entry Initiative (PRI) is designed to strengthen urban communities through competitively awarded employment-centered programs that incorporate short-term housing, mentoring, job training, and other transitional services.

First proposed in President Bush's 2004 State of the Union Address, the PRI calls for collaborative efforts among the Departments of Labor, Justice, and Housing and Urban Development to serve urban centers and areas with the greatest need. It seeks to reduce recidivism by helping non-violent, former prisoners find work and stable housing when they return to their communities.

- On average, as many as 600,000 adult inmates will complete their sentences and be released in a given year.
- Studies show that approximately two-thirds of ex-offenders are rearrested within three years of release.
- In order to successfully reintegrate, ex-offenders must possess the skills necessary to enter and compete in the workforce. PRI draws and relies on the unique strengths of faith- and community-based organizations to deliver social services to ex-prisoners returning to their communities.

A competitive Solicitation for Grant Applications that was announced in Spring 2005 turned out to be the biggest such competition in recent years, with 549 applications submitted to the Department of Labor. In November 2005, the Department announced the results and awarded 30 grants totaling \$19.8 million for projects in 20 states.

Congress appropriated approximately \$19.6 million for FY 2006. In FY 2006, the initiative will continue to use a variety of strategies, including the use of vouchers, to help returning inmates become successfully employed, reintegrated, and productive members of their communities.

President Bush's 2007 Budget seeks to continue this initiative. For the Department of Labor's activities, \$19.6 million has been requested to fund the third year of this four-year initiative.