

President Bush's 2006 Budget combines the resources of faith-based and community organizations and federal assistance to reduce the costs of reincarceration. For the Department of Labor, \$35 million has been requested to fund the second year of this four-year initiative.

First proposed in President Bush's 2004 State of the Union Address, the Prisoner Reentry Initiative (PRI) is designed to strengthen urban communities through an employment-centered program that incorporates short-term housing, mentoring, job training, and other transitional services. It calls for a collaborative effort among the Departments of Labor, Justice, and Housing and Urban Development. This program seeks to reduce recidivism by helping non-violent prisoners being released to find work and stable housing when they return to their communities.

- More than 600,000 adult inmates will complete their sentences and be released this 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 and support necessary to enter and compete in the workforce. PRI also draws on the unique strengths of faith-based and community-based organizations (FBCOs) and relies on them for social service delivery to ex-prisoners in the communities to which they are returning.
- To date, tremendous progress has been made in developing a competitive Solicitation for Grant Applications (SGA) for organizations vying for funds to reintegrate qualifying ex-prisoners into their communities.
- Congress approved \$30 million for PRI in the 2005 Omnibus Appropriations Act. Of the \$30 million appropriated, \$20 million is allocated for the Department of Labor and \$10 million is for the Department of Justice.

