



Prisoner Reentry Initiative (PRI)

FY 2006 Competitive Grant Announcement

State government agencies, including state Departments of Corrections and State Criminal Justice Administering Agencies, and federally recognized tribes. Funding is limited to jurisdictions in which grants were awarded to community- and faith-based organizations through the U.S. Department of Labor's FY 2005 Prisoner Reentry initiative.

DEADLINE

All PRI applications are due by 8:00 p.m. eastern time on January 26, 2006.

FOR ASSISTANCE

PRI Questions: Robert Hendricks, BJA Policy Advisor, at 202-305-1909
or robert.hendricks@usdoj.gov.

Technical Assistance: Grants.gov Customer Support Hotline at 1-800-518-4726.

ABOUT OJP

Since 1984 the U.S. Department of Justice's (DOJ) Office of Justice Programs (OJP) has provided federal leadership in developing the nation's capacity to prevent and control crime, improve the criminal and juvenile justice systems, increase knowledge about crime and related issues, and assist crime victims. Through the programs developed and funded by its bureaus and offices, OJP works to form partnerships among federal, state, and local government officials to control drug abuse and trafficking; reduce and prevent crime; rehabilitate neighborhoods; improve the administration of justice in America; meet the needs of crime victims; and address problems such as gang violence, prison crowding, juvenile crime, and white collar crime. OJP's senior management team—comprised of the Assistant Attorney General, the Deputy Assistant Attorney Generals, and the five bureau heads—works together with dedicated managers and line staff to carry out this mission.

ABOUT BJA

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, supports law enforcement, courts, corrections, treatment, victim services, technology, and prevention initiatives that strengthen the nation's criminal justice system. BJA provides leadership, services, and funding to America's communities by emphasizing local control; building relationships in the field; developing collaborations and partnerships; promoting capacity building through planning; streamlining the administration of grants; increasing training and technical assistance; creating accountability of projects; encouraging innovation; and ultimately communicating the value of justice efforts to decision makers at every level.

ABOUT THE PRISONER REENTRY INITIATIVE

Funding of qualified applicants submitted under this competitive grant announcement is contingent on the availability and amount of FY 2006 funding for the Prisoner Reentry Initiative.

Codified at 42 U.S.C. § 3797w, the Prisoner Reentry Initiative (PRI) strengthens urban communities characterized by large numbers of returning, nonviolent prisoners. With the support of several federal agencies, PRI is designed to reduce recidivism by helping returning inmates find work and access other critical services in their communities. On November 8, 2005, the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) awarded grants to faith- and community-based organizations (FB/CBOs) to develop an employment-centered program that incorporates mentoring, job training, and other transitional services to the offenders (see www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/eta/eta20052123list.htm). DOJ will subsequently award grants to state agencies to provide pre-release assessment, programming and services, transition planning, and post-release supervision and coordination of services for prisoners returning to communities served by DOL grants. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services will also assist in the design and implementation of the initiative regarding substance abuse and mental health treatment.

For more information on PRI activities, go to www.ojp.usdoj.gov/reentry/.

Target Population

PRI's target population includes individuals ages 18 and older convicted as an adult and imprisoned in a state or tribal prison or a tribal, regional, county, or local jail pursuant to state or tribal law, and who have never been convicted of a violent or sex-related offense. Jurisdictions unable to provide a sufficient pool of candidates for this target population may request a waiver from BJA to expand the target population to offenders who may have a violent offense in their record. Approval of such a request will require the use of a validated risk assessment tool and consideration of any prior violent offense.

★ To view the definition of a violent offender, see www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/42USC3797u-2.txt.

Award Phases

PRI supports strategies to deliver pre-release assessments and services, and to develop transition plans in collaboration with other justice and community-based agencies and providers for supervised and nonsupervised, nonviolent offenders. Grants will include an assessment/planning phase not to exceed 3 months following the award start date, with implementation occurring in the remaining project period.

Phase I: Assessment and Planning (Months 1-3)

- Select lead agency responsible for the operational aspects of the grant. Partner with the DOL-funded FB/CBO and others to establish a memorandum of agreement for roles and services.
- Establish a multidisciplinary advisory group including FB/CBO partners to inform reentry efforts between the DOJ/DOL grant recipients.
- Develop and implement offender screening and assessment processes using dynamic risk and needs assessment tools.
- Develop a written implementation plan for critical pre-release services to the target population and program participants.
- Develop and implement a transition planning process for each program participant, including the development of an individualized transition plan; type and level of pre-release services; coordination with FB/CBO, local law enforcement and/or a community supervision agency; and other local service and community organizations.

Phase II: Implementation (Months 4-24, or 4-36)

- Implement approved strategy in coordination with the advisory group and DOL-funded FB/CBO.
- Ensure at least 200 offenders successfully complete pre-release programming and participate in post-release community-based services; have over 200 individual transition plans implemented in collaboration with the FB/CBO; and provide supervision or periodic contact with law enforcement.
- Manage rigorous screening process for all potential candidates for effective participation, including use of eligibility criteria.
- Use a dynamic risk and need assessment process.
- Oversee pre-release programming and services, including coordination of pre-release orientation meetings with FB/CBO such as employment service providers and mentors.
- Coordinate transition services with the DOL-funded FB/CBO, law enforcement, community corrections, victim services, and other partners to ensure public safety.
- Design and implement a monitoring and evaluation plan to document implemented strategies and outcomes; develop or enhance information collection and analysis capacity beyond the grant period.
- Develop and implement approach to build support for sustainability after federal funding ends.

Eligibility

State government agencies, including state Departments of Corrections and State Criminal Justice Administering Agencies, and federally recognized tribes. *Funding is limited to jurisdictions in which grants were awarded to community- and faith-based organizations through the U.S. Department of Labor's FY 2005 Prisoner Reentry Initiative* (see www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/eta/eta20052123list.htm). State agencies are encouraged to partner with local and regional jails when submitting applications, or to serve as a passthrough for funding. All applicants must coordinate applications with their community- and faith-based partners.

Amount and Length of Awards

Up to 20 awards of \$450,000 will be made under the PRI program depending on the availability of funding. The minimum project period is 24 months; the maximum project period is 36 months.

Match Requirement

A minimum 25 percent match is required for PRI; federal funding for this project may not exceed 75 percent of the total project costs. Contributions may be cash, in-kind services, or a combination of both.

Review Process

All applications will be peer reviewed. The BJA Director will then make award recommendations to OJP's Assistant Attorney General, who will make final determinations.

HOW TO APPLY

OJP is participating in the e-Government initiative, one of 25 initiatives included in the President's Management Agenda. Grants.gov, part of this initiative, is a "storefront" that provides a unified process for all customers of federal grants to find funding opportunities and apply for funding. This fiscal year, OJP is requiring that all discretionary grant programs be administered through Grants.gov.

Complete instructions can be found at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/HowToApply.pdf. If you experience difficulties at any point during this process, please call the Grants.gov customer support hotline at 1-800-518-4726.

A Dun and Bradstreet (D&B) Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number must be included in every application. Organizations should verify that they have a DUNS number or take the steps necessary to obtain one. Applicants can receive a DUNS number at no cost by calling the dedicated toll-free DUNS number request line at 1-866-705-5711.

The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number for this solicitation is 16.202, titled "Prisoner Reentry Initiative Demonstration Grant."

ATTACHMENTS

Budget Detail Worksheet (Attachment 1)

Applicants must provide a budget that is allowable and reasonable. Applicants must submit a budget worksheet and budget narrative in one file. A fillable budget detail worksheet form is available on OJP's web site at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/Forms/budget_fillable.pdf. Applicants may contact the Office of the Comptroller's Customer Service Center at 1-800-458-0786 with any questions. Applicants must include travel costs for up to three committee members to attend three BJA-approved trips during the grant period.

Program Narrative (Attachment 2)

The program narrative must respond to the solicitation and the Selection Criteria (1 – 5) in the order given. Submissions that do not adhere to the format will be deemed ineligible. The program narrative must be double-spaced, using a standard 12-point font (Times New Roman is preferred) with 1-inch margins, and must not exceed 20 pages. Please number pages "1 of 20," "2 of 20," etc.

Project Timeline and Position Descriptions (Attachment 3)

Attach a *Project Timeline* with each project goal, related objective, activity, expected completion date, responsible person or organization; *Position Descriptions* for key positions; and *Letters of Support* from all key partners, detailing the commitment to work with PRI partners to promote the mission of the project.

- ★ The Letter of Support from the lead organization responsible for the operational aspects of the PRI must include (1) certification that the lead agency has consulted with other local parties, and (2) the following statement: "The agency agrees to provide individual criminal history information for all PRI participants to DOL PRI grantees and PRI evaluators, unless prohibited by law. These data will be provided in response to periodic requests from the grantees and evaluator throughout the period of performance of this project to capture both criminal history prior to the program enrollment and subsequent recidivism. The applicant also agrees to work with the DOL-funded FB/CBO to assist them in obtaining individual criminal history information about other returning offenders who may be served by the FB/CBO, but are not under the jurisdiction of the application, to the extent allowed by state law."

SELECTION CRITERIA

1. Need Statement (20 points)

Describe the problems with returning nonviolent offenders to the community. Include details on the target population, and describe the number and type of nonviolent offenders in facilities. Summarize the basic components of the state or county collaborative and the continuum of services corresponding to the individual's risk and needs assessment, including how inmate risk and needs assessments are currently implemented; transition plans; pre- and post-release programs and services such as job development, cognitive behavioral therapy, life skills, education, financial training, mental health and substance abuse treatment, and family counseling; transitional and permanent housing links; ongoing offender behavior assessments; and data collection and analysis for future efforts.

2. Program Design and Strategy (40 points)

Describe the proposed plan to implement the critical elements of the strategy, including assessment and planning activities; pre-release services; transition planning; and post-release supervision and services. Describe advisory committee activities to analyze current systems to screen and assess the nonviolent offender population; and pre-release services/coordination of orientation by FB/CBO partners help develop a transition plan for reintegration. Demonstrate how the implementation plan will be developed, executed, monitored, and evaluated. Finally, indicate how the plan will ensure that at least 200 offenders successfully complete pre-release programming and participate in community-based services on release, in collaboration with the DOL-funded FB/CBO.

3. Management and Organizational Capability (20 points)

Describe the management structure and staffing of the project, identifying the agency responsible for the project and the grant coordinator. Demonstrate the capability of the advisory group and partners to implement the project, including gathering and analyzing information, developing a plan, and evaluating the program. The management and organizational structure described should match the staff needs necessary to accomplish the tasks outlined in the implementation plan. The PRI advisory group must include institutional corrections and jails; parole; community corrections; local law enforcement; DOL FB/CBO; and other pre-release and community-based service and treatment providers. If there is a multidisciplinary committee in place to address offender reentry at the state level, indicate the length of time the committee has been together, the nature of the work, the frequency of meetings, and achievements to date.

4. Budget (10 points)

Provide a proposed budget that is complete and allowable (see Attachment 1).

5. Performance, Evaluation, and Sustainability (10 points)

Describe the process for assessing the initiative's effectiveness (see Performance Measures). Identify goals and objectives for program development, implementation, and outcomes. Describe how performance will be documented, monitored, and evaluated, and identify the impact of the strategy once implemented. Outline what data and information will be collected and describe how evaluation and collaborative partnerships will be leveraged to build long-term support and resources for the program. Discuss how this effort will be integrated into the state and local justice system plans or commitments to sustain the program after federal funding ends, and expected long-term results for the program.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

To ensure compliance with the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), Public Law 103-62, this solicitation notifies applicants that they are required to collect and report data which measures the results of the programs implemented with this grant. To ensure accountability of this data for which OJP is responsible, the following performance measures are provided:

PROGRAM GOAL	PERFORMANCE MEASURES	DATA TO BE PROVIDED BY GRANTEES
<p>Reduce recidivism rates for nonviolent offenders in the program and increase public safety.</p>	<p>1. Number of offenders in defined nonviolent target population (TP).</p>	<p>1a. Number of eligible nonviolent offenders (TP) selected for program participation.</p> <p>1b. Number of total eligible offenders not selected for participation in the Reentry program.</p> <p>1c. Total number of offenders (includes eligible nonviolent offenders and ineligible nonviolent offenders) from facilities used to draw and select TP.</p>
	<p>2. Increased number of offenders in TP who are assessed for risk and need while incarcerated.</p>	<p>2a. Number of offenders in TP undergoing risk and need assessments—from this, number recommended for pre-release services.</p> <p>2b. Number of offenders in TP undergoing risk and need assessments—from this, number <i>not</i> recommended for pre-release services.</p> <p>Note: This refers to a snapshot of actual assessments and referrals that occurred during reporting period and reported by service category.</p>
	<p>3. Increased number and type of pre-release services being provided to the offenders in TP in the following categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cognitive behavioral therapy or other counseling. • Life skills. • Employment. • Education. • Substance abuse. • Mental health. • Overall health. • Family. • Anger management. • Mentoring • Faith-based. • Other. 	<p>3. Number of offenders in TP receiving pre-release services while incarcerated.</p> <p>Type of service:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cognitive behavioral therapy or other counseling. • Life skills. • Employment. • Education. • Substance abuse. • Mental health. • Overall health. • Family. • Anger management. • Mentoring. • Faith-based. • Other. <p>Note: Provide one overall number and then the specific number in each category.</p>
	<p>4. Increased number of offenders in TP for whom a transition plan is developed.</p>	<p>4. Number of offenders in TP for whom a transition plan is developed:</p> <p>4a. of this number, number whose plan is provided to the DOL FB/CBO partner.</p> <p>4b. of this number, number of offenders referred to services with DOL FB/CBO partner.</p>

	5. Number of offenders in the TP who successfully complete the pre-release program.	5. Number of offenders in the TP who successfully complete a pre-release risk or need assessment, participate in all assigned pre-release services, and obtain a transition plan.
	6. Number of offenders in the TP under criminal supervision post-release.	6. Number of offenders in the TP who are subject to some term of supervision upon release from the facility.
	7. Number of sites with collaborative partnership with the DOL FB/CBO partners.	7a. Number of meetings of the Advisory Group during the reporting period. 7b. Total number of attendees at the Advisory Group meetings. 7c. Number of new members to the Advisory Group. Note: These numbers are for the snapshot of the reporting period.
	8. Reduction in recidivism rate.	8. Number of participating offenders from the TP who, on release: 8a. are re-convicted for a new crime; or 8b. are re-incarcerated for a violation of terms of sentence. Grantees will also need to collect: 8c. those who otherwise violated the terms and condition of their sentence, however, this will not be included in the definition of recidivism. Note: Each offender should be counted only once in this number.

For more information on reentry performance measures and data, visit OJP's Bureau of Justice Statistics' web site at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/reentry/reentry.htm.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

Applications for the PRI program are due by 8 p.m. eastern time on January 26, 2006. Faxed or mailed applications or supplemental materials will not be accepted.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Successful applicants must agree to comply with certain requirements prior to receiving grant funding, including Civil Rights Compliance, Anti-Lobbying Act, Funding to Faith-Based and Community Organizations (if applicable), Information Technology Compliance (if applicable), Confidentiality and Human Subjects Protection (if applicable), and the National Environmental Policy Act (if applicable). For more information, go to www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/OtherReq.pdf.

The OJP *Financial Guide*, which governs the administration of funds, contains information on allowable costs, methods of payment, audit requirements, accounting systems, and financial records, is available on the OJP web site at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/FinGuide.

For general information about BJA programs, training, and technical assistance, contact BJA at 202-616-6500 or toll free at 1-866-859-2687, or visit the BJA home page at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA.

For specific information about this solicitation, contact Robert Hendricks, BJA Policy Advisor, at 202-305-1909 or robert.hendricks@usdoj.gov.

For technical assistance with submitting the application, call the Grants.gov customer support hotline at 1-800-518-4726.