

**Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA)  
Prisoner Reentry Initiative  
FY 2008 Competitive Grant Announcement  
Frequently Asked Questions**

**1. Who is eligible to apply?**

Eligible applicants are limited to state government agencies, including state Departments of Corrections and State Criminal Justice Administering Agencies, and federally recognized Indian tribes.

**2. Are local government agencies, including local and regional jails, eligible to apply?**

No, but state agencies are encouraged to partner with local and regional jails when applying, or to serve as the pass-through agency for funding programs at the local level.

**3. Can the grant be used for pre- and/or post-release services?**

The 70 percent of funds allotted to the grantee can be used for both pre-and post-release services. However, the remaining 30 percent of funds must be provided to a selected faith-based or community organization (FBCO) for post-release services only. Within this 70 percent to the grantee, agencies are encouraged to use grant funds for both pre- and post-release services, as well as transition planning, assessments, and post-release supervision.

**4. What types of pre- and post-release services under the 70 percent allotment are recommended?**

Some examples of these pre- and post-release services include cognitive behavioral therapy or other counseling, life skills, employment, education, substance abuse, mental health, and other services.

**5. Can a FBCO apply for funding?**

No, but they should contact eligible state agencies or federally recognized Indian tribes to encourage partnerships that can seek funding under the solicitation.

**6. What portion of the grant is required for distribution to the FBCO?**

Every Department of Justice (BJA) PRI grantee will also be required to award a minimum of 30 percent of their funds to one FBCO of their choosing for post-release services to eligible offenders in the program.

**7. Can the FBCO portion of the grant be used for pre- and/or post-release services?**

No, the FBCO portion of the grant must be used for post-release services only.

**8. Is the 30 percent provided to the selected FBCO under the DOJ (BJA) award separate and above the Department of Labor (DOL) award?**

Yes, the DOJ (BJA) award is separate and above the DOL award. However, the DOJ grantee may select and subgrant these funds to the DOL-selected FBCO.

**9. What types of FBCO post-release services are recommended?**

It is recommended that the FBCO post-release services be focused on vocational/employment-related services.

**10. Are both non-violent and violent offenders eligible for services under this grant?**

Yes, both types of offenders can be served. However, no sexual offenders will be eligible for services.

**11. What is the definition of "urban communities" under this announcement?**

The definition of "urban community" is based on the applicant's region and for their interpretation. For example, is the area a major city within the applicant's state? It is recommended that applicants be

confident there is a FBCO that can manage the 30 percent requirement and the targeted population within this area as well.

**12. Do the grants have to include both phases?**

Yes, the application must include information on how they will implement both phases: assessment and planning (months 1-3) and implementation (months 4-24, or 4-36).

**13. Must we have an advisory group?**

Yes, you must have a multidisciplinary team in place.

**14. Is the grant funded for 1, 2, or 3 years?**

That is determined by the applying agency, but the maximum length of time is 24 months (2 years). The budget and budget narrative must accurately reflect how the funds will be allocated over the term of the grant.

**15. What is the match requirement?**

A 25 percent match is required either through cash or in-kind contributions. The source of the match must be accurately described in the application.

**16. If a state received a Prisoner Reentry Initiative grant in conjunction with the Department of Labor Prisoner Reentry Initiative Grant in 2007, is the state eligible to apply for a Prisoner Reentry Initiative grant for FY 2008?**

Yes, the state is still eligible to apply for the current FY 2008 program.

**17. Does the review process afford preference to those applicants that go above and beyond the match requirement and/or provide cash match as opposed to in-kind?**

No, the peer review process is based on the selection criteria as stated in the solicitation. The peer review panel will ensure that match requirement is met but will not give preference to applicants that provide additional match or cash as opposed to in-kind match. Applicants may use cash, in-kind, or both as sources to meet match requirements.

**18. When is the grant start date?**

Proposed project dates should be on or after April 1, 2008. BJA expects to begin making awards after April 1, 2008.