

The Reintegration of Ex-Offenders initiative is designed to strengthen urban communities through competitively awarded employment-centered grants that holistically address the multiple challenges facing adult and youth offenders upon their release.

- Post-incarceration unemployment among adult ex-prisoners has been estimated at between 25 and 40 percent.
- Young people in the juvenile justice system typically score between 5th and 7th grades in reading and between 5th and 9th grades in math, presenting a significant hurdle in furthering their education or competing for jobs, especially those that lead to a career.
- In order to successfully reintegrate, ex-offenders must possess the skills necessary to enter and compete in the workforce, and they must have access to the education and training to build those skills.

Reintegration of Ex-Offenders addresses these challenges by combining the funding and resources of the President's Prisoner Re-entry Initiative (PRI) and Responsible Reintegration of Youthful Offenders into a single program. The new consolidated program would avoid duplicative funding and would promote the use of the robust system for tracking program performance developed by PRI. It also would focus intensively on the adoption of specific practices developed through Responsible Reintegration of Youthful Offenders initiatives and PRI that have shown great promise in boosting employment and reducing recidivism among those most at-risk for it.

President Bush's 2008 Budget requests \$39.6 million for the Reintegration of Ex-Offenders along these lines:

- For juvenile ex-offenders, \$20 million would be used to build basic literacy and numeracy skills and for the completion of secondary education through alternative pathways, leading to credentialing, pre-apprenticeship, and apprenticeship programs, as well as career opportunities
- For adult ex-offenders, \$19.6 million would be used to help ex-offenders find immediate employment through grants made to faith-based and community organizations. Education and training services would be provided to enhance future career opportunities, while supportive services, such as mentoring, housing assistance and mental health counseling, would be provided through partnerships developed with state and local social service providers.

