

Archived Information

STATE GRANTS FOR INCARCERATED YOUTH OFFENDERS

Goal: To increase access to and achievement in correctional education programs that will aid in the reintegration of prisoners into their communities.	Funding History (\$ in millions)			
	Fiscal Year	Appropriation	Fiscal Year	Appropriation
Legislation: Higher Education Act (HEA) of 1998, P.L. 105-244 (20 U.S.C. 1151).	1985	\$0	2000	\$14
	1990	\$0	2001	\$17
	1995	\$0	2002 (Requested)	\$17

Program Description

The State Grants for Incarcerated Youth Offenders program provides financial assistance to eligible entities to help them establish, improve, and expand post secondary education and post secondary training programs in correctional facilities serving youth, age 25 or younger. The purpose is to help correctional facilities establish and operate programs designed to reduce recidivism through the development and improvement of literacy and work skills necessary for reintegration into society.

Under this formula grant program, authorized by the Higher Education Act, the U.S. Department of Education awards grants to state correctional education agencies to provide postsecondary educational services to incarcerated youth offenders who are within five years of release or parole; and serving their sentence in a state prison. These programs assist and encourage incarcerated youths to acquire functional literacy, life, and job skills through the pursuit of a postsecondary education certificate or an associates or bachelor's degree while in prison. In addition, employment counseling and other related services may begin during the period of incarceration and continue through prerelease and while on parole.

The program was funded in FY 2000. Forty-five projects were funded at correctional education facilities during the first year. FY 2001 funds will be used for continuation grants for the 45 existing projects and for new grants to eligible entities.

The Incarcerated Youth Offenders grants are monitored by the Department's Office of Correctional Education (OCE) which also provides technical support to state and local education agencies and schools funded by the Bureau of Indian Affairs on correctional education programs and curricula.

For more information, please visit the program Web site at: <http://www.ed.gov/offices/OVAE/OCE/index.html>

Program Performance

OBJECTIVE 1: GRANTEES WILL DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT IMPROVED EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS THAT INCLUDE POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING.

Indicator 1.1 Improved vocational and academic achievement: By Fall 2002, increasing percentages of students participating in vocational and academic programs will complete their annual program curriculum.				
Targets and Performance Data		Assessment of Progress	Sources and Data Quality	
<i>Students completing a postsecondary education certificate, associate of arts or bachelor's degree in the facility during the program year</i>		<p>Status: Positive trend toward target.</p> <p>Explanation: Performance targets were not met due to the recent start up of the programs, with most – if not all – programs requiring more than one year for completion. Moreover, actual performance data are based on only 18 of 45 funded states and, therefore, may not represent the completion rates of students enrolled in these programs nationally. At the same time, performance targets were adjusted to better align with annual expectations of progress.</p>	<p>Source: Grantee evaluation reports. <i>Frequency:</i> Annually. <i>Next collection update:</i> 2002 (for 2001 data). <i>Date to be reported:</i> January 2002.</p> <p>Validation Procedure: The Department will validate data through the use of National Center for Education Statistics review procedures and Statistical Standards.</p> <p>Limitations of Data and Planned Improvements: Data are based on students in continuous enrollment. Calculations of completion, therefore, are based on an ever-changing number of students enrolled, rather than a single cohort. Planned improvements for data collection include investigating whether a single cohort of students can be selected and tracked to more effectively calculate completions over time.</p>	
Year	Actual Performance			Performance Targets
1999:	No Data Available			
2000:	25.5%			75%
2001:				30%
2002:		35%		

OBJECTIVE 2: IMPROVE ACCESS TO POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION AND JOB PLACEMENT PROGRAMS FOR INCARCERATED PERSONS TO HELP OFFENDERS REINTEGRATE INTO THEIR COMMUNITIES AFTER RELEASE.

Indicator 2.1 Increased employment rates following release: By Fall 2002, 50 percent of participants will be employed upon their release.				
Targets and Performance Data		Assessment of Progress	Sources and Data Quality	
<i>Percent of participants entering employment within one month of their release.</i>		<p>Status: No 2000 data.</p> <p>Explanation: Performance targets are likely, given the increasing percentages of participants that are expected to earn a postsecondary education certificate, associate of arts, or bachelor's degree during their incarceration period (average five years). These credentials are expected to make students more employable immediately upon their release.</p>	<p>Source: Grantee evaluation reports. <i>Frequency:</i> Annually. <i>Next collection update:</i> 2002 (for 2000 data) <i>Date to be reported:</i> January 2002.</p> <p>Validation Procedure: The Department will validate data through the use of National Center for Education Statistics review procedures and Statistical Standards.</p> <p>Limitations of Data and Planned Improvements: Data will be based on a fluctuating numbers of students being released annually. Calculations of employment, therefore, will be based on an ever-changing number of students released during the year, rather than on a single cohort. Planned</p>	
Year	Actual Performance			Performance Targets
1999:	No Data Available			
2000:	No Data Available			
2001:				50%
2002:				

Targets and Performance Data				Assessment of Progress	Sources and Data Quality
					improvements for data collection include investigating whether a single cohort of students can be selected and tracked to more effectively calculate employment rates over time. Grantees are reporting technical issues obtaining reliable post release employment data. States are attempting to develop and implement data sharing agreements to resolve this issue.
Indicator 2.2 Improved recidivism rates: By Fall 2002, recidivism rates for participants will be 10 percent lower than for a comparison group.					
Targets and Performance Data				Assessment of Progress	Sources and Data Quality
<i>Percent of participants and non-participants recidivism one year following their release.</i>				<p>Status: No 2000 data.</p> <p>Explanation: Performance targets are likely, given the increasing percentages of participants that are expected to earn a postsecondary education certificate, associate of arts, or bachelor's degree during their incarceration period (average five years) and then be employed immediately following release. Equipped with a credential and job, participants are expected to be less likely than non-participants to be re-incarcerated.</p>	<p>Source: Correctional Education Study. <i>Frequency:</i> Annually. <i>Next collection update:</i> 2002 (for 2000 data) <i>Date to be reported:</i> January 2002.</p> <p>Validation Procedure: The Department will validate data through the use of National Center for Education Statistics review procedures and Statistical Standards.</p> <p>Limitations of Data and Planned Improvements: Data will be based on a fluctuating numbers of students being released annually. Calculations of recidivism, therefore, will be based on an ever-changing number of students released during the year, rather than on a single cohort. Planned improvements for data collection include investigating whether a single cohort of students can be selected and tracked to more effectively calculate recidivism over time.</p>
Year	Actual Performance		Performance Targets		
	Participants	Comparison group	Net difference		
1999:	No Data Available				
2000:	No Data Available				
2001:					
2002:					