



Understanding the Second Chance Act

Adult and Juvenile State and Local Reentry Demonstration Project Grants (Section 101)

Background

On April 9, 2008, President George W. Bush signed the Second Chance Act ([P.L. 110-199](#)) into law. The bill received bipartisan support from both chambers of Congress and a broad spectrum of leaders representing state and local government, law enforcement, corrections, and courts. This first-of-its-kind legislation authorizes various grants to government agencies and nonprofit organizations to provide employment assistance, substance abuse treatment, housing, family programming, mentoring, victims support, and other services that can help reduce recidivism.

This fact sheet is intended to help state, local, and tribal governments prepare to apply for Demonstration Project grants to provide reentry services to juveniles and adults.¹ The [fiscal year \(FY\) 2010 solicitation for Adult and Juvenile Reentry Demonstration Project grants](#) was released by the U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance and Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention on December 22, 2009. Applications are due on March 4, 2010.²

Section 101

Section 101 of the Second Chance Act reauthorizes the Department of Justice to make grants to state and local governments and Indian tribes for Adult and Juvenile Offender State and Local Reentry Demonstration Projects, which are intended to help states and communities test ways to reduce recidivism. The demonstration grants are *authorized* at \$55 million per year, although the appropriations process will determine the actual funding level of the program. In FY 2010, \$37 million was appropriated for Section 101 grant programs.

Who Can Apply?

States, units of local government, territories, and Indian tribes may apply for Demonstration Project grants to support programs that promote the safe and successful reintegration of individuals who have been incarcerated.

¹ For information about other Second Chance Act grant programs, see www.nationalreentryresourcecenter.org/about/second-chance-act.

² The solicitation, as well as other information about the Second Chance Act, is available at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/SecondChance.html.

Allowable Uses

Demonstration grants may be awarded to support

- actuarial-based assessment instruments for reentry planning;³
- efforts to target criminogenic needs that affect recidivism (e.g., anti-social behavior or high-conflict cognitive behavior patterns; limited pro-social supports; substance abuse; unemployment; lack of residential stability);
- sustained case planning/management in the community;
- a comprehensive range of services (e.g., cognitive behavioral therapy; educational, literacy, vocational, and job placement services; substance abuse treatment; housing placement; mental and physical health care services; family services; and mentoring).

Mandatory Requirements

The law includes mandatory requirements that state, local, and tribal governments must meet to be selected under the grant program. **Applications that do not meet these requirements will not be considered.**

Each applicant must

- have the explicit support of the chief executive officer of the state, unit of local government, territory, or Indian tribe applying for the grant;
- provide discussion of the role of corrections in ensuring successful reentry, and include letters of support from the corrections officials responsible for facilities or individuals to be served through this project;
- discuss the role of local governmental agencies, nonprofit organizations, and community stakeholders that will be coordinated by the applicant to collaborate on the reentry strategy, with certification of the involvement of such agencies and organizations;
- provide evidence of collaboration with local law enforcement agencies and state and local government agencies overseeing health, mental health, housing, child welfare, education, substance abuse, victims services, and employment services;
- provide a plan for analysis and identification of regulatory and statutory hurdles to reintegration into the community;
- describe the evidence-based methodology and outcome measures that will be used to evaluate the program;
- include documentation reflecting the establishment of a reentry task force;
- provide a comprehensive reentry plan that describes the long-term strategy, including measurable annual and 5-year performance outcomes, relating to the ultimate goals of increasing public safety and reducing recidivism. This plan must incorporate a detailed reentry implementation schedule and sustainability plan for the program;
- describe how the project could be replicated broadly.

Applicants should also be aware that grantees will be required to report annually on the progress of their project at achieving

- reductions in recidivism rates;
- decreases in crime;
- increases in employment and education opportunities;
- reductions in violations of conditions of supervised release;

³ The solicitation encourages the use of “fourth-generation risk/needs assessment tools,” which more thoroughly integrate assessments with case management planning than previous instruments have. (Source: Public Safety Canada. March, 2008. “Advances in Offender Risk Management,” Research Summary, Vol. 13 No. 2, accessed December 29, 2009, www.publicsafety.gc.ca/res/cor/sum/cprs200803-eng.aspx.)

- increases in payment of child support;
- increases in housing placement;
- reductions in drug and alcohol abuse;
- increases in participation in substance abuse and mental health services.

Juvenile demonstration grantees must also report on the progress of their project at achieving

- improvements in pro-social behaviors;
- increases in community connectivity (i.e., youth involved in community activities);
- increases in use of evidence-based programs.

Priority Considerations

The law directs the U.S. Attorney General to give priority to grant applications that

- demonstrate a high degree of collaboration among public, private, and faith-based organizations;
- focus on geographic areas with a disproportionate population of individuals released from prisons, jails, or juvenile facilities;
- use validated assessment tools to target high-risk individuals (i.e., sex offenders, mentally ill individuals, or individuals who have been dually diagnosed with major mental disorders and alcohol or substance addictions) for participation in the funded program;
- include input from nonprofit organizations, when available and appropriate;
- reflect consultations with crime victims and people who have been released from prisons, jails, or juvenile facilities;
- show coordination with families of people who are or have been incarcerated;
- demonstrate effective case assessment and management abilities to provide comprehensive and continuous reentry, including
 - using an actuarial-based assessment instrument for reentry planning that targets criminogenic needs, and provide sustained case management and reentry services during incarceration and for at least six months following release;
 - prerelease planning and transition housing;
 - establishing prerelease planning procedures to ensure that the eligibility of an individual for federal or state benefits on release is established prior to release, and to ensure that prisoners obtain all necessary referrals for reentry services;
 - delivering continuous and appropriate drug treatment, medical care, job training and placement, educational services, or any other service or support needed for successful reentry;
- use swift, certain, graduated, and proportionate responses to violations of parole, probation, or supervision and effectively incorporate the use of community-based sanctions to respond to violations;
- provide for an independent evaluation of reentry programs that include, to the extent possible, random assignment and controlled studies to determine the effectiveness of such programs.

Applicants who target a more serious offending population will be given priority, even if their overall number of offenders is smaller. For those applicants not supporting a high-risk target group, the number of targeted offenders must be higher.

Reentry Task Force

States, counties, cities, or tribes that apply for Demonstration Project grant funds must have established a reentry task force to guide the jurisdiction in reentry-related efforts. The law specifies that each task force must include state, tribal, or local leaders and representatives from relevant agencies, service providers, nonprofit organizations, and other stakeholders. The task force should be charged

with examining ways to pool resources and funding streams and collecting data and best practices in reentry from stakeholder agencies and organizations.

Matching Requirement

Demonstration Project applicants are required to commit to providing 50 percent of the total proposed project budget. Of that match, half (25 percent of the total proposed project budget) can be met through in-kind contributions of goods or services for the project and the other half (also 25 percent of the total proposed project budget) must be in dollars. The proposed project funding must supplement, not supplant, existing monies spent on reentry. Applicants must identify the non-federal source of the 25 percent cash contribution and how all matching funds will be used.

Matching Requirement Example

Total cost of project = \$100

Match equation:

\$50	Federal Demonstration Project grant
+ \$25	In-kind contribution from grantee (staff time, equipment)
<u>+ \$25</u>	Dollar match by grantee
\$100	Total cost of project

In fiscal year 2010, Congress has authorized the Department of Justice to waive the cash match requirement upon a determination of fiscal hardship. That determination will be made on a case-by-case basis, and grantees that receive a waiver will be required to provide an in-kind match that amounts to 50 percent of their total project budget. To request a waiver, applicants should submit a one-page memo or letter of justification from the chief executive of their agency. They may submit a project budget that reflects the assumption that they'll receive the waiver, and includes a 50 percent in-kind match.

For More Information

The [National Reentry Resource Center](http://www.nationalreentryresourcecenter.org) (NRRC), established by the Second Chance Act and administered by the [Bureau of Justice Assistance, U.S. Department of Justice](http://www.bureauofjusticeassistance.gov), provides education, training, and technical assistance to states, tribes, territories, local governments, service providers, nonprofit organizations, and corrections institutions working on prisoner reentry. To receive updates when new resources become available, please subscribe to the NRRC newsletter at www.nationalreentryresourcecenter.org/account/subscriptions.

The NRRC is a project of the [Council of State Governments Justice Center](http://www.councilofstategovernments.org) in partnership with the Urban Institute, Association of State Correctional Administrators, and the American Probation and Parole Association. The NRRC is also guided by an [advisory board](#), which helps coordinate support and services for Second Chance Act grantees and the reentry field. For more information about the National Reentry Resource Center or the Second Chance Act, please visit www.nationalreentryresourcecenter.org.