



the NATIONAL REENTRY
RESOURCE CENTER

— A project of the CSG Justice Center —

Second Chance Act Grants: Guidance for Mentoring Grant Applicants

Brought to you by the National Reentry Resource Center and the
Bureau of Justice Assistance, U.S. Department of Justice

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The Second Chance Act

- Public Law 110-199 signed into law on April 8, 2008
- Authorizes \$165 million for prisoner reentry programs in fiscal years 2009 and 2010, including \$15 million for mentoring grants to nonprofit organizations
- Purpose: to help states and communities reduce recidivism



Second Chance Act – Funding Status

The FY2010 omnibus appropriations bill provides \$100 million for Second Chance programs, including \$15 million for mentoring grants to nonprofit organizations.

State and Local Reentry Demonstration Project Grants

- Section 101 of the Second Chance Act authorizes grants to state and local governments and federally recognized Indian tribes that may be used for demonstration projects to promote the safe and successful reintegration into the community of individuals who have been incarcerated.
- Joint BJA/OJJDP demonstration grant solicitation was released on December 22, 2009.
- Applications are due on March 4, 2010.
- Solicitation is available at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/10BJA_JJ_SecondChanceDemonstrationSol.pdf.

Mentoring Grants to Nonprofit Organizations

- Section 211 of the Second Chance Act authorizes grants to nonprofit organizations and Indian tribes for the purpose of providing mentoring and other transitional services essential to reintegrating individuals released from prisons or jails into the community.
- BJA released a solicitation for mentoring grants for **adult populations** on January 19, 2010.
- Applications are due on **March 18, 2010**.
- Solicitation is available at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/10SecondChanceMentoringSol.pdf.

Who Can Apply?

Nonprofit organizations and federally recognized Indian tribes are eligible to apply for grants under Section 211.

Funding under this solicitation is only available for projects serving individuals aged 18 and older convicted as an adult and imprisoned in a state, local, or tribal prison or jail.

Application Requirements

Program components of a project proposal must include

- mentoring individuals during incarceration, through transition back to the community, and post-release;
- transitional services to assist in the reintegration of individuals into the community;
- training regarding offender and victims issues.

Training Requirement

A project proposed under this solicitation must have a training component, which must be offered to potential and active mentors. The content should be designed to

- enhance their knowledge of the criminal justice system as a whole;
- acquaint them with appropriate governing policy and procedures of the correctional agencies/facilities referring clients;
- develop or improve skills such as interpersonal communication to enhance their effectiveness as mentors;
- increase awareness and sensitivity of victim-related issues;
- provide information on available transitional services and referral procedures to other agencies/organizations;
- develop or enhance the level of professionalism and adherence to accepted ethical standards of practice.

Target Population

- The target population for the initiative must be a specific subset of the population aged 18 and older convicted as an adult and imprisoned in a state, local, or tribal prison or jail.
- Applicants must identify and define the specific subset of individuals, or combinations of subsets, that are proposed to be the target population of their project.
- Applicants must provide the reason for selecting this population and provide data to support the decision.
- Applicants must demonstrate and document an established collaborative relationship with a correctional agency/facility/institution.

Priority Consideration

Priority consideration will be given to grant applications that

- include a plan to implement activities that have been demonstrated effective in facilitating successful reentry;
- include a plan or strategy for recruiting, training and supervising or monitoring volunteer mentors;
- discuss the role of local governmental agencies, other nonprofit organizations, and community stakeholders that will collaborate on project implementation;
- provide a description of the evidence-based methodology to be used in the delivery of mentoring and other proposed transitional services;
- provide a description of how the project could be broadly replicated if demonstrated to be effective;
- include a discussion of the role of state or local corrections departments, community corrections agencies, and/or local jail systems in ensuring successful reentry and how mentoring, transitional, and training services provided under this project will be integrated into the overall reentry strategy;
- include a plan to promote the sustainability of the project once federal funding ceases.

Selection Criteria

- Statement of the Problem (20%)
- Program Design and Implementation (30%)
- Capabilities/Competencies (30%)
- Budget (10%)
- Impact/Outcomes, Evaluation, and Sustainability (10%)

Statement of the Problem

- Describe the problems with adults returning to the community from prisons or jails
- Indicate the jurisdiction or tribal community to be served
- Include details on the target population, the number of individuals returning to the community from prisons or jails, and the number and type of individuals in facilities

Statement of the Problem

- Summarize the basic components of the state, local, or tribal reentry initiative as currently being implemented.
- Describe the existing continuum or menu of services (pre- and post-release) available to offenders corresponding to the individual's risk and need assessment.
 - Such services might include: job development, cognitive behavioral therapy, life skills (including financial training), education, mental health and substance abuse treatment, family counseling, transitional and permanent housing links and ongoing offender behavior assessments.
 - Identify projected “service gaps.”
- Describe how the mentoring program proposed in the project application will interface with the existing reentry process

Program Design and Implementation

- Describe in detail how the mandatory requirements (mentoring, transitional services, and training) will be satisfied.
- If your application includes any elements that warrant priority consideration, describe those elements in this section.

Capabilities/Competencies

- Describe the organizational structure, capabilities, and competencies of the applicant nonprofit organization/agency. This should include a historical perspective on how the organization is positioned to provide mentoring and transitional services throughout the entire reentry process from pre-release to post-release community support.
- Describe the management structure and staffing of the project, identifying the agency responsible for the project and the grant coordinator. The management and organizational structure described should match the staff needs necessary to accomplish the tasks outlined in the project implementation plan.

Budget

- Contingent upon the availability of funds and the number of individuals to be served, awards of up to \$300,000 will be made for a period of up to 24 months.
- A match is not required, but applicants are strongly encouraged to provide a 25 percent in-kind match in the form of contributions of goods or services that are directly related to the purpose for which the grant was awarded. The applicant must identify the source of the 25 percent non-federal portion of the budget and how the in-kind match will be used.

Future Eligibility

A grantee may be eligible for continued funding contingent upon the availability of funds and demonstration of adequate progress toward meeting established goals of the program.

Impact/Outcomes, Evaluation, and Sustainability

- Describe the process for assessing the project's effectiveness.
- Identify goals and objectives for program development, implementation, and outcomes.
- Describe how performance will be documented, monitored, and evaluated, and identify the impact of each 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.

Required Performance Measures

- Percent decrease in recidivism rates for the target population since the beginning of the initiative
 - Recidivism is defined as “a return to prison and/or jail with either a new conviction or as the result of a violation of the terms of supervision within 12 months of initial release.”
- Percent reduction in the crime rate
- Percent increase in employment among the target population from the previous reporting period
- Percent increase in enrollment in educational programs among target population
- Reduction in the number of violations of conditions of supervised release
- Percent increase in fulfillment of child support among target population
- Increase in the number of target population who have obtained housing
- Percent increase in participation in mental health and substance abuse services
- Percent reduction in drug usage and alcohol abuse and consumption among target population during the reporting period

Sustainability

- Discuss how this project will be integrated into the state and local justice system plans or commitments, how the program will be financially sustained after federal funding ends, and the expected long-term results for the program.
- Describe the strategy/methodology for tracking offenders assigned to the project for as long as they are actively involved.

For more information

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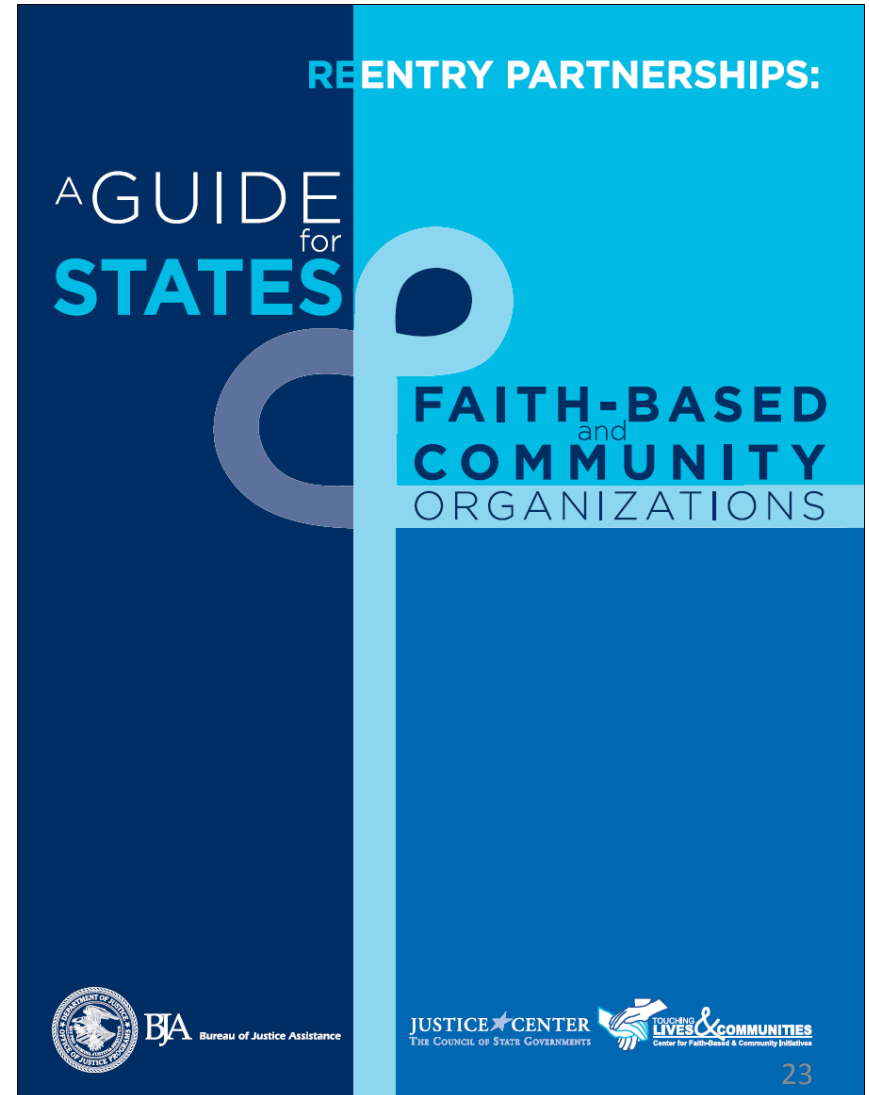
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Resources and Tools

*Reentry Partnerships:
A Guide for States &
Faith-Based and
Community
Organizations*

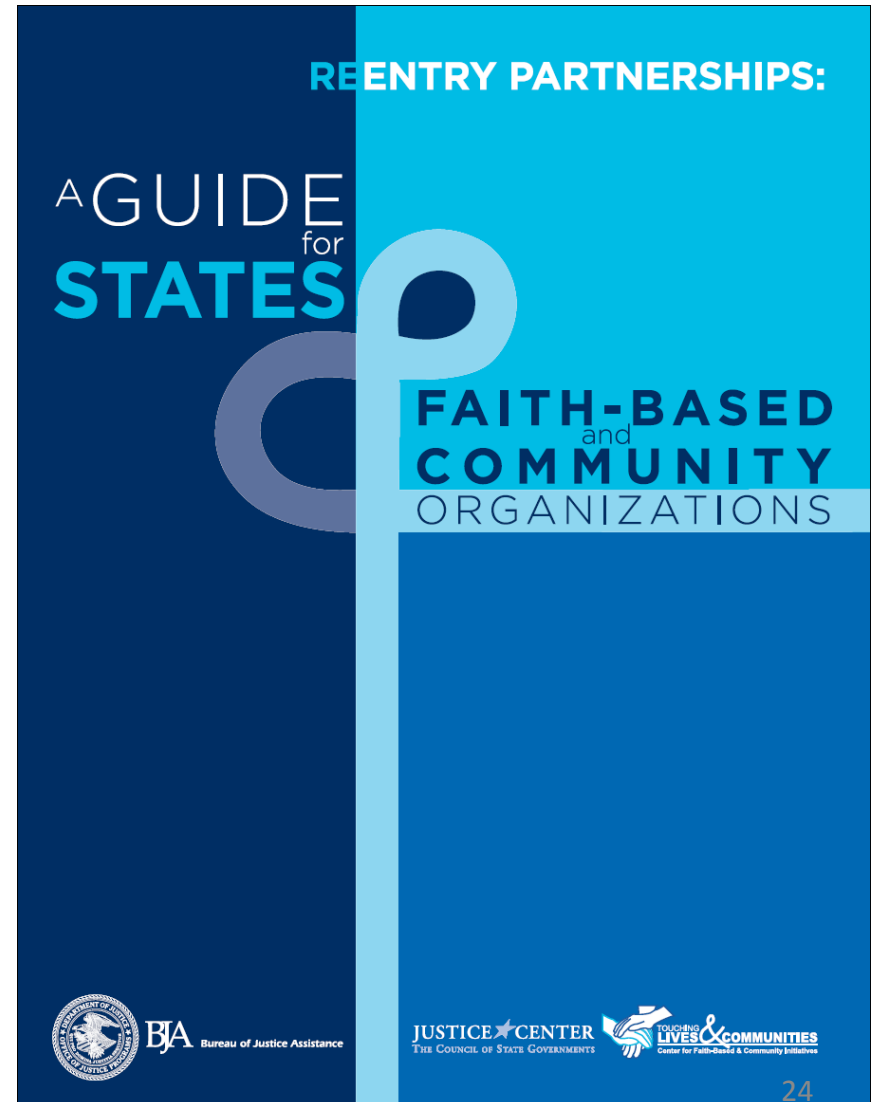
Available at

www.reentrypolicy.org



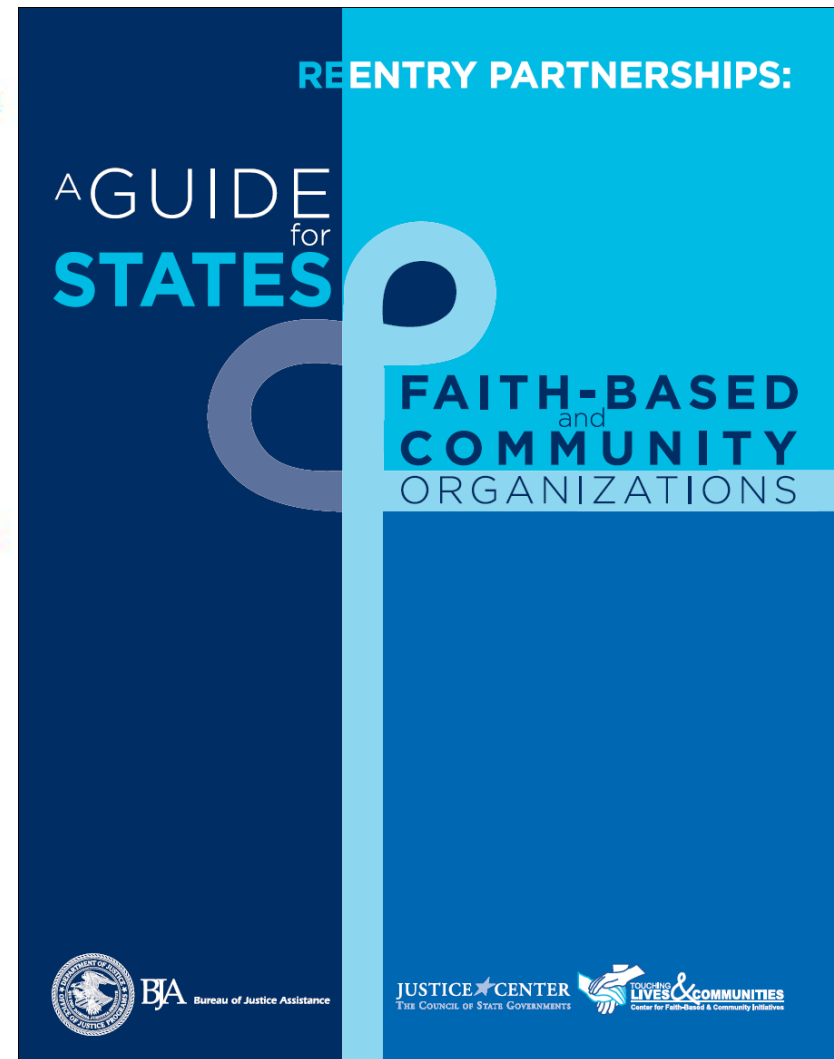
Common Obstacles to Collaboration

1. Fragmented networks
2. Complicated processes for funding procurement
3. Distinct values, goals, and institutional cultures
4. Divergent target populations for reentry programs/initiatives
5. Rigorous standards for tracking data and reporting outcomes



Policy Goals & Recommendations

- GOAL **1** | Build and Sustain Comprehensive Networks with Faith-Based and Community Organizations
- GOAL **2** | Simplify Pathways to Funding for Reentry Initiatives
- GOAL **3** | Recognize and Understand Distinct Organizational Cultures
- GOAL **4** | Tailor Responses to the Population Who Will Be Served by a Reentry Initiative
- GOAL **5** | Ensure Accountability for the Efficient Use of Funds and Gather Critical Data



Questions and Answers



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This presentation was prepared by the Council of State Governments Justice Center, in partnership with Gary Dennis, Senior Policy Advisor to the Bureau of Justice Assistance, U.S. Department of Justice. Presentations are not externally reviewed for form or content. The statements reflect the views of the authors and should not be considered the official position of the CSG Justice Center, the members of the Council of State Governments, the Public Welfare Foundation, the Joyce Foundation, or the Annie E. Casey Foundation.