



the NATIONAL REENTRY
RESOURCE CENTER

— *A project of the CSG Justice Center* —

Second Chance Act Grants: Technology Career Training Demonstration Projects

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

Speakers

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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
- Purpose: to help states and communities reduce recidivism



Second Chance Act – Funding Status

The FY2011 omnibus appropriations bill has yet to be enacted, however the Bureau of Justice Assistance is cautiously optimistic that Congress will provide some level of continuing support for Second Chance Act programs.

Please subscribe to the NRRC newsletter (at <http://www.nationalreentryresourcecenter.org/>) to receive updates on the funding status for this and other SCA grant programs as they become available.

Section 115: Technology Careers Training Demonstration Projects

- This solicitation was released on January 4, 2011.
- Applications are due by 11:59 pm EST on **March 3, 2011**.
- Solicitation and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) are available at the following websites:
 - <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/11SCATechCareersSol.pdf>
 - <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/11SCATechCareersFAQ.pdf>

Eligibility

- Section 115 of the Second Chance Act authorizes federal awards to states, units of local government, territories, and federally recognized Indian tribes (as determined by the Secretary of the Interior) to provide technology career training to incarcerated adults and juveniles.
- Entities that do not meet this eligibility requirement (i.e. non-profit organizations, etc.) are not eligible to apply for this solicitation. However, applicants can form collaborative partnerships with non-eligible entities for the project implementation. These partnerships are referenced within the Priority Considerations and Capabilities/Competencies section of the solicitation.
- Awarded funds may be used for establishing a technology careers training program to train incarcerated adults and juveniles for technology-based jobs and careers during the 3-year period before release from a prison, jail, or juvenile facility.

Target Population

- The target population should be incarcerated adults and juveniles within a 3-year period before release from a prison, jail, or juvenile facility.
- The target population must be a specific subset of the population of individuals convicted as an adult or adjudicated as a juvenile, and incarcerated in a state, local, or tribal prison, jail, or a juvenile detention/correctional facility, a juvenile camp, a juvenile community-based program, or a juvenile residential facility.
- For federally recognized Indian tribes, the individuals may be housed in a tribal, state, regional, county, or local jail facility pursuant to state or tribal law.
- Applicants must provide justification for selecting the target population and provide supporting documentation for their decision.

Mandatory Requirements

- Restrict access to the Internet by incarcerated persons, as appropriate, to ensure public safety.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the value of technological training for offenders reentering the community from prisons, jails, and juvenile facilities
- Specify and include a process or plan for identifying, referring, and assessing potential participants into the training program.
- Include a curriculum that helps participants acquire and develop skills needed to build potentially successful careers in technology-related fields.

Mandatory Requirements

- Provide incarcerated adults and juveniles paths to career opportunities in technology-based fields by utilizing a variety of learning strategies to assist with performing work-related activities. Examples of technology-based fields may include, but are not limited to:
 - Computer assisted design in engineering
 - Information technology development and design
 - “Green-technology”-related projects
 - Braille transcription training and certification
 - Wireless and broadband deployment
 - Computer science and programming
 - Other fields as justified by the eligible applicant
- Incorporate the following activities: address skills and competencies demanded by the targeted technology career; support participants’ advancement along a defined career pathway; and, where applicable, result in a recognized certificate, degree, or license that indicates a level of mastery and competence in a given technology based on the type of training completed.
- Highlight, when at all possible, evidence-based programs and practices.

Priority Considerations

Priority consideration will be given to applications that:

- Partner with technology industry-related organizations and other entities that can provide resources or expertise to the project. Applicants should demonstrate a high degree of collaboration with workforce employers, and provide documentation demonstrating partnerships, agreements, or memoranda of understanding with relevant employers in the technology areas to which program participants are likely to return.
- Provide training to offenders within 12–18 months prior to release to ensure the training is not obsolete and still current, useable, and transferable.
- Target high-risk offenders for program participation using validated assessment tools. Examples of high-risk offenders may include, but are not limited to: sex offenders, mentally ill offenders, offenders dually diagnosed with major mental health disorders and alcohol or substance addictions at the same time, and other offenders.
- Assess the local demand for employees trained in their targeted field, in the areas to which their program participants are likely to return, to improve the likelihood of post-release employment.

Priority Considerations

- Partner with technology industry-related organizations and other entities (including local and small businesses) that are willing to hire high-risk offenders.
- Provide ongoing training to employers and potential employers on successful approaches to working with trainees/employees engaged through the program.
- Provide individualized education and reentry plans for offenders participating in the training program.
- Leverage existing resources (including current Second Chance programs) to continue the training, job placement, career, and reentry success during the community release phase of reentry.
- Incorporate “peer” mentors when appropriate and include a plan for recruiting, training, and supervising mentors.

Amount and Length of Award

As required by the statute, awards under this program will be made for a period of up to 12 months. Contingent upon the availability of funds, awards of up to \$750,000 each will be made.

Pending the outcome of the FY 2011 appropriations process anticipated in March 2011, BJA may make as few as no awards and as many as five awards this fiscal year under this program.

All awards are subject to the availability of appropriated funds and any modifications or additional requirements that may be imposed by law.

Selection Criteria

- Statement of the Problem: 20%
- Program Design and Implementation: 40%
- Capabilities and Competencies: 20%
- Impact/Outcomes, Evaluation, Sustainment, and Plan for Collecting Data for Performance Measures: 10%
- Budget: 10%

Statement of the Problem

- Describe the problems of providing technology career-based training for offenders returning to the community. The applicant must provide a clear and concise statement on why the applicant deems important the need to establish a technology careers training program to train incarcerated persons for technology-based jobs and careers from prisons, jails, or juvenile facilities.
- Summarize the basic components of the state, local, or tribal project initiative as currently being implemented.
- Indicate the jurisdiction or tribal community to be served including information about the correctional facility where programming is proposed to occur.
- Provide information on the target population to receive the technology training, the number of offenders returning to the community, and description on the number and type of offenders in the correctional facilities.

Program Design and Implementation

- Identify goals and objectives for program development, implementation, and outcomes.
- Describe in detail how the Mandatory Requirements specified in this solicitation have been met.
- Describe in detail how the Priority Considerations specified in this solicitation have been met.
- Describe in detail how proposed activities that fall within the Approved Uses of Award Funds specified in this solicitation have been met.

Capabilities and Competencies

- Describe the management structure and staffing of the project, identifying the agency responsible for the project and the grant coordinator.
- Demonstrate the capability of the lead organization and collaborative partners to implement the project, including gathering and analyzing information, developing a plan, evaluating the program, and resumes for key personnel.
- Describe how the project would be organized and staffed to meet each of the requirements. The management and organizational structure described should match the staff needs necessary to accomplish the tasks outlined in the implementation plan.

Impact/Outcomes, Evaluation, and Sustainment

- Describe the process for assessing the project’s effectiveness through the collection and reporting of the required performance metrics data. (See “Performance Measures” for more information).
- 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.
- Describe how performance metrics will be documented, monitored, and evaluated, and identify the impact of the strategy once implemented.
- Identify what data elements and information will be collected and a description of how evaluation and collaborative partnerships will be leveraged to build long-term support and resources for the program.
- Discuss how this effort will be integrated into the applicant’s 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.

Budget

- **There is no match requirement under this solicitation.**
- Provide a proposed budget and budget narrative that are cost-effective, complete, and allowable. Equipment costs must be fully justified and applicants should note that these funds are not intended to pay for equipment only.
- Applicants must budget funding to travel to Department of Justice-sponsored grant meetings. Applicants should estimate the costs of travel and accommodations for three staff to attend two meetings in Washington D.C.

Performance Measures

Grantees will be required to provide data that measure the results of their work related to the following objectives:

- Increase the knowledge of training participants through:
 - In-person training
 - Web-based learning
 - Use of CD/DVDs
 - Training scholarships
- Increase the knowledge of training participants through the development and/or revision of training curricula.
- Increase a criminal justice agency's ability to solve problems and/or modify policies and practices.

Contact Information

Technical Assistance Contact Information

For technical assistance with submitting the application, contact the Grants.gov Customer Support Hotline at 1-800-518-4726 or via e-mail to support@grants.gov.

Note: The Grants.gov Support Hotline hours of operation are 24 hours, 7 days a week, except federal holidays.

Solicitation Contact Information

For assistance with the requirements of the solicitation contact the BJA Justice Information Center at 1-877-927-5657. The BJA Justice Information Center hours of operation are 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. eastern time, Monday through Friday, and 8:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. eastern time on the solicitation close date.

Questions and Answers



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