



the NATIONAL REENTRY
RESOURCE CENTER

— A project of the CSG Justice Center —

Second Chance Act Grants: Guidance for Reentry Demonstration Project Applicants

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, including \$55 million for state and local reentry demonstration projects
- Purpose: to help states and communities reduce recidivism



Second Chance Act – Funding Status

The FY2011 omnibus appropriations bill provides \$83 million for Second Chance Act grant programs.

Section 101

Section 101 of the Second Chance Act authorizes grants to **state and local governments** and **federally recognized Indian tribes** that may be used for *planning* and *demonstration* projects that promote the safe and successful reintegration into the community of individuals who have been incarcerated.

State and Local Adult Planning & Demonstration Projects

- BJA planning and demonstration grant solicitation was released on May 17, 2011
- Solicitation is available at:
<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/11SCAAdultReentrySol.pdf>
- Applications are due on June 30, 2011

Who Can Apply?

State and local government agencies and federally recognized Indian tribes are eligible to apply under this program.

Target Population

- The target population for the initiative must be a specific **medium to high** risk subset of the population of individuals convicted as an adult and imprisoned in a state, local, or tribal prison, 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.

The Ten Mandatory Requirements

1. A reentry strategic plan
2. A detailed implementation schedule and sustainability plan
3. Establishment of a Reentry Task Force
4. A description of the role of local governmental agencies, nonprofit organizations, and community stakeholders
5. Extensive evidence of collaboration with state and local government agencies overseeing health, mental health, housing, child welfare, education, substance abuse, victims services, and employment services, and with local law enforcement agencies
6. An extensive discussion of the role of state corrections departments, community corrections agencies, local jail, and/or juvenile corrections systems
7. Documentation that reflects explicit support of the chief executive officer of the applicant state, unit of local government, territory, or Indian tribe
8. A description of the evidence-based methodology and outcome measures that will be used to evaluate the program
9. A description of how the project could be broadly replicated if demonstrated to be effective
10. A plan for the analysis of the statutory, regulatory, rules-based, and practice-based hurdles to reintegration of offenders into the community

Priority Considerations

Priority consideration will be given to grant applications that:

- Focus their program in geographic areas with a disproportionate population of individuals released from prisons, jails, or juvenile detention facilities
- Target higher-risk individuals through the use of validated risk/need assessment tools
- Clearly demonstrate incorporation of the six evidence based strategies detailed in the solicitation appendix into program design
- Include input from nonprofit organizations, consultation with crime victims, individuals who have been released from prisons, jails and their families
- Demonstrate effective case assessment and management abilities to provide a comprehensive and continuous reentry process
- Provide for an independent evaluation of reentry programs that include, to the maximum extent possible, random assignment and controlled studies to determine the effectiveness of such programs
- 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 violation behavior

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State and Local Demonstration Grant Categories

Applicants may apply in either of two categories:

CATEGORY 1 supports

CATEGORY 2 supports

PLANNING PROJECTS

IMPLEMENTATION
PROJECTS

Category 1: Planning Projects

- Up to \$50,000 for 12 months
- Allowable uses:
 - Continue establishment of a Reentry Task Force
 - Continue development of a detailed strategic plan for reentry
 - Develop the evidence-based methodology to be used in project & performance and outcome measures that will be used to evaluate the project

Category 1: Planning Projects

Future Eligibility

Planning grantees will receive targeted technical assistance to help them in the planning process, and will be required to complete a Planning and Implementation Guide. Successful grantees may then be eligible to receive additional resources for the implementation of their project, depending on the availability of funds.

Category 1: Planning Projects Selection Criteria

Statement of the Problem (20%):

- Describe the nature and scope of the problem in the jurisdiction, and any available local/state data and trend analysis to support the discussion.
- Discuss the efforts that have been made to date in preparation for applying for a Second Chance Act grant, such as establishment of a Reentry Council or meetings of potential stakeholders.

Category 1: Planning Projects

Selection Criteria

Project Design and Implementation (35%):

- Describe the activities and process for meeting the Ten Requirements described on page 4 of the solicitation, including:
 - Establishing a collaborative structure;
 - Developing a statement of the program’s goals, objectives and work plan;
 - Defining the target population
 - Developing a data-driven strategy for identifying and enrolling eligible program participants.

Category 1: Planning Projects

Selection Criteria

Capabilities/Competencies (20%):

- Describe the collaborative structure of the project and how it will contribute to successful planning and implementation.
- Identify stakeholders and their respective roles.
- Describe the anticipated role of consumers, advocates, and family members in the project.
- Provide a project timeline that identifies project goals, objectives, activities, expected completion dates, and responsible persons or organizations.
- Describe any potential barriers to implementation and strategies to overcome them.

Category 1: Planning Projects

Selection Criteria

Impact/Outcomes, Evaluation, and Sustainability (15%):

- Identify a plan for responding to the required performance measures and who will be responsible for data collection.
- Discuss how variables like stakeholder support and service coordination will be defined and measured.
- Describe how evaluation and collaborative partnerships will be leveraged to build long-term support for the project.

Category 1: Planning Projects

Performance Measures

Planning grantees will be required to provide data that measure the results of their work. Performance measures for this program are being finalized, but applicants should be prepared to report regularly on the following performance measures:

- Number of stakeholder entities participating in the Reentry Task Force.
- Number of strategic planning meetings.
- Provide strategic plan.
- Provide copies of collaborative agreements between stakeholder agencies for implementation of strategic plan.
- Provide comprehensive program evaluation plan.

Category 2: Implementation Projects

- Up to \$750,000 for 12 months
- Allowable uses:
 - Use of actuarial-based assessment instruments for reentry planning
 - Providing treatment interventions that target criminogenic needs (e.g., anti-social behavior or high-conflict cognitive behavior patterns; limited pro-social supports; substance abuse; unemployment; lack of residential stability)
 - Providing sustained case planning/management in the community
 - Providing 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)

Category 2: Implementation Projects

Selection Criteria

- Statement of the Problem (10%)
- Project Design and Implementation (30%)
- Capabilities/Competencies (25%)
- Impact/Outcomes, Evaluation, and Sustainability (15%)
- Collaboration (10%)
- Budget (10%)

Category 2: Implementation Projects

Selection Criteria

Statement of the Problem (10%):

- Describe the problems with returning adult offenders to the community.
- Indicate the jurisdiction or tribal community to be served, include details on the target population, the number of offenders returning to the community, and describe the number and type of offenders in facilities.
- Summarize the basic components of the current reentry process in the jurisdiction, including:
 - how risk and need assessments are currently utilized;
 - transition plans;
 - pre- and post-release programs and services; and
 - data collection and analysis.

Category 2: Implementation Projects

Selection Criteria

Project Design and Implementation (30%):

- Describe in detail how the Ten Mandatory Requirements listed on page 4 of the solicitation have been met.
- Describe proposed activities that fall within one or more of the Approved Uses listed on page 10 of the solicitation.
- Describe any aspects of the initiative that fulfill Priority Considerations listed on page 7 of the solicitation.

Category 2: Implementation Projects

Selection Criteria

Capabilities/Competencies (25%):

- 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 Reentry Task Force and collaborative partners to implement the project. The management and organization structure should match the staff needs necessary to carry out the implementation plan.

Category 2: Implementation Projects

Selection Criteria

Impact/Outcomes, Evaluation, and Sustainability (15%):

- Describe the process for assessing the initiative's effectiveness through the collection and reporting of the required performance metrics data.
- Identify goals and objectives for program development, implementation, and outcomes.
- Describe how performance will be documented, monitored, and evaluated, and identify the impact of the 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.
- Discuss how this effort 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 reentry process for a period of up to 3 years after their release from prison or jail.

Category 2: Implementation Projects

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, jail and/or juvenile detention or correctional facility 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 in the target area
- Percent increase in employment among the target population from the previous reporting period
- Percent increase in enrollment in educational programs among target population
- Percent reduction in the number of violations of conditions of supervised release
- Percent of target population who fulfilled their child support obligations
- Percent increase in the number of target population who have obtained housing
- Percent increase in target population assessed as needing substance abuse services who participate in those services
- Percent increase in target population assessed as needing mental health services who participate in those services
- Percent reduction in drug usage among target population during the reporting period
- Percent reduction in alcohol abuse and consumption among target population during the reporting period

Category 2: Implementation Projects

Selection Criteria

Collaboration (10%):

- Describe how the proposed project will be integrated with other reentry efforts in the same jurisdiction (state, county/city, tribe).
- Describe how the project has worked collaboratively with partners from multiple disciplines, and describe how the proposed project will use this prior experience to enhance the project's overall goal of reducing recidivism.

Budget

- For both planning and implementation grantees, the proposed budget accounts for 10% of the final application score. Applicants must provide a proposed budget and budget narrative that are cost-effective, complete, and allowable.
- CATEGORY 1: Contingent upon the availability of funds and the number of individuals to be served, awards of up to \$750,000 will be made for a period of up to 12 months.
- CATEGORY 2: Contingent upon the availability of funds, awards of up to \$50,000 will be made for a period of up to 12 months.
- Federal funds may not provide more than **half** of the total project budget. Of the remaining half of the budget, no more than half may be provided in-kind. In other words, 25% of the total project budget may be in-kind, and 25% must be in cash.

Match Requirement Example

Total cost of project = \$1,500,000

Match equation:

\$750,000	Federal Demonstration Project grant
+ \$375,000	In-kind contribution from grantee (staff time, equipment)
+ <u>\$375,000</u>	Dollar match by grantee
\$1,500,000	Total cost of project

Match Waiver

- The Attorney General may waive the match requirement upon a determination of fiscal hardship.
- To be considered for a match waiver, a letter of request defining the fiscal hardship, signed by the Authorized Representative, must be submitted with the application.
- Fiscal hardship may be defined in terms of reductions to the overall corrections budget, staff furloughs or layoffs, or other similar documented actions.

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 any other requirements of the solicitation, contact the BJA Justice Information Center at 1-877-927-5657, via email to JIC@telesishq.com, or by [live web chat](#). 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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