



the NATIONAL REENTRY
RESOURCE CENTER

— *A project of the CSG Justice Center* —

Second Chance Act Grants: State, Local, and Tribal Reentry Courts

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 provides \$83 million for Second Chance programs.

Section 111: State, Local, and Tribal Reentry Courts

- This solicitation was released on May 17, 2011.
- Applications are due by 11:59 pm EST on **June 30, 2011**.
- The solicitation is available online at:
<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/11ReentryCourtsSol.pdf>.

Eligibility

- Section 111 of the Second Chance Act authorizes federal awards to states, units of local government, federally recognized Indian tribes (as determined by the Secretary of the Interior) and non-profit entities that target adult populations.
- Non-court applicants must have a written agreement with the applicable court that details the establishment of a reentry court, specialized docket, or court program.
- The overall goal is to increase accountability among returning ex-offenders and lower overall recidivism by addressing the criminogenic risks and needs of individual offenders through comprehensive assessments, treatment, services, programs, and monitoring, using evidence-based practices to steer programs.
- Successful applicants will demonstrate collaboration with their identified key partners which should include some of the following: the courts, state, and tribal agencies, the Single State Agency for Substance Abuse, parole or probation, prosecutors, the defense bar, service providers, non-profits, community and faith based organizations, local community members, law enforcement, Indian health systems, and/or other relevant entities.

Target Population

- Programs must target **adult** offenders who plead guilty or are convicted on criminal offenses and released from jail or prison after serving a sentence term.
- Applicants should refer to their relevant local statutes to define the legal age of an adult offender.

Approved Uses for Awards Funds

- Successful applicants may use funds not only to fund expenses directly associated with the development, establishment, or enhancement of reentry courts, court programs, and specialized dockets, but also:
 - to conduct risk, needs, and responsivity assessments to determine returning offenders' criminogenic risks and needs;
 - provide substance and abuse, mental health, and other treatment services;
 - provide aftercare and case management services;
 - and provide and coordinate community services to ex-offenders.
- Applicants are encouraged to make available a comprehensive range of programs depending on the individual offender's risk/needs, including
 - services that employ the cognitive, behavioral, and social learning techniques of modeling, role playing, reinforcement, resource provision, and cognitive restructuring;
 - educational, literacy, vocational, and job placement services; veteran-specific services as applicable;
 - programs that encourage safe, healthy and responsible family and parent-child relationships and enhance family reunification, as appropriate;
 - and mentoring.
- Applicants are strongly urged to use consistent pre- and post-release case management and supervision that is sustained over a period of at least 6 months and is especially responsive to the offender's transition from incarceration to the community.
- Funds may also be used to cover costs associated with monitoring, including the establishment and implementation of graduated sanctions and incentives.

National Institute of Justice Evaluation

- **Successful applicants must agree to be considered for participation in an National Institute of Justice (NIJ) evaluation.**
- If a successful applicant is selected for the NIJ evaluation, they will participate in an evaluation of any programs supported through this solicitation.
- NIJ will manage these evaluation activities through the selection of evaluators who will work directly with grant recipients.
- Each selected applicant must be willing to participate in an evaluation, including the possibility of evaluation involving random assignment to reentry court and treatment services, and to provide access to any data determined necessary by the evaluator and DOJ.
- For further information, read NIJ's Evaluation of the Bureau of Justice Assistance Second Chance Act: FY 2010 State, Tribal, and Local Reentry Courts Program Solicitation, available at www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/sl000941.pdf.

Priority Considerations

Priority consideration will be given to applications that:

- Target medium- and high-risk offenders who have been assessed using validated assessment tools. See Appendix B of the solicitation for more information.
- Focus their programs on geographic areas with high rates of offenders returning from prisons, jails, or juvenile detention facilities.
- Propose evidence-based activities with demonstrated effectiveness in facilitating successful offender reentry for the target population(s). See the EBP section on page 7 of the solicitation for more information.
- Target high-risk populations that have not been assessed because the facility returning the offenders lacked the resources to provide basic assessments.
- Target high-risk populations where no government or community-based reentry services exist.

Amount and Length of Award

- Awards will be for 12 months with the possibility of no-cost extensions.
- A grantee may be eligible for continuation funding for an additional 2 years contingent upon the availability of funds and demonstration of adequate progress toward meeting established goals of the program.
- Contingent upon the availability of funds, awards of approximately \$500,000 will be made.

Notice of New Post-Award Reporting Requirements

- Applicants should anticipate that all recipients (other than individuals) of awards of \$25,000 or more under this solicitation, consistent with the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (FFATA), will be required to report award information on any first-tier subawards totaling \$25,000 or more, and, in certain cases, to report information on the names and total compensation of the five most highly compensated executives of the recipient and first-tier subrecipients.
- Each applicant entity must ensure that it has the necessary processes and systems in place to comply with the reporting requirements should it receive funding. Reports regarding subawards will be made through the FFATA Subaward Reporting System (FSRS), found at www.fsrs.gov.
- Please note also that applicants should anticipate that no subaward of an award made under this solicitation may be made to a subrecipient (other than an individual) unless the potential subrecipient acquires and provides a Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number.

Selection Criteria

- Statement of the Problem: 25%
- Program Design and Implementation: 20%
- Capabilities/Competencies: 15%
- Impact/Outcomes, Evaluation, Sustainability, and Plan for Collecting Data for This Solicitation's Performance Measures: 10%
- Collaboration: 20%
- Budget: 10%

Statement of the Problem

- Identify and define the specific subset of offenders, or combination of subsets, that are proposed to be the target population of the reentry court/program, e.g., a specific demographic or set of demographics (age, gender, etc.); specific community, neighborhood, or zip code with high population of returning offenders; offenders housed in the same facility; offenders assessed/classified as high risk. Include their recidivism rate if available.
- Describe some of the barriers to reentry for offenders in the named subset(s).
- Detail how crime and recidivism affects the communities where the subset(s) of offenders are returning.
- Describe the availability of offender services in the immediate community.
- Summarize the basic components of the current reentry process in the jurisdiction, including:
 - If risk and need assessments are currently being utilized;
 - Transition plans;
 - If pre- and post-release programs and services are provided; and
 - Data collection and analysis.

Program Design and Implementation

- Describe the applicant's reentry court/program implementation plan, including a detailed explanation of judiciary or executive branch involvement and/or how authority over the offender will be transferred/engaged in the reentry court/program. See the Appendix of the solicitation for sample approaches. The applicant's description **must** be detailed.
- Explain why the identified subset(s) of offenders is important and how the reentry court or program will help them.
- Provide the likely minimum number of offenders the project will serve. This data should be consistent with the applicant's identified target population.
- Provide a plan to promote the sustainability of the reentry court/program once federal funding ceases.

Capabilities/Competencies

- 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 Program Design and Implementation plan described in Selection Criteria 2.
- Demonstrate the capability of the applicant agency to implement the project including how the roles and responsibilities of all the grant partners will work together to produce a successful project.
- Describe the applicant's capacity to gather and analyze information, specifically how it pertains to potential inclusion in NIJ's evaluation.

Impact/Outcomes, Evaluation, Sustainability, and Plan for Collecting Data

- Applicants must be willing to participate in an evaluation to be managed by the National Institute of Justice, which could include random assignment of offenders to reentry court services.
- Describe the process for the collection and reporting of the required performance metrics data. See Performance Measures on page 10 of the solicitation.
- Describe how performance will be documented, monitored, and evaluated; and identify how the data will inform the evolution of the program.
- Describe how evaluation and collaborative partnerships will be leveraged to build long-term support and resources for the program.

Collaboration

- A list of all partners and a detailed explanation of each partner's role in the reentry court. For each partner listed here, the applicant must include a letter of commitment from each partner (see page 16 of the solicitation).
- In addition to the letter of commitment, non-court applicants must have a written agreement with the applicable court that serves as notice to the applicable court or states the applicable courts participation is a reentry court, specialized docket, or court program. To demonstrate this partnership, non-court applicants must submit this written agreement as part of their application. See Goals, Objectives, and Deliverables on page 5 of the solicitation.
- A list of potential service providers and an explanation of the services that will be offered.
- Letter of Support for the NIJ evaluation.

Budget

- Provide a proposed budget and budget narrative that are cost-effective, complete, and allowable. See Budget on page 15 of the solicitation.
- **There is a 50 percent match requirement under this solicitation.**
- The budget must indicate how the 50 percent federal funds, 25 percent in-kind match and 25 percent cash match will be allocated in the overall budget.
- 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. **Performance measures for this program are being finalized.** Below are sample performance measurements for your reference. BJA will determine whether additional or different measures will be required prior to awarding grants. Applicants should discuss in their application their proposed methods for collecting data related to the following objectives:

- Increase public safety and reduce recidivism through comprehensive assessment and treatment program for offenders.
- To increase participation in program services among the target population.
- Increase the number and types of program services to offenders reentering the community.
- To protect communities against dangerous offenders by using validated assessment tools to assess the risk factors and treatment needs of returning offenders.

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, via email at JIC@telesishq.com, or by live web chat at <http://www.justiceinformationcenter.us/>. 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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