

Preparing Justice-Impacted People for Infrastructure Jobs

Moderator: Kayla James
Vera Institute of Justice

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SPEAKER

- **Andre Bethea**, Senior Policy Advisor, Corrections, Reentry, and Justice, U.S. Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Assistance

What is the Office of Justice Programs?

- The Office of Justice Programs (OJP) provides grant funding, training, research, and statistics to the criminal justice community.
- OJP is one of three grant-making components of the Department of Justice along with the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) and the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS).

Office of Justice Programs

BJA - Bureau of Justice Assistance

BJS - Bureau of Justice Statistics

NIJ - National Institute of Justice

OVC - Office for Victims of Crime

OJJDP - Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

SMART - Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking

U.S. Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Assistance

BJA works with communities, governments, and nonprofit organizations to reduce crime, recidivism, and unnecessary confinement, and promote a safe and fair criminal justice system.



**BJA Director
Karhlton F. Moore**



Five Major Strategic Focus Areas

Improve public safety through measures which build trust with the community and ensure an effective criminal justice system

Reduction in recidivism and prevention of unnecessary confinement and interactions with the criminal justice system

Integration of evidence-based, research-driven strategies into the day-to-day operations of BJA and the programs BJA administers and supports

Increasing program effectiveness with a renewed emphasis on data analysis, information sharing, and performance management

Ensuring organizational excellence through outstanding administration and oversight of all of BJA's strategic investments

Fund – Invest diverse funding streams to accomplish goals.

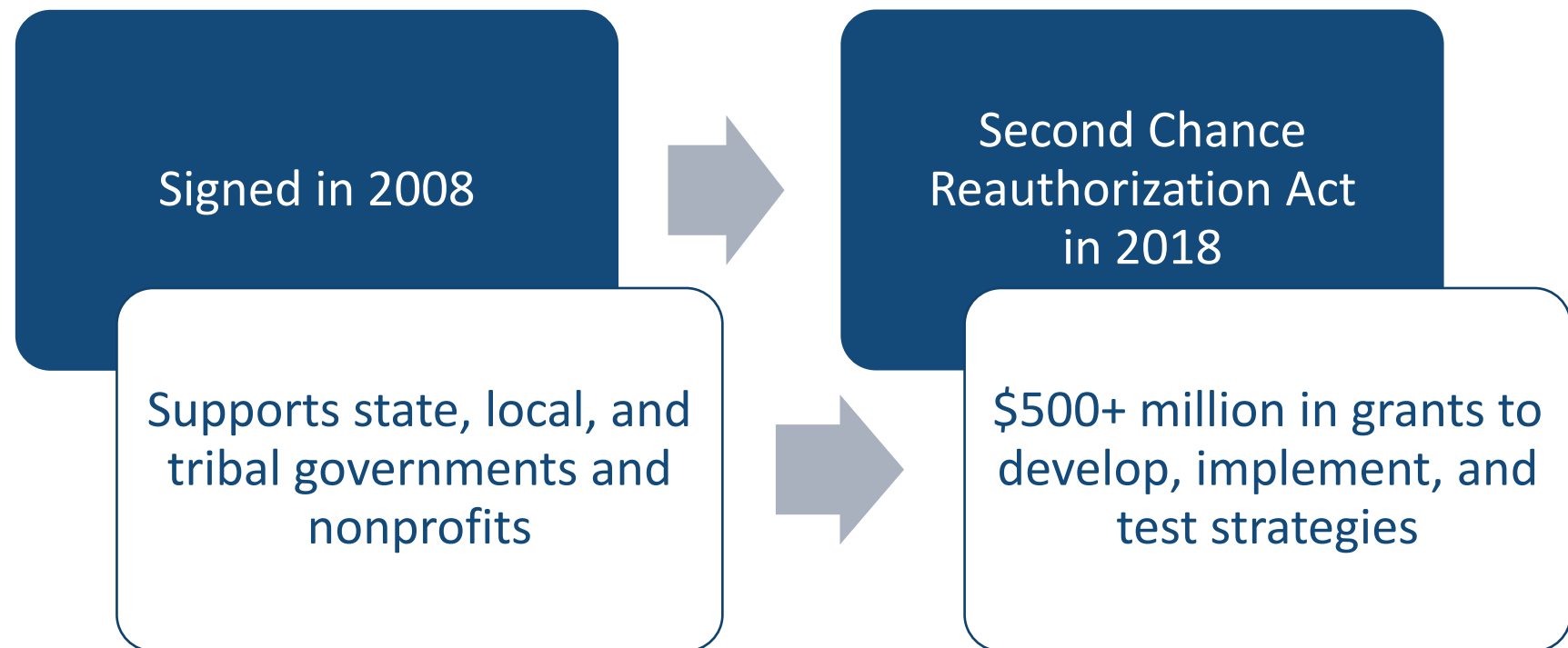
Educate – Research, develop, and deliver what works.

Equip – Create tools and products to build capacity and improve outcomes.

Partner – Consult, connect, and convene.

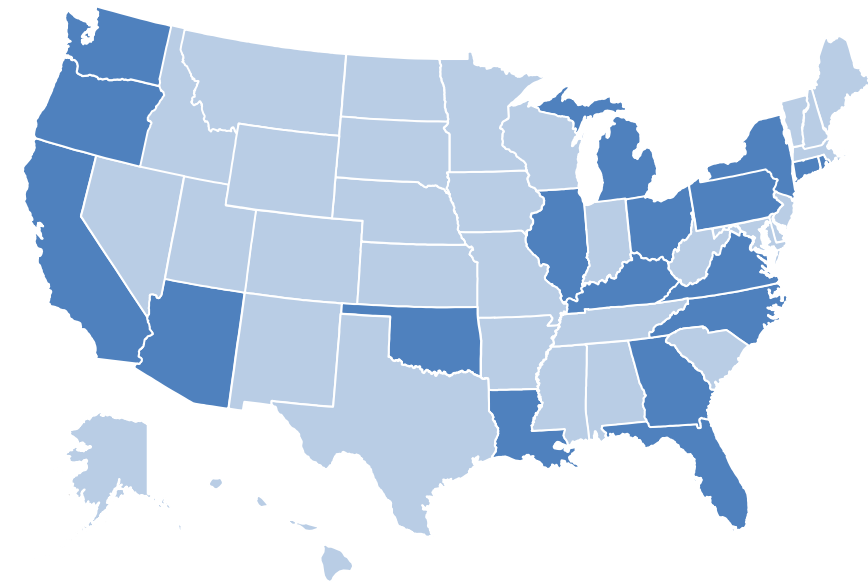
THE SECOND CHANCE ACT

- The Second Chance Act (SCA) provides funding to funding to reduce recidivism and improve outcomes for youth and adults leaving detention and incarceration to return to their communities.



FY 2021 ADULT REENTRY EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT, TREATMENT AND RECOVERY PROGRAM OVERVIEW

- Began in FY 2021 with \$20.4 million awarded to 23 grants to state local, and tribal entities
- The goal of grantees under Category 1 (Improving Correctional Education) is to improve the academic and vocational education programs available to offenders in prison and jails by:
 - ❑ Implementing or expanding educational and vocational programs for incarcerated adults that result in improved educational outcomes; and
 - ❑ Demonstrating increased collaboration between educational providers and corrections, community supervision providers, and other reentry stakeholders.



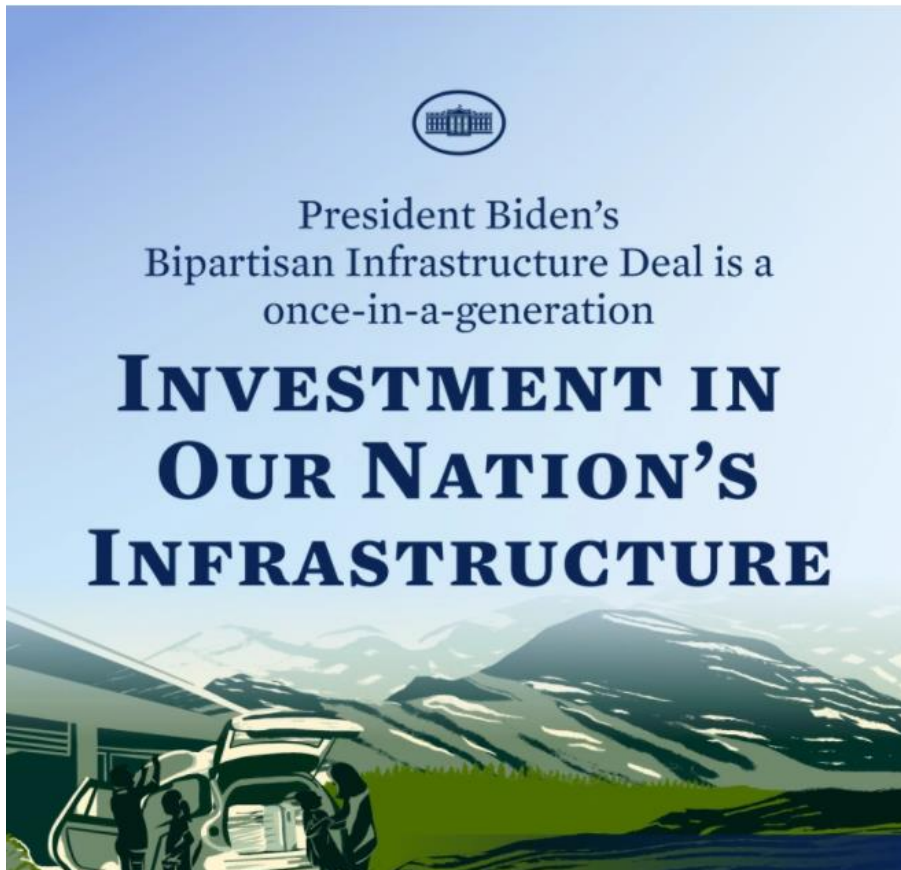
Technical Assistance Provider (TTA)

- Assistance to grantees on focused education, employment, and reentry
- Connect grantees to peer networks, best practices, and resources

AGENDA

- Welcome and Housekeeping
- OJP and Vera Overview
- Background & Context
- Speaker Introductions
- Panel Discussion
- Q&A
- Closing

INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND JOBS ACT



- In November 2021, President Biden signed the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to strengthen U.S. infrastructure in key areas such as green energy, roads, and transportation.
- The amended version of the bill included approximately \$1.2 trillion in spending
- The investment is expected to create an estimated 1.5 million jobs per year over the next 10 years.

INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND JOBS ACT

Clean water

Reliable high-speed internet

Roads and bridges repair

Improving public transportation

Upgrading airports and ports

Building a national network of electric vehicle chargers

Upgrading the power infrastructure

Building resiliency to climate change, cyber attacks, and extreme weather events

Tackling pollution



Clean Energy



Construction



Roads and Transportation



Utilities

NEW VERA RESOURCE



How Corrections Departments Are Preparing People for In- Demand Careers That Support America's Infrastructure

Vera INSTITUTE
OF JUSTICE



Kayla James

February 2023

<https://www.vera.org/publications/how-corrections-departments-are-preparing-people-for-in-demand-careers>

PANELISTS

- **Tracie Hightower**, Education Administrator, Oregon Department of Corrections
- **Andrew Cortes**, Executive Director, Building Futures Rhode Island
- **Joshua Steele**, Oklahoma Department of Career and Technical Education

BFRI RESOURCE





FIND YOUR PATH

Your Rhode Island
Construction Career Guide

Plan Your Future



Track News and Updates on Social Media

#ReentryMatters

#SecondChanceMonth

#SecondChanceMonth23



Thank you!

Kayla James
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