

Speaker 1:

Go ahead.

Mark Ferrante:

Good day, my name is Mark Ferrante and I'm with the American Institutes for Research. I would like to welcome you to this webinar for the Fiscal Year 2023 Second Chance Act, Smart Reentry: Expanding Jail Programs and Services Solicitation. In addition to hearing from me today, you are going to hear from my colleague, Andre Bethea, who is a Senior Policy Advisor with the United States Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Assistance.

This webinar will be done in three sections. We will provide an overview of both the Bureau of Justice Assistance and the American Institutes for Research. We will then talk specifically about this opportunity, the FY 2023 Solicitation Smart Reentry: Expanding Jail Programs and Services, and then we will provide additional information about how to apply and about JustGrants. For additional information, you can click on the hyperlink that is provided in this slide.

And to begin this presentation, I'm going to turn it over to my colleague Andre Bethea, with the Bureau of Justice Assistance.

Andre Bethea:

Thank you, Mark. Hello everyone. My name is Andre Bethea and I am a Senior Policy Advisor at the US Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Assistance, which sits within the Office of Justice Programs for OJP.

The Office of Justice Programs 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, and the Office of Community-Oriented Policing Services. Within OJP, you have the Smart Office, Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking, OJJDP, which is the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. Also within OJP is the Office for Victims of Crime, the National Institute of Justice, which is the research arm of the department, the Bureau of Justice Statistics, and, where this particular funding stream sits, BJA, the Bureau of Justice Assistance.

The Bureau of Justice Assistance's mission is to provide leadership and services in grant administration and criminal justice policy development to support state, local, and tribal justice strategies to achieve safer communities. BJA works with communities, governments, and nonprofit organizations to reduce crime, recidivism, and unnecessary confinement, and promote a safe and fair criminal justice system. Our current director is Karhlton F. Moore. Check us out at [out@bjojp.gov](mailto:out@bjojp.gov).

So, at BJA we fund, that is we invest diverse funding streams to accomplish goals. We educate, meaning we research, develop, and deliver what works. We equip, create tools and products to build capacity and improve outcomes. And we also partner: consult, connect, and convene subject matter experts.

The Second Chance Act SMART Reentry program is through Second Chance Act funding, which is to reduce recidivism and improve outcomes for youth and adults leaving detention and incarceration to return to their communities. Second Chance Act was initially signed in 2008, and through the First Step Act, was reauthorized in 2018. To date more than 500 million in grants to develop, implement, and test strategies has been provided to state, local, and tribal government as well as nonprofits.

So now what can BJA's Second Chance Act funding be used for? Well, the grant money is used for seed money, or proof of concept, or perhaps to expand or enhance an existing program. But the Second Chance Act

also provides funding for training and technical assistance to grantees to ensure that programs are moving with fidelity in line with the latest research as well as, most importantly, project management and content expertise. Second Chance Act funding also supports the National Reentry Resource Center, which you'll hear more about from Mark. Back to you, Mark.

Mark Ferrante:

Thank you, Andre.

The American Institutes for Research delivers training and technical assistance focused on reducing recidivism and improving reentry success for individuals returning from incarceration. AIR provides content expertise through its coaches and its partners, project management support, and connections to peer networks and resources.

The American Institutes for Research operates the National Reentry Resource Center, or NRRC. The primary mission of the NRRC is to advance the reentry field's knowledge base. The NRRC serves as a convener and coordinator of Second Chance Act grantees. The National Reentry Resource Center website is a resource center for grantees, individuals, and the field at large.

Topics intersect with reentry such as community supervision, housing, and employment can be accessed through the website as well as resources including publications, tools, webinars, and information clearing houses, such as the National Inventory of Collateral Consequences of Conviction, Clean Slate Clearinghouse, Public Safety Risk Assessment, and a Reentry Service Directory. You can email the NRRC at [info@nationalreentryresourcecenter.org](mailto:info@nationalreentryresourcecenter.org). The NRRC provides an interactive experience to assist with targeted resource searching. Again, you can utilize the hyperlink provided on this slide to access the National Reentry Resource Center or [reentrymatters.org](http://reentrymatters.org).

April is Second Chance month. You can also access this hyperlink to gain information about events that are going on during Second Chance month in 2023. You can also find out about the latest news and resources on reentry, a National Criminal Justice Initiatives map and directories for state and local reentry services by going to this website.

The Corrections and Community Engagement Technical Assistance Center. AIR operates the Corrections and Community Engagement Technical Assistance Center, or CCETAC. CCETAC's primary mission is to provide training and technical assistance to a segment of Second Chance Act grantees. CCETAC coaches work closely with grantees to finalize action plans, improve implementation and evaluation activities, provide training and resources to promote achievement of established goals, connect organizations with communities of practice, connect organizations with subject matter experts, and provide monthly training and technical assistance calls with grantees.

And now to begin our specific focus on this opportunity, I'm going to turn it back to my colleague, Andre Bethea.

Andre Bethea:

Thank you, Mark. Now it's time to dive in into Fiscal Year 2023, Smart Reentry: Expanding Jail Programs and Services.

The purpose of this particular grant program will be to improve reentry programs and services for people in returning home from jails, support units of local government and federally-recognized Indian tribal governments, as well as develop and provide innovative evidence-based reentry programming and services that address the needs of individuals returning to the community and reduce recidivism.

In Fiscal Year 2023, Smart Reentry Program eligible applicants are city or township, county, Native American tribal (recognized) governments, and special district governments. An applicant entity may submit more than one application. BJA will consider applications under which two or more entities would carry out the federal ward. However, only one entity may be the applicant. BJA may elect to fund applications submitted under this Fiscal Year 2023 solicitation and future fiscal years.

Now let's tap into the goal and objectives. So the goal is to improve jail reentry programs and services for individuals who are incarcerated in jails and upon their return to the community. We have a few things under objectives. We need to articulate and implement a robust vision for jail reentry programs and services with intensive transitional supports, including: individualized case planning, evidence-based interventions, increased collaboration with providers and other reentry stakeholders.

And now let's talk about the deliverables for this Fiscal Year 2023 Smart Reentry. Deliverable one, a task force review. Deliverable two, assessment results and action plan. Deliverable three, preliminary process evaluation reflecting system improvements due at 30 months within the program. Deliverable four, preliminary outcome and/or impact evaluation due at 36 months. Deliverable five, final process evaluations due at the grant closeout and 90 days after the end of the 48-month grant period.

In Fiscal Year 2023 for Smart Reentry, BJA is expecting to award up to five proposals, with the maximum amount of 1 million dollars for each award. The period of performance starts October 1st, 2023. The grant cycle is expected to be 48 months. The total amount for Fiscal Year 2023 is five awards at a million dollars equaling \$5 million total.

DOJ Grants Financial Guide should serve as a rule book for anyone considering applying for DOJ funding. It compiles a variety of laws, rules, and regulations that affect the financial and administrative management of DOJ awards. It serves as a starting point for all award recipients and sub-recipients of DOJ grants and cooperative agreements in ensuring the effective day-to-day management of these awards. There is a link provided to the DOJ Financial Guide on this slide, and before I turn it back over to my colleague Mark, I want to talk about unallowable uses of award funds.

So, the DOJ Grants Financial Guide also highlights many of those unallowable costs. We also go into pre-agreement costs, known as pre-award costs. That's unallowable. The limitation on the use of award funds for employee compensation, and a waiver that follows that. That's in a DOJ Grants Financial Guide as well. Prior approval, planning, and reporting of a conference, meeting, and training costs all are unpacked for you within the DOJ Grants Financial Guide, as well as any cost associated with language assistance, if applicable, can also be found within the DOJ Grants Financial Guide.

Back to you, Mark.

Speaker 1:

Thank you, Andre. The Second Chance Act has several mandatory requirements. The first is the completion of a reentry strategic plan, also a detailed reentry implementation schedule and sustainability plan. The development of a reentry task force, an independent evaluation, evidence of collaboration with state and local government agencies, consideration of the role of state corrections departments, parole and probation agencies, and local jail corrections systems in ensuring successful reentry, the support of the chief executive officer understanding of evidence-based methods and outcome measures, a description of how the program or strategy could be scaled up or broadly replicated if demonstrated to be effective, and a plan to analyze the statutory, regulatory, rules-based, and practice-based hurdles to re-entry.

Memorandums of understanding and other required documents, include for each named partner, a signed memorandum of understanding, or MOU, letter of intent, or subcontract that confirms

agreement to support the project through commitments of staff time, space, services, or other project needs. For applications submitted from two or more entities, submit signed MOUs or letters of intent that describe how the agencies will work together to meet the project requirements. Subcontracts, MOU, or letters of intent should be submitted as one separate attachment to the application.

Documentation of advancing Department of Justice priorities. The Department of Justice priorities include promoting racial equity, increasing access to justice, supporting crime victims and individuals impacted by the justice system, strengthening community safety, and protecting the public from crime and evolving threats, and building trust between law enforcement and the community.

Priority areas, advancing racial justice and support for underserved communities through the federal government. In support of this executive order, the Office of Justice Programs or OJP will provide priority consideration to proposed projects designed to promote racial equity and the removal of barriers to justice, access, and opportunity for communities that have been historically underserved, marginalized, and adversely affected by inequality.

Applications that demonstrate that their capabilities and competencies for implementing their proposed projects are enhanced, because they identify as a culturally-specific organization.

Tribal authorizing resolution; if applicable, submit the tribal authorizing resolution by uploading it as an attachment in JustGrants, please see the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide for information on tribal authorizing resolutions.

Plan for data collection for performance measures; describe how the data required for this solicitations performance measures will be collected, including the systems used and the persons responsible. Describe whether and how other relevant performance metrics will be documented, monitored, and evaluated.

Budget, this grant requires a 50% match. Of that, 50% must be in cash and the remaining 50% may be in kind. The estimates must provide a breakdown of all costs and must adhere to the federal per diem. The grantee can access up to \$75,000 of the grant award during the planning phase and will be required to participate in technical assistance and to complete and submit an action plan to guide implementation.

And now we are going to talk about how to apply and provide you additional information on the systems you will need to access to successfully submit your application.

Before you apply, you must register with the System for Award Management, or SAM. You must renew and validate your registration every 12 months. If you do not renew your SAM registration, it will expire. An expired registration can delay or prevent application submission in Grants.gov and in JustGrants. Registration and renewal can take up to 10 business days to complete.

Two-step application process. Step one is through Grants.gov. After registering with Sam, submit the SF-424 and SF-LLL in Grants.gov using the hyperlink provided in this slide as early as possible, but not later than 48 hours before the Grants.gov deadline. For this solicitation, the Grants.gov deadline is June 5th, 2023 at 8:59 PM Eastern Time.

Step two is in JustGrants. Submit the full application, including attachments, using the hyperlink provided in this slide. For this solicitation the JustGrants deadline is June 12th, 2023 at 8:59 PM Eastern Time.

Some additional information, see the "How to Apply" section in the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide using the hyperlink provided in this slide, as well as please see the DOJ Application Submission Checklist using the hyperlink provided in this slide.

For application submission, identify the forms needed to submit an application, complete a web-based budget form, complete an application, including certifying the information, and then submit the application.

JustGrants resources, to assist you there are archived webinars that show you how to use JustGrants to apply for funding, including how to search and find open DOJ funding opportunities, the steps and actions to take before applying for funding, example, to register@sam.gov. The JustGrants roles, example, Entity Administrator, Application Submitter, et cetera, required to submit an application, and how to navigate and use the system, example, how to save your work. For an example, an Application Mechanic submitting an application webinar is available by clicking on the link provided in this slide.

Some additional support. You can contact the JustGrants service desk at 833-872-5175 or JustGrants.support@usdoj.gov. The JustGrants Service Desk operates from 5:00 AM to 9:00 PM Eastern time, Monday through Friday, and from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM on Saturdays, Sundays, and federal holidays. Also, the OJP Response Center can be reached at 800-851-3420 or TTY: 301-240-6310. For hearing impaired only, or by email at grantsncjrs.gov. Hours of operation are 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM Eastern time, Monday through Friday, and 10:00 AM to 8:00 PM on the solicitation closing date.

Again, let's review application elements. The application form SF-424, a project abstract, a project narrative, goals, objectives, deliverables, and timelines, budget information, MOUs, indirect cost rate agreement, financial management questionnaire, and disclosures, which include lobbying, pending applications, research and evaluation, independence and executive compensation.

The review criteria for this solicitation, this is the weight of each category. Statement of problem/description of the issue is 25%. Project design and implementation, 35%. Capabilities and competencies, 15%. Plan for collecting data on performance measures, 5%. Budget, 5%. And impact/outcomes evaluation and sustainability, 15%.

Some recommended resources: BJA Grant Applicant Education Series. Funding Opportunities for your Community in 2023: An Overview of What's Ahead, the Funding Process: First Steps to Applying, How to Prepare Now, and Other Considerations. PDFs of these presentations and transcripts are available by linking clicking on the hyperlink provided in this slide.

There are several additional recommended resources available on the web, the OJP Funding Resource Center, the DOJ Grants Financial Guide, the DOJ Grant's Financial Management Online Training, the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide, and the National Institute of Justice's CrimeSolutions.gov. You can click on any of these hyperlinks provided in the slide to access these resources.

Important contacts. The Office of Justice Programs Response Center, again can be reached at 1-800-851-3420 or by emailing Grants@ncj.gov. The hours are 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM Eastern time, Monday through Friday. Grants.gov to submit the SF-424 and SF-LLL 1-800-518-4726 or email Support@grants.gov 24 hours a day, seven days a week, or JustGrants, submit the full application 1-833-872-5175 or by emailing JustGrants.support@usdoj.gov. The hours are 7:00 AM to 9:00 PM Eastern Time, Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM Eastern time on weekends and holidays.

Second Chance Act solicitations are available by clicking on the hyperlink provided in this slide. Application deadlines do vary, so please read carefully. And again, JustGrants trainings can be accessed by utilizing the hyperlink provided in this slide.

And with that, I would like to thank you for listening today. We wish you success in the submission of your application, and I will turn it back to my colleague, Andre Bethea, to offer any additional closing remarks.