

# Pell Reinstatement 2023: Preparing for Implementation

Moderator: Belinda Wheeler, PhD  
Vera Institute of Justice

*This project was supported by Grant No. 2019-MU-BX-K015 awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance. The Bureau of Justice Assistance is a component of the Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institute of Justice, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the Office for Victims of Crime, and the Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering and Tracking. Points of view or opinions in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.*



# Virtual Meeting/ Conference Recording Notice

This session is hosted by the National Reentry Resource Center (NRRC). The NRRC is operated by the American Institutes for Research® (AIR®) which allows for the recording of audio, visuals, participants, and other information sent, verbalized, or utilized during business related meetings. By joining a meeting, you automatically consent to such recordings. Any participant who prefers to participate via audio only should disable their video camera so only their audio will be captured. Video and/or audio recordings of any AIR session shall not be transmitted to an external third party without the permission of AIR.

# 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

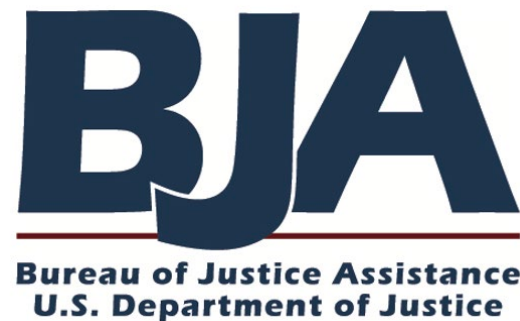
**SMART** - Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking

# 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.

# Track News and Updates on Social Media

**#ReentryMatters**

**#SecondChanceMonth**

**#SecondChanceMonth23**





## Training and Technical Assistance (TTA) Provider

- Assist grantees to focus on education, employment, and reentry
- Connect grantees to peer networks, best practices, and resources



# Agenda



Introductions



Opening Remarks: Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General Amy L. **Solomon**



Pell Reinstatement Discussion



Additional Resources



Q&A

# SPEAKERS



- **Amy Solomon**, Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, U.S. Department of Justice
- **Sean Addie**, Director of Correctional Education, U.S. Department of Education
- **Patrick Rodriguez**, Co-Executive Director, Georgia Coalition for Higher Education in Prison
- **Jay Sanders**, Assistant Commissioner, Georgia Department of Corrections

# Welcome

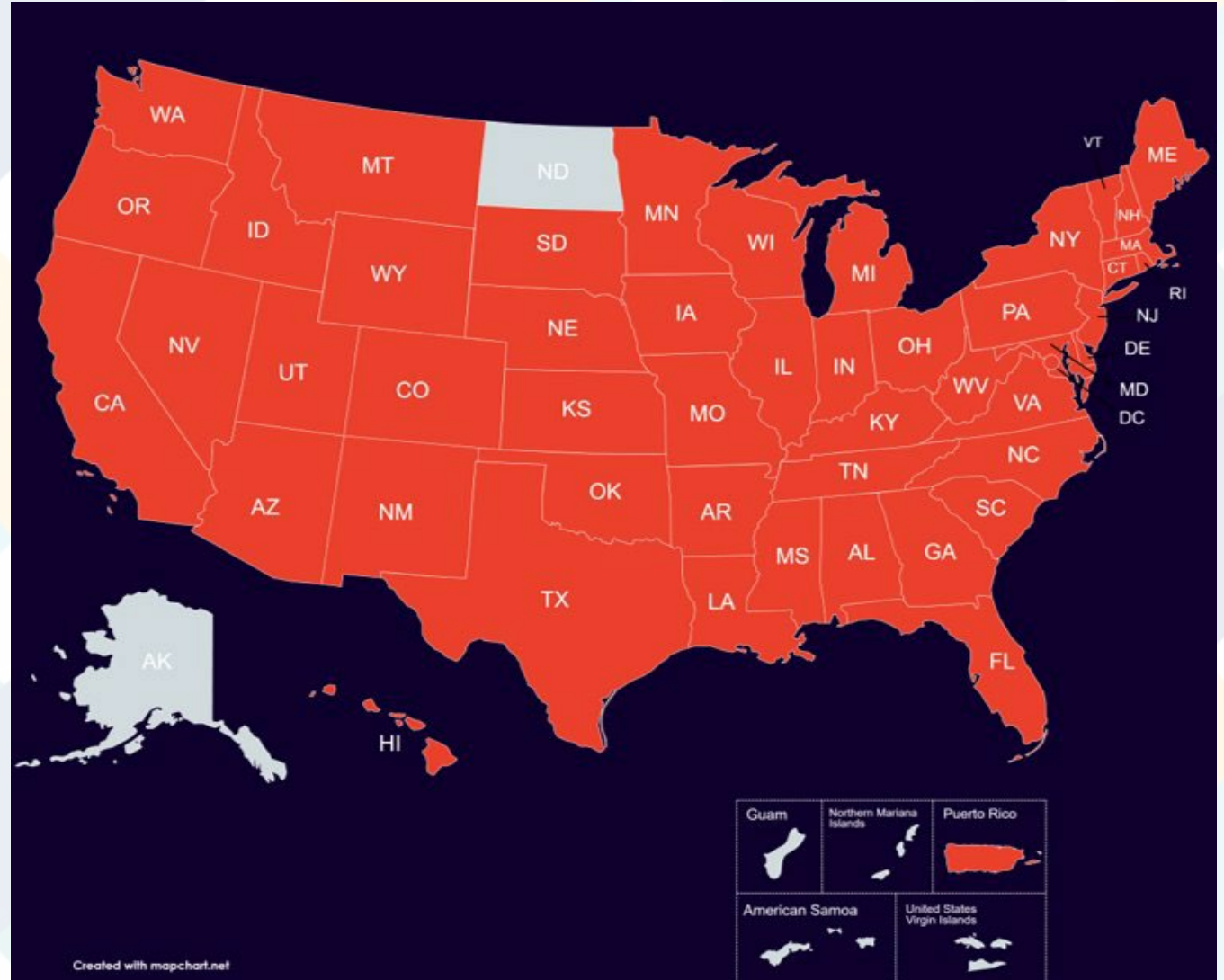
**Amy L. Solomon, Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, U.S. Department of Justice**



# Second Chance Pell 2016-2022

48

States, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico are now involved in the Second Chance Pell Initiative.



# Pell Expansion Updates and Next Steps

Sean Addie, Director of Correctional Education, U.S. Department of Education





# Prison Education Programs (PEP)

## Who is the oversight entity?

Corrections

## Who is Eligible to be a Part of a PEP:

**Any person** who is incarcerated and serving a criminal sentence is eligible to be a part of a PEP **regardless of sentence length or conviction type.**

## Location:

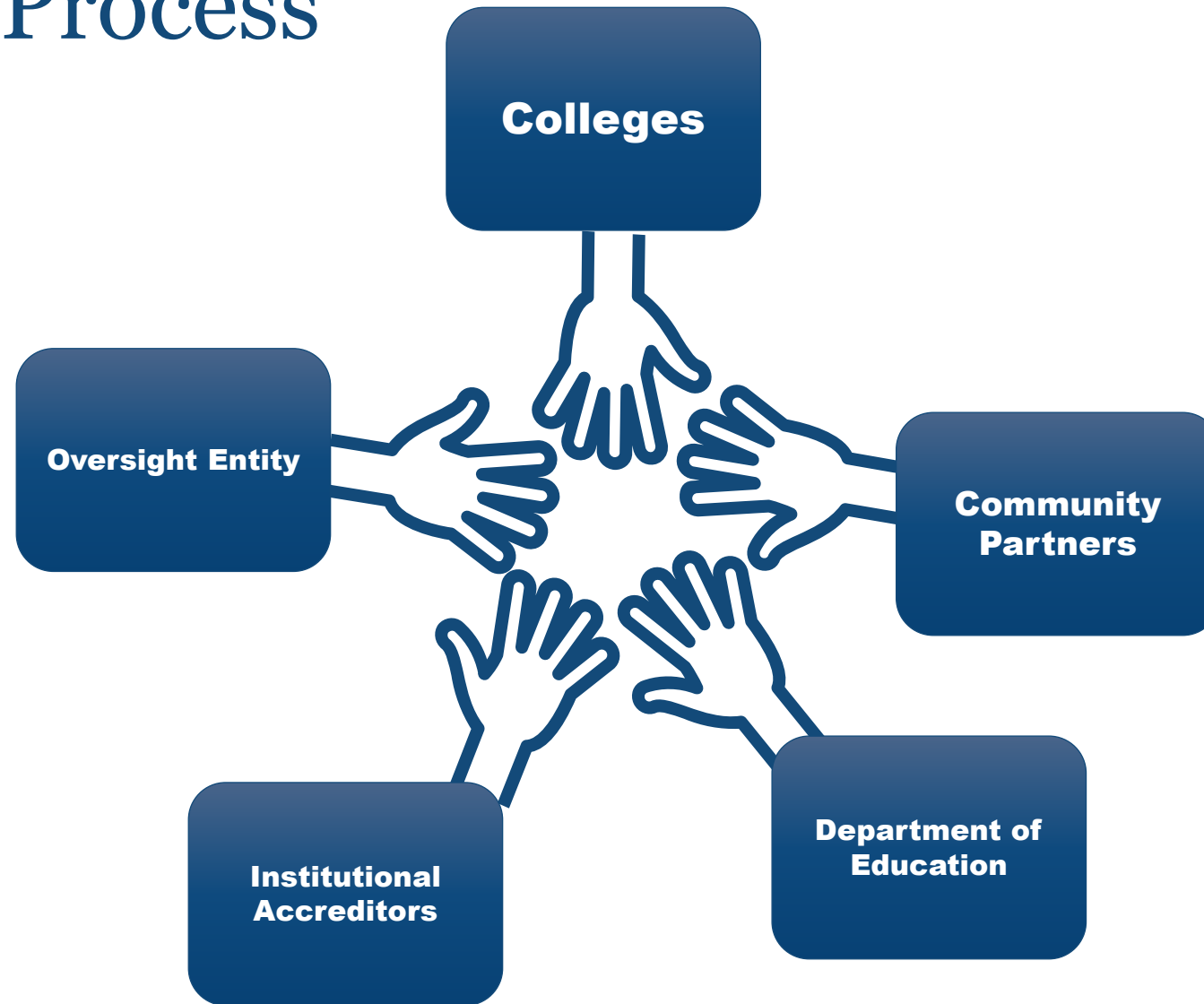
**PEPs include more than just prisons.** The definition of an additional location for a PEP is as follows: *“A Federal, State, or local penitentiary, prison, jail, reformatory, work farm, juvenile justice facility, or other similar correctional institution.”*



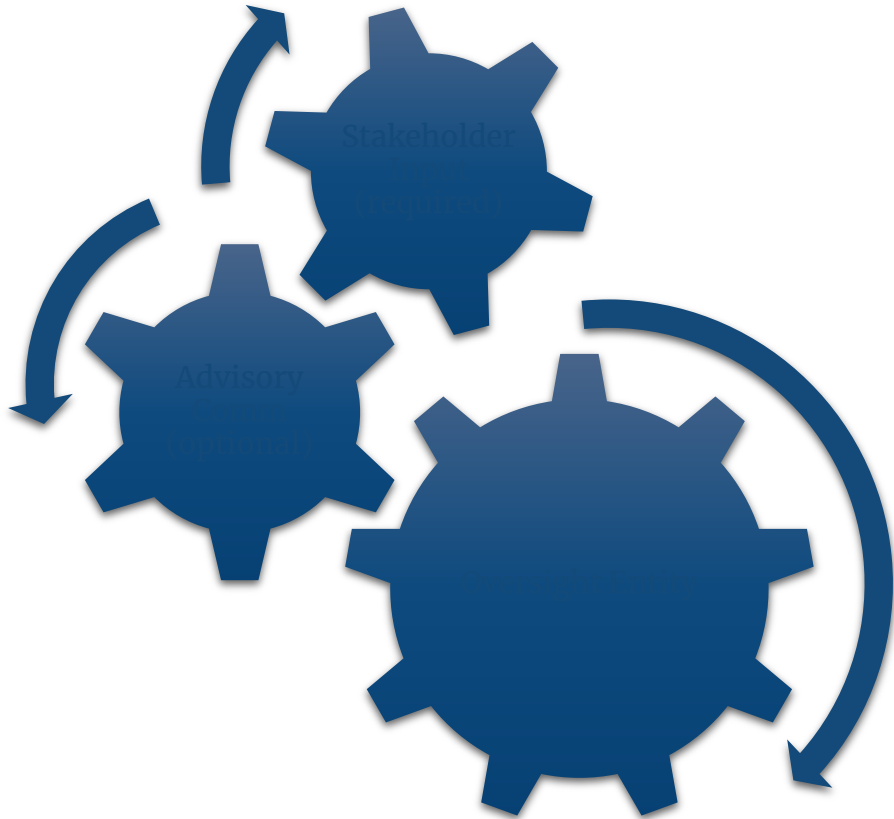
# Georgia



# Multiple Stakeholders Required in the PEP Approval Process



# Community Engagement



## Advisory Committee - *optional*

- A group established by the oversight entity that provides nonbinding feedback regarding the approval and operation of a PEP within the oversight entity's jurisdiction

## Relevant Stakeholders - *required*

- Individuals and organizations that provide input to the oversight entity as part of a feedback process regarding the approval and operation of PEPs

## Must include

- Representatives of students who are incarcerated
- Organizations representing individuals who are confined or incarcerated
- State higher education executive offices
- Accrediting agencies
- Additional stakeholders as determined by the oversight entity

# Supporting Students





# ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Federal Student Aid (FSA) Knowledge Center: <https://fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/topics/prison-education-programs>
- Department of Education Dedicated Email Address for PEP-related Questions: pep@ed.gov
- Georgia Coalition for Higher Education in Prison - <https://www.gachep.org/>
- Alliance for Higher Education in Prison - <https://www.higheredinprison.org/>
- Formerly Incarcerated College Graduates Network - <https://www.ficgn.org/>

**Vera** offers a range of resources that may be helpful to colleges, accreditors, corrections, and other stakeholders in the higher education in prison space:

- [Accessing Pell Grants for College Programs in Correctional Settings](#) summarizes the final regulations.
- [Postsecondary Education in Prison Programs and Accreditation—General Considerations for Peer Reviewers and Accreditors](#) provides college accreditors, peer reviewers, and other interested parties with information about the higher education in prison space.
- [Second Chance Pell: Five Years of Expanding Higher Education Programs in Prisons](#) summarizes the fifth year of the experiment using survey data collected from 64 of the participating colleges.
- [First Class report](#) offers relevant guidance on starting new college in prison programs.
- [A Piece of the Puzzle](#) analyzes state financial aid available to students who are incarcerated.
- [Lessons from Second Chance Pell](#) provides guidance on advising students completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form while incarcerated.

# **Questions & Answers**



# Thank you!

**Belinda Wheeler**

**[bwheeler@vera.org](mailto:bwheeler@vera.org)**

Join the NRRC's distribution list to receive  
National Reentry Resource Center updates!

<https://nationalreentryresourcecenter.org/subscribe>