



the NATIONAL REENTRY
RESOURCE CENTER

— *A project of the CSG Justice Center* —

Second Chance Act Grants: Responding to the FY14 Two-Phase Adult Reentry Demonstration Program Solicitation

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 grants to state, local, and tribal governments and nonprofit organizations to support programs, policies and practices that reduce recidivism



Current Funding Opportunities

- In fiscal year (FY) 2014, \$67.7 million was appropriated for Second Chance Act grant programs.
- Funding will be distributed between adult and juvenile grant programs, and across solicitations.
- Three other FY14 Second Chance Act solicitations are currently open:
 - Second Chance Act Comprehensive Community-Based Adult Reentry Program Utilizing Mentors: <https://www.bja.gov/Funding/14SCAMentoringSol.pdf>
 - OJJDP FY 2014 Second Chance Act Two-Phase Juvenile Reentry Demonstration Program: Planning and Implementation: <http://www.ojjdp.gov/grants/solicitations/FY2014/2ndChanceDemo.pdf>
 - OJJDP FY 2014 Second Chance Act Comprehensive Statewide Juvenile Reentry Systems Reform Planning Program: <http://www.ojjdp.gov/grants/solicitations/FY2014/2ndChanceReform.pdf>
- To receive announcements when new SCA solicitations are posted, sign up for the NRRC newsletter at <http://csgjusticecenter.org/subscribe>,

Section 101

- Authorizes grants to **state and local governments** and **federally recognized Indian tribes** that may be used for planning and implementing demonstration projects.
- In FY14, two-year, two-phase awards of up to up to \$750,000 will be made:
 - Up to \$150,000 will be available to grantees initially to support the planning phase;
 - The remainder of the award will be available upon BJA approval to support the implementation phase.

SCA Two-Phase Adult Reentry Demonstration Program

- Solicitation was released on April 9, 2014
- Solicitation is available at:
<https://www.bja.gov/Funding/14SCAReentryDemoSol.pdf>
- Applications are due on June 2, 2014
- State and local government agencies and federally recognized Indian tribes are eligible to apply under this program

Mandatory Project Components

All applicants must:

1. Document their ability to track participants using unique identifiers, gain access to recidivism data and report recidivism data, particularly returns to incarceration, for up to one year post-release.
2. Identify a research partner who will be engaged to assist with:
 - Completion of the strategic plan
 - Data collection and analysis
 - Forecasting participant flow to ensure programs reach their projected enrollment numbers
 - Monitoring and evaluating performance
3. Provide a baseline recidivism rate for the proposed target population.

Other Mandatory Requirements

- A draft **reentry strategic plan** must be attached to the application. Grantees can continue to develop the strategic plan in the planning phase of their award.
- A detailed **implementation schedule and sustainability plan** must be attached to the application or incorporated into the narrative.
- The program narrative should describe an existing **reentry task force**, and the role the task force will play in the grant-funded project. Letters of support from key partners and task force leaders should be attached.
 - The task force should examine ways to pool resources and funding streams, and collect data and feedback from partners and stakeholders.
 - The task force should engage local policymakers working to identify and address local barriers to effective reentry, including barriers that are policy or procedural in nature.

Other Mandatory Requirements

- The narrative should discuss the role of local government agencies, nonprofit organizations, Continuums of Care, state or local interagency councils of homelessness, and community stakeholders in the project.
- The narrative should describe ongoing 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.
- The narrative should discuss the role of state corrections departments, community corrections agencies, local jail, and/or juvenile corrections systems, as relevant to the project. **Letters of support from corrections officials responsible for the facilities or individuals to be served through the project must be attached.**

Other Mandatory Requirements

- The explicit support of the chief executive officer of the applicant state, unit of local government, territory, or Indian tribe must be documented. A letter of support from the lead organization must be attached that includes:
 - Certification that the lead agency has consulted with other local parties, and
 - The following statement: “The agency agrees to provide individual criminal history for information for all participants to evaluators, unless prohibited by law. These data will be provided in response to periodic requests from the grantees and evaluator through the period of performance of this project to capture both criminal history prior to the program enrollment and subsequent recidivism.”

Other Mandatory Requirements

- In the program narrative, applicants must clearly describe how they have incorporated the following evidence-based corrections practices into their program:
 - Objectively assess criminogenic risks and needs
 - Enhance intrinsic motivation
 - Target higher-risk offenders
 - Address offenders' greatest criminogenic needs
 - Use cognitive-behavioral interventions
 - Tailor dosage and intensity of services

See Appendix 1 in the solicitation for more information about these principles.
- In the program narrative, applicants must describe how the project could be scaled up or broadly replicated if demonstrated to be effective.
- In the program narrative, applicants must present a plan for analyzing statutory, regulatory, rules-based, and practice-based hurdles to reintegration.

The Planning Phase

In the first six months of the project, grantees will be access up to \$150,000 to support the following allowable uses:

- Reentry Task Force activities
- Completion of a reentry strategic plan for the jurisdiction
- Formalizing the relationship with the research partner and finalizing the research plan
- Completion of a Planning and Implementation Guide provided by and with the assistance of the National Reentry Resource Center

The Implementation Phase

Once a grantee's Planning and Implementation (P&I) Guide has been approved by BJA, grantees will be able to access the remainder of their award to support the following allowable uses:

- Use actuarial-based assessment instruments for reentry planning
- Provide treatment and services that target criminogenic needs
- Provide sustained case planning/management in the community
- Support a comprehensive range of services
- Provide staff training
- Support civil legal aid for participants, where appropriate
- Develop and implement strategies that promote access to health coverage under the Affordable Care Act, where applicable

Target Population

- The target population for the initiative must be a specific subset of **medium- to high-risk** individuals as identified using a validated assessment tool, and convicted as an adult and incarcerated in a state, local, or tribal prison or jail.
- Applicants must identify the validated risk assessment tool used to identify participants and the assessment levels/scores eligible for participation in the program.
- Applicants must identify the number of people they plan to serve over the two-year award period. **Applicants are *strongly encouraged* to provide services to at least 75 participants.**

Priority Considerations

Priority consideration will be given to grant applicants who:

- Focus their program in geographic areas with a disproportionate population of individuals released from prisons, jails, or juvenile detention facilities.
- 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.
- Demonstrate effective case assessment and management abilities to provide a comprehensive and continuous reentry process.
- Review and reform the technical violation process to expand use of swift, certain, graduated and proportionate responses.

Priority Considerations

Priority consideration will be given to grant applications that:

- Incorporate a “Pay for Success” model into their project.
- Target high-risk individuals, as identified through the use of validated risk/need assessment tools.
- Link grant-funded activities and services to affordable and supportive housing, leveraged through partnerships with non-profit housing agencies, public housing authorities, housing finance agencies, and Continuums of Care, particularly for those who are experiencing or are at risk of chronic homelessness.
- Include input from nonprofit organizations, consultation with crime victims, individuals who have been released from prisons, jails and their families.

Selection Criteria

- Statement of the Problem (10%)
- Project Design and Implementation (35%)
- Capabilities/Competencies (25%)
- Impact/Outcomes, Evaluation, and Sustainability (15%)
- Collaboration (5%)
- Budget (10%)

Selection Criteria

Statement of the Problem (10%):

- Describe the problems with reentry 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 to develop reentry plans
 - data collection and analysis methodology.
- Justification for selecting target population
- Describe how many total people the proposed program will serve.

Selection Criteria

Project Design and Implementation (35%):

- Describe how the Planning Phase activities will be addressed that include the completion of the Planning & Implementation Guide
- Describe in detail how the Mandatory Project Components and the Mandatory SCA requirements specified on pages 5-7 will be met
- Describe the proposed activities that fall within the Allowable Uses of Award Funds specified on pages 7-9.
- Describe the proposed activities aspects of your initiative that fulfill one or more of the Priority Considerations listed on pages 10-11
- Provide a description of both the pre- and post-release services to be provided for every program participant.

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.
- Identify the research partner and discuss how the research-practitioner partnership will assist in program development and evaluation.

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.
- Describe the strategy/methodology for tracking participant unique identifiers, gaining access to recidivism data, and reporting this data to BJA.
- Describe the strategy/methodology for assessing the ability of the program to assess for participant risk level and criminogenic needs and to track that responsivity and dosage of services provided is individualized and attendant to the risk/needs of participants.
- 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.

Performance Measurement Requirements

- **Post award**, grantees will be required to submit quarterly performance reports through BJA's online Performance Measurement Tool (PMT): www.bjaperformancetools.org.
- PMT training will be available to grantees post-award.
- Applicants should review the current performance measures for this program at:
www.bjaperformancetools.org/help/scareentryquestionnaire.pdf. The specific performance measures may change over time, but applicants should be prepared to consistently track required elements, including service provision, program completion, and recidivism.

Selection Criteria

Collaboration (5%):

- 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.
- Describe how the proposed project will use this prior experience to enhance the project's overall goal of reducing recidivism.

Selection Criteria

Budget (10%) :

- Applicants must provide a proposed budget and budget narrative that are cost-effective, complete, and allowable.
- **Unallowable uses** for award funds include:
 - Prizes, rewards, entertainment, or trinkets (or any type of monetary incentive)
 - Client stipends
 - Gift cards
 - Vehicles
 - Food and beverages
- Applicants must budget funds for three staff to attend two DOJ-sponsored grant meetings in Washington, DC.

Match Requirement

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. For example:

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

Match equation:

\$750,000	BJA Demonstration grant
+ \$375,000	In-kind contribution (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.
- **The match waiver request must be submitted with the application. If an applicant includes matching dollars, the match becomes mandatory and subject to audit.**

Important Attachments

- Abstract that includes:
 - The name of the research partner
 - The projected number of participants to be served by the project
 - A baseline recidivism rate for the target population, or a plan for establishing one
 - The name of the risk assessment tool used
- The jurisdiction's current reentry strategic plan, or a draft if in development
- A letter from the lead organization including required certifications
- A letter from the research partner
- Disclosure of other pending applications for federal grants that would support the same project or services

See pages 16-22 of the solicitation for a full list of required attachments.

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](#).

Note: 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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