



the NATIONAL REENTRY
RESOURCE CENTER

— *A project of the CSG Justice Center* —

Second Chance Act Grants: Responding to the FY2014 Comprehensive Community-Based Adult Reentry Program Utilizing Mentors Solicitation

Brought to you by the National Reentry Resource Center and the
Bureau of Justice Assistance, U.S. Department of Justice

Speakers

- Leah Kane
Deputy Program Director, Reentry
Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center
- Dr. Gary Dennis
Senior Policy Advisor, Corrections
Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), U.S. Department of Justice
- Thurston Bryant
Policy Advisor, Corrections
Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), U.S. Department of Justice

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 Two-Phase Adult Reentry Demonstration Program: Planning and Implementation: <https://www.bja.gov/Funding/14SCAReentryDemoSol.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>,

Comprehensive Community-Based Adult Reentry Program Utilizing Mentors

- Goal: promote more effective and successful reentry for formerly incarcerated individuals through comprehensive, evidence-based wrap-around reentry plans which address individual needs and are supported by trained mentors.
- Applicants are limited to nonprofit organizations, including tribal nonprofit organizations, and federally-recognized Indian tribes.
- Applicants must have a documented history of providing comprehensive, evidence-based reentry services.
- Applications are due on **June 2, 2014**.
- The solicitation is available at:

<https://www.bja.gov/Funding/14SCAMentoringSol.pdf>.

How does this solicitation differ from previous SCA mentoring solicitations?

- Larger awards for a longer grant period
 - Awards of up to \$1,000,000 for 36 months
- Larger programs
 - Programs must serve at least 250 individuals over the 36 month award period
- Broader range of services
 - Grantees must provide a comprehensive range of reentry services that align with the individual risk and need factors of their participants.
- Collaboration with corrections
 - Applicants must submit a Memorandum of Agreement or Understanding that clearly demonstrates an established relationship with a correctional agency and the facility in which the applicant proposes to work.

Target Population

- Applicants must identify a target population for their project: a specific subset of the population aged 18 or older, convicted as an adult, and imprisoned in a state, local, or tribal prison or jail.
- Applicants must identify the number of participants they intend to serve and provide evidence demonstrating that a sufficient number of individuals will be released from prison/jail during the 36-month award period to enroll in the program.
- Participants must be **moderate to high-risk of reoffending**, as identified by empirically validated risk assessment instruments.
- For federally recognized Indian tribes, the individuals may be housed in a tribal, regional, county, or local jail pursuant to state or tribal law.

Mandatory Requirements

Applicants must:

- Demonstrate a cost-effective program strategy which provides mentoring and other services to a **minimum of 250** individuals returning from incarceration during the 3-year project period.
- Include a Memorandum of Agreement or Understanding (MOA or MOU), or another form of documentation more binding than a letter of support, that clearly demonstrates an established collaborative relationship with a correctional agency and the specific facility or facilities in which the applicant proposes to work.
- **Provide both pre- and post-release services** that include mentoring offenders in a pre-release setting during incarceration, through transition back to the community, and post-release.
- Describe a comprehensive menu of transitional services that incorporate cognitive-behavioral approaches and address a broad range of individual risk and need factors.

Mandatory Requirements (cont.)

- State the number of mentors to be recruited, provide a recruitment timeline, and list the community partners the applicant will engage to recruit mentors.
- Provide an outline of the training curriculum that will be provided to all mentors, which must address the following topics:
 - Characteristics of the criminal justice system, corrections and the reentry process
 - Relevant governing policies and procedures of the correctional agencies and facilities
 - Interpersonal communication skills
 - Criminogenic needs and their relationship to recidivism
 - Victim-related issues
 - Available transitional services and referral procedures to other agencies/organizations
 - Ethical standards and the nature of the mentor/mentee relationship
 - Safety

Mandatory Requirements (cont.)

- Articulate a plan for tracking participant outcomes for at least 12 months following release and obtaining information about recidivism from the relevant corrections and/or supervision agencies.
 - Grantees will be required to provide the number of program participants who are re-incarcerated within the 12-month period following their initial release.
- Provide a baseline recidivism rate for the proposed target population, an explanation of how the baseline recidivism rate was developed, and how it is comparable to the applicant's target population.

Priority Considerations

Priority consideration will be given to applicants who:

- Propose a plan/strategy for determining which program participants may be newly eligible for healthcare insurance coverage under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA)
- Provide for an independent evaluation of the project that includes, to the maximum extent feasible, random assignment of offenders to program delivery and control groups.

Selection Criteria

- Statement of the Problem (15%)
- Program Design and Implementation (35%)
- Capabilities/Competencies (25%)
- Impact/Outcomes, Evaluation, and Sustainment, and Plan for Collecting the Data Required for this Solicitation's Performance Measures (15%)
- Budget (10%)

Statement of the Problem

- Describe the problems faced by individuals returning from incarceration to the community.
- Provide a baseline recidivism rate for the proposed target population including documentation to support the development of the rate.
- Indicate the jurisdiction or tribal community to be served and describe the target population.
- Summarize the basic components of the state, local, or tribal reentry initiative as currently being implemented.

Statement of the Problem (cont.)

- Describe the existing continuum or menu of services (pre- and post-release) available to offenders corresponding to the individual's risk and need assessment.

Examples:

- Cognitive behavioral therapy
 - Life skills (including financial training)
 - Education
 - Mental health and substance abuse treatment
 - Family counseling
 - Transitional and permanent housing links
 - Ongoing offender behavior assessments
 - Data collection and analysis for future efforts
- Describe how the mentoring program proposed in the project application will interface with the existing reentry process.

Program Design and Implementation

- Describe the project implementation plan, including:
 - The process for identifying potential mentees and mentors;
 - Mentor training curriculum components and delivery and any continual mentor professional development opportunities and supports that will be provided;
 - How mentors and mentees will be matched;
 - The intended ratio of mentors to mentees.
 - The intended length of the formal mentor/mentee relationship
- Identify the number of mentors who will be recruited, timeline for recruiting mentors, and list of the community partners to engage in recruiting mentors.
- Describe how the proposed project will provide both pre- and post-release services that include connecting mentors and mentees prior to release from the correctional facility, through transition back to the community, and post-release.

Program Design and Implementation (cont.)

- Describe the transitional services, in addition to mentoring, that will be provided to assist in the reintegration of offenders into the community.
- Provide an outline of the training curriculum that will be provided to all mentors, including training components listed on page 19 of the solicitation.
- Describe how the project incorporates effective correctional practices (see Appendix 1 of the solicitation).
- Describe how the project could be broadly replicated if demonstrated to be effective.
- Describe how any the Priority Considerations specified on page 8 of the solicitation have been met.

Capabilities/Competencies

- Describe the organizational structure, capabilities, and competencies of the applicant.
 - Include historical perspective on how the organization is positioned to provide mentoring and transitional services throughout the entire reentry process.
- 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 should match the staff necessary to accomplish the tasks outlined in the project implementation plan.
 - BJA strongly encourages applicants to hire a full-time coordinator with a documented history of working with offenders.
- Discuss the role of local governmental agencies, other nonprofit organizations, and community stakeholders that will collaborate on project implementation.

Impact/Outcomes, Evaluation, and Sustainment, and Plan for Collecting the Data Required for Performance Measures

- Identify goals and objectives for program development, implementation, and outcomes.
- Describe how performance will be documented, monitored, and evaluated, and identify the impact of each strategy once implemented.
- Outline what data and information will be collected and describe how evaluation and collaborative partnerships will be leveraged to build long-term support and resources for the program.
- Describe the process for assessing the project's effectiveness (see Performance Measures), including the strategy/methodology for tracking offenders assigned to the project for as long as they are actively involved.

Impact/Outcomes, Evaluation, and Sustainment, and Plan for Collecting the Data Required for Performance Measures (cont.)

- Discuss the role of state or local corrections departments, community corrections agencies, and/or local jail systems in ensuring successful reentry of offenders into their communities
- Discuss how services provided under this project will be integrated into the overall reentry strategy of the facility housing the target population.
- Provide a plan for tracking participant outcomes for at least 12 months following release, and describe the process for obtaining information about recidivism from the relevant corrections and/or supervision agencies.

Budget

- **There is no match requirement under this solicitation.** However, if an applicant proposes a voluntary match amount and the budget is approved, the match becomes mandatory and subject to audit.
- 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 3-day meetings in Washington D.C.
- Consultant rates in excess of \$450/day (\$56.25/hour) must receive additional post-award approval.
- Sole source contracts in excess of \$100,000 must receive post-award approval. Grantees will be required to demonstrate that the item or service is only available from a single source.

Performance Measures

- A preliminary list of performance measures for this program is included in the solicitation.
- The performance measures included in the solicitation are examples taken from the complete list of measures. A full list of the current performance measures for this program is available at <http://www.bjaperformancetools.org/help/scamentoringquestionnaire.pdf>.
- Applicants should also be aware that the required performance measures may change prior to the start of their award period.
- Training regarding BJA's Performance Measurement Tool (PMT), which grantees are required to use to submit their data, will be available to grantees.

Basic Minimum Requirements (BMR)

- Applicants should be aware that applications that are determined to be nonresponsive to the scope of the solicitation, or that do not include the applications elements that BJA has designated by BJA to be critical, will neither proceed to peer review, nor receive further consideration.
- BJA has designated the following application elements as critical:
 - Project Abstract
 - Program Narrative
 - Budget Detail Worksheet and Budget Narrative: Applicants may combine the Budget Detail Worksheet and Budget Narrative in one document. However, if an applicant submits only one document, it must contain both narrative and detail information.
 - Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)

Required Attachments

- Project timeline
- Position descriptions for key positions and resumes
- Letters of Support
- Memoranda of Agreement from all key partners, including correctional agencies
- Disclosure of pending applications:
 - All applications for federally funded assistance that would support the same project and cover the same cost items proposed in this application.
 - Include both direct applications for federal funding (like this one) and indirect applications (e.g., applications to state agencies for subawards).
 - Include all pending applications submitted within the past twelve months.
 - See example on page 20 of the solicitation.
 - Applicants that do not have pending applications must include a statement to this effect.

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 877-927-5657, via email at JIC@telesishq.com, or via web chat at www.justiceinformationcenter.us.

Hours of operation are 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. eastern time and 8:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. eastern time, Monday through Friday, on the solicitation close date

Questions and Answers



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(212) 482-2320

<http://csgjusticecenter.org/nrrc/>



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BJA BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE

Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA)
810 Seventh Street NW
Fourth Floor
Washington, DC 20531

www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/