Responding to the FY 2018 Second Chance Act Adult Reentry and Employment Strategic Planning Program Solicitation

Application due June 18, 2018
Speakers

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• **Erica Nelson**, Policy Analyst, The Council of State Governments Justice Center
The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), a component of the Department of Justice’s Office of Justice Programs, provides leadership and services in grants administration and criminal justice policy development to state, local, and tribal jurisdictions. Specifically, BJA provides funding to support law enforcement, combat violent and drug-related crime, and combat victimization. Through the development and implementation of policy, services, and sound grants management, BJA strengthens the nation’s criminal justice system and restores security in communities.

To learn more, visit https://www.bja.gov or follow us on Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/DOJBJA/) and Twitter (@DOJBJA).
The Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center

- **Mission:** The CSG Justice Center provides practical, nonpartisan, research-driven strategies and tools to increase public safety and strengthen communities.
The NRRC was authorized by the passage of the Second Chance Act (SCA) and launched by the Bureau of Justice Assistance in 2009.

NRRC staff have worked with nearly 800 SCA grantees, including 40 state corrections agencies.

The NRRC provides individualized, intensive, and targeted technical assistance training and distance learning to support SCA grantees.
Goal of the Grant Program

To fund the development of **strategic plans** that are comprehensive, collaborative, and multisystemic in their approach to **increase public safety by reducing recidivism and improving employability** for people returning to the community from incarceration.
Bridge and Integrate Best Practices from the Corrections and Workforce Development Fields

- Maximize limited resources
- Break the cycle of re-incarceration and/or joblessness
- Prepare people for success
Connect People to Appropriate Services Based on Assessed Risk, Needs and Job Readiness

Step 1: Assess Risk and Needs
- Low or “Lower” Risk
- Risk and Needs Assessment with Objective, Validated Tool
- Moderate/High or “Higher” Risk

This assessment measures individuals' risk of reoffending and related needs, and helps inform supervision policies and non-employment referrals/program placements that address criminogenic risk and responsivity needs.

Step 2: Assess Job Readiness
- Job-Readiness Assessment
- Lower Risk/More Ready (GROUP 1)
- Lower Risk/Less Ready (GROUP 2)
- Higher Risk/More Ready (GROUP 3)
- Higher Risk/Less Ready (GROUP 4)

Step 3: Deliver Targeted Services
- Integrated Risk and Job-Readiness Packages
- GROUP 1 Employment Program Components
- GROUP 2 Employment Program Components

Less Intensive Application of Service-Delivery Principles for Groups 1 and 2

- Integrated Risk and Job-Readiness Packages
- GROUP 3 Employment Program Components
- GROUP 4 Employment Program Components

More Intensive Application of Service-Delivery Principles for Groups 3 and 4
Employment Program Components to Improve Work Outcomes (what to do)

More Job-Ready

Primary Focus: Finding & Retaining Employment

• Non-transitional subsidized employment (e.g., on-the-job training)
• Job development and coaching
• Retention and advancement services (includes continued education and training)
• Financial work incentives

Less Job-Ready

Primary Focus: Promoting Job Readiness

• Education and training
• Soft-skill development
• Transitional job placements
• Non-skill-related interventions
## Employment Service-Delivery Principles to Reduce Recidivism *(how to do it)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th><strong>Lower Risk</strong></th>
<th><strong>Higher Risk</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Engagement</strong></td>
<td>Avoid intensive case management</td>
<td>Intensive case management and cognitive-behavioral interventions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Timing</strong></td>
<td>Connect to services upon release</td>
<td>Connect to services pre-release or immediately upon release</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Incentives</strong></td>
<td>External motivation is less critical</td>
<td>Enhance motivation through recognition and incentives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Coordination</strong></td>
<td>Less intensive community supervision</td>
<td>Work closely with supervision agents and reentry providers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Structured Time</strong></td>
<td>Avoid disrupting existing pro-social ties</td>
<td>Structure time in pro-social environment</td>
</tr>
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</table>
### An Example

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group 1</th>
<th>Joseph</th>
<th>Group 4</th>
<th>Michael</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lower Risk/ More Ready</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>Higher Risk/ Less Ready</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Felony conviction</td>
<td>Felony conviction</td>
<td>High school graduate</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>GED</td>
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**Other Risk Factors:**
- No prior convictions
- Maintained family ties
- 3 prior convictions
- History of substance use

**Other Job Readiness Factors:**
- Employed at time of arrest
- Worked in correctional industries while incarcerated
- Unemployed at time of arrest
- Gaps in employment history
- Limited skills

**Appropriate Services:**
- Connect with services that focus on job attainment and retention
- Low intensity service delivery and supervision
- Intensive engagement and structured programming
- Focus on soft skill development and building job readiness
Applying Client Matching at a Systems Level

1. Is our leadership committed to a collaborative approach?

2. Do we conduct timely risk-needs assessments and job-readiness screenings?

3. Have we conducted a comprehensive process analysis and inventory of employment services?

4. Do we have a coordinated process for making service referrals and tracking data?

Eligibility

• State correctional agencies
  – State department of corrections
  – State parole or probation agencies
• State administering agencies (SAAs)
• Federally recognized Indian tribes
Mandatory Requirements

1. Establish a cross-disciplinary, executive-level steering committee
2. Establish a cross-disciplinary working group
3. Complete a comprehensive process analysis and systems mapping
Mandatory Requirements

4. Create an industry **advisory group of employers**

5. Develop a **strategic plan** for integrating the best practices from the corrections and workforce fields
Deliverables: Strategic Plan

• Address gaps in services or systems based on the results of the comprehensive process analysis and systems mapping.
  – Improve existing program quality and develop new job training and education interventions (e.g., provide industry-recognized credentials, cognitive programming in the context of employment).
  – Ensure service contracts reflect evidence-based principles and promising practices (e.g., work-based learning opportunities).
Deliverables: Strategic Plan

• Support coordinated transition and release planning using formal partnerships and data sharing agreements.
• Include process and outcome evaluation efforts.
• Describe how efforts could be replicated or brought to scale if demonstrated to be effective.
Target Population

• People incarcerated in a state prison at the time of enrollment in the program.
• Medium to high risk as identified using a validated assessment tool.
• Age 18 or older and convicted as adults.
Evidence-based Programs or Practices

• The Office of Justice Programs (OJP) strongly emphasizes the use of data and evidence in policy making and program development in criminal justice, juvenile justice, and crime victim services.
  – Improving the quantity and quality of evidence OJP generates.
  – Integrating evidence into program, practice, and policy decisions within OJP and the field.
  – Improving the translation of evidence into practice.
Award Information

• BJA expects to make up to six awards of up to $200,000 each.

• BJA expects to make awards for a 12-month period of performance, to begin on October 1, 2018.
Budget Information

Cost Sharing or Matching Requirement

• This solicitation does not require a match. However, if a successful application proposes a voluntary match amount, and OJP approves the budget, the total match amount is incorporated into the approved budget which becomes mandatory and subject to audit.

• For additional information on cost sharing and matching, see the DOJ Grants Financial Guide at https://ojp.gov/financialguide/DOJ/PostawardRequirements/chapter3.3b.htm
Pre-agreement Costs (Pre-award Costs)

- Pre-agreement costs are costs incurred by the applicant prior to the start date of the period of performance of the federal award.
- OJP does not typically approve pre-agreement costs; an applicant must request and obtain the prior written approval from OJP for all such costs. All such costs incurred prior to award and prior to the approval of costs are incurred at the sole risk of the applicant. See the section on Costs Requiring Prior Approval in the DOJ Grants Financial Guide at https://ojp.gov/financialguide/DOJ/index.htm for more information.
Budget Information

Prior Approval, Planning and Reporting of Conference/Meeting/Training Costs

- OJP encourages minimization of conference, meeting and training costs
- OJP requires prior written approval to cover these costs
- OJP set costs limits, which include a general prohibition of all food and beverage costs
- OJP strongly encourages every applicant that proposes to use award funds for any conference, meeting, or training related activity (or similar event) to review the OJP and DOJ policy and guidance on approval, planning, and reporting of such events, available at https://www.ojp.gov/financialguide/DOJ/PostawardRequirements/chapter3.10a.htm
What an Application Should Include

• Information to Complete the Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)
• Project Abstract
• Program Narrative
• Budget and Associated Documentation
• Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (if applicable)
• Tribal Authorizing Resolution
• Financial Management and System of Internal Controls Questionnaire (including applicant disclosure of high risk status)
• Disclosure of Lobbying Activities
• Additional Attachments
## Review Criteria

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<tr>
<th>Selection Criteria</th>
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<tr>
<td>Statement of Problem/Description of Issue</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program Design &amp; Implementation</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capabilities &amp; Competencies</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Plan for Collecting Data for the Solicitation’s Performance Measures</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Budget</td>
<td>10%</td>
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*See pages 29 - 32 of the solicitation for the full list of requirements.*
For More Information

Solicitation is available at:

https://www.bja.gov/SCAEMP18

Applications are due on

June 18, 2018
Important Contacts

Application Submission Technical Assistance

Grants.gov Customer Support Hotline
1-800-518-4726 | support@grants.gov
Open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Solicitation Assistance Contact Information

National Criminal Justice Reference Service Response Center
1-800-851-3420 | grants@ncjrs.gov
Open 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Eastern time, Monday - Friday
Open till 8:00 p.m. Eastern time on the solicitation close date
Resources

CrimeSolutions.gov
https://crimesolutions.gov

The CSG Justice Center’s Reentry and Employment Program
https://csgjusticecenter.org/nrrc/reentry-and-employment/

The Integrated Reentry and Employment Strategies Project
Questions

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Thank you!

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For more information, contact info@nationalreentryresourcecenter.org

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