

# Understanding the Second Chance Act

## Juvenile State and Local Reentry Demonstration Projects Grants (Section 101)

### Background

On April 9, 2008, President Bush signed the Second Chance Act ([P.L. 110-199](#)) into law. The bill received bipartisan support from both chambers of Congress and a broad spectrum of leaders representing state and local government, law enforcement, corrections, and courts. This first-of-its-kind legislation authorizes various grants to government agencies and nonprofit organizations to provide employment assistance, substance abuse treatment, housing, family programming, mentoring, victims support, and other services that can help reduce recidivism.

This fact sheet is intended to help state, local and tribal governments prepare to apply for Reentry Demonstration Project grants to provide services to individuals under the age of 18.<sup>1</sup> The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), U.S. Department of Justice, released the first [solicitation for reentry demonstration projects for juveniles](#) on May 8, 2009, and applications were due on June 15, 2009.<sup>2</sup> The next solicitation for Section 101 grants is expected to be released in early 2010.

### Section 101

Section 101 of the Second Chance Act reauthorizes the Department of Justice to make grants to state and local governments and Indian tribes for Adult and Juvenile Offender State and Local Reentry Demonstration Projects, which are intended to help states and communities test ways to reduce recidivism. The Demonstration grants are *authorized* at \$55 million per year, but the appropriations process will determine the actual funding level of the program. In fiscal year 2009, \$15 million was appropriated for Section 101 grant programs.

### Who Can Apply?

States, units of local government, territories, and Indian tribes may apply for Demonstration Project grants to support programs that promote the safe and successful reintegration of individuals under the age of 18 who have been released from residential confinement.

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<sup>1</sup> For information about other Second Chance Act grant programs, see [www.reentrypolicy.org/government-affairs/second-chance-act](http://www.reentrypolicy.org/government-affairs/second-chance-act).

<sup>2</sup> The solicitation is available at [ojjdp.ncjrs.gov/grants/solicitations/FY2009/SecondChanceReentry.pdf](http://ojjdp.ncjrs.gov/grants/solicitations/FY2009/SecondChanceReentry.pdf).

## Allowable Uses

Demonstration grants may be awarded to support

- educational, literacy, vocational, and job placement services;
- substance abuse treatment and services;
- coordinated supervision and comprehensive services on release, including housing and mental and physical health care;
- family strengthening practices that encourage the development of safe, healthy, and responsible family relationships;
- mentoring;
- victim services.

## Mandatory Requirements

The law includes mandatory requirements that state, local and tribal governments must meet in order to be selected under the grant program. ***Applications that do not meet these requirements will not be considered.***

Each applicant must provide

1. A reentry strategic plan that describes the long-term strategy, including measurable annual and 5-year performance outcomes, and incorporates a detailed reentry implementation schedule and sustainability plan for the program after the federal funding is discontinued. In developing a reentry strategic plan, an applicant shall coordinate with communities and stakeholders to include persons in the field of public safety, juvenile corrections, housing, health, education, substance abuse, children and families, victims' services, employment and business, and members of nonprofit organizations that can provide reentry services. Each reentry plan shall measure the progress toward increasing public safety by reducing rates of recidivism and enabling returning youth offenders to transition successfully back into their communities. The plan shall also include an analysis of the statutory, regulatory, rules-based, and practice-based hurdles to reintegration of juveniles into the community.
2. A description of the evidence-based methodology and outcome measures that the applicant will use to evaluate the program and a discussion of how such measurements will provide valid measures of the impact of the program.
3. A description of how the project could be broadly replicated if demonstrated to be effective.
4. Documentation that reflects explicit support of the chief executive officer of the state, unit of local government, territory, or Indian tribe.
5. An extensive discussion of the role of state and/or local juvenile corrections departments and community corrections in ensuring successful reentry of juveniles into their communities. Applications must include letters of support from juvenile corrections officials of facilities and young offenders to be served through this project.
6. An extensive discussion of collaboration with state and local government agencies overseeing health, mental health, housing, child welfare, education, substance abuse, victim services, and employment services and local law enforcement agencies.
7. Documentation reflecting the establishment or empowerment of a reentry task force that will examine ways to pool resources and funding streams and collect data and best

practices in juvenile reentry from stakeholder agencies and organizations. The task force shall be comprised of relevant state, tribal, territorial, or local leaders and representatives of relevant agencies, service providers, non-profit organizations, and other key stakeholders.

Applicants should also be aware that grantees must report annually on the progress of their project at achieving

- reductions in recidivism rates;
- increases in employment and education opportunities;
- increases in housing opportunities;
- increases in participation in substance abuse and mental health services;
- improvements in prosocial behaviors;
- increases in community connectivity;
- increases in the use of evidence-based programs.

Demonstration projects must have as a goal the reduction of recidivism by 50 percent over a 5-year period among those who are served with funds made available under this section.<sup>3</sup>

### **Priority Considerations**

Priority consideration will be given to applicants that:

1. focus their program on geographic areas with a disproportionate population of individuals released from juvenile residential facilities.
2. demonstrate effective case assessment and management abilities to provide a comprehensive and continuous reentry process including planning while individuals are incarcerated, prerelease transition housing, and community release.
3. establish prerelease planning procedures to ensure eligibility of juveniles for federal or state benefits upon release, ensure that juveniles obtain all necessary referrals for reentry services, and deliver continuous and appropriate drug treatment, medical care, job training and placement, educational services, or any other service or support needed for successful reentry.
4. provide for a review of the process by which the applicant adjudicates violations of parole, probation, or supervision following release from confinement, taking into account public safety and the use of graduated sanctions for minor and technical violations of parole, probation, or supervision, specifically regarding those violations that are not otherwise, and independently, a violation of law.
5. provide for an independent evaluation of the reentry process that includes, to the maximum extent possible, random assignment and controlled studies to determine the effectiveness of the process developed within the scope of the project. The grantee must submit an evaluation plan to OJJDP for approval within 120 days of award.

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<sup>3</sup> For the purposes of this solicitation, recidivism is defined as “a return to prison, jail, or juvenile residential facility with either a new conviction or as the result of a violation of the terms of supervision within 12 months of initial release.”

## Matching Requirement

Demonstration Project applicants are required to commit to providing 50 percent of the total proposed project budget. Of that match, half (25 percent of the total proposed project budget) can be met through in-kind contributions of goods or services for the project, and the other half (also 25 percent of the total proposed project budget) must be in dollars. The proposed project funding must supplement, not supplant, existing monies spent on reentry. Applicants must identify the non-federal source of the 25 percent cash contribution and how all matching funds will be used.

### Matching Requirement Example

Total cost of project = \$100

Match equation:

\$50	Federal Demonstration Project grant
+ \$25	In-kind contribution from grantee (staff time, equipment)
+ <u>\$25</u>	Dollar match by grantee
\$100	Total cost of project

## For More Information

The [Council of State Governments Justice Center](#) is a national nonprofit organization that provides practical, nonpartisan advice and consensus-driven strategies, informed by available evidence, to increase public safety and strengthen communities. It established the [Reentry Policy Council](#) (RPC) in 2001 to assist state government officials grappling with the increasing number of people released from corrections facilities each year. The comprehensive *Report of the Reentry Policy Council*, published in 2005, includes 35 practical policy statements and recommendations to promote the safe and successful return of individuals from prison or jail to the community. The *Report* is available at [www.reentrypolicy.org](http://www.reentrypolicy.org), along with other helpful publications, including a checklist for Section 101 applicants and a reentry resource guide that includes links to other practical guides, tools, and reference materials. To receive updates when new resources become available, please subscribe to the RPC newsletter at [www.reentrypolicy.org/subscribe](http://www.reentrypolicy.org/subscribe). For more information about the Second Chance Act, please visit [www.reentrypolicy.org](http://www.reentrypolicy.org) or email [scainfo@csg.org](mailto:scainfo@csg.org).