



REENTRY PROJECT

Reentry Project grants assist communities in planning and implementing comprehensive programs to address the challenges involved in helping justice-involved young adults and adults transition back to the community. Reentry Projects serve either participants between the ages of 18 to 24 who are at-risk or involved in the juvenile or adult justice system or adults ages 25 or older who were formerly incarcerated in the adult criminal justice system and released from prison or jail within a specified period of time. All participants must reside in or be returning to high-poverty, high-crime communities.

The intent of this Reentry Project initiative is to protect community safety through the successful reintegration of offenders returning to the community by ensuring they engage in pro-social activities such as employment or education; maintain long-term employment; sustain a stable residence; and successfully address their substance abuse issues and mental health needs. These projects support the improvement and effectiveness of reentry services, and the Department supports the testing of new services and existing services in new combinations.

The design of the Reentry Projects grant provided organizations with significant flexibility in program design. Strategies used by the Reentry Projects range from the Ready4Work model, which combines mentoring, employment related services and case management; to the Risk-Needs-Responsivity (RNR) strategy which asserts treatment should focus on the higher risk offenders in that criminogenic needs should be included in the design and delivery of treatment; and to the behavioral and cognitive-behavioral interventions are the preferred strategy in order to account for the differences in age, gender, cognitive abilities or motivation of the participant.

Grantees are intermediary organizations with affiliate networks or offices in at least three communities and across at least two states or non-intermediary organizations. Projects are located in both rural and urban communities. Eligible applicants include community- or faith-based organizations with IRS 501(c)(3) non-profit status, state or local governments or any Indian and Native American entity eligible for grants under section 166 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).

Three rounds of Reentry Projects grants were awarded. 32 Reentry Projects grants were awarded in 2017 for \$72.8 million, 43 awarded in 2018 for \$87.4 million, and 45 awarded in 2019 for \$85.9 million. These grants have a thirty-nine (39) month period of performance, which includes up to three months of planning, a required 24-month period of operation, and a required 12-month period for follow-up services.

Mathematica Policy Research and Social Policy Research Associates are conducting a Reentry Projects program evaluation to identify and evaluate promising practices used in reentry employment programs for formerly incarcerated adults and young adults to address the range of challenges faced by this population as they transition back to the community. A final implementation report is expected in late 2022 and an impact report in 2024 pending design feasibility.