

## MEMORANDUM

To: The Bay Area Regional Steering Committee on Homelessness

From: HomeBase

Date: January 15, 2010

Re: Second Chance Act Adult and Juvenile State and Local Reentry  
Demonstration Projects Grants

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### Background

Recognizing the relationship between discharges from state institutions and homelessness, the Regional Steering Committee regularly discusses discharge planning as an effective means of preventing homelessness. Since 2004, the RSC has focused on best practices within the corrections, foster care, mental health, and healthcare systems, as well as studying discharges from the military. More specifically, in April 2008 and 2009, the RSC reviewed the Second Chance Act.

### History

On April 8, 2008 former President Bush signed into law the Second Chance Act of 2007, a bill that funds community and faith-based organizations to deliver mentoring and transitional services to people reentering the mainstream community from jail or prison. The act authorizes \$165 million in spending per year, including matching grants to state and local governments and nongovernmental groups to experiment with efforts. Additionally, the Second Chance Act directs the Justice Department to pursue research on re-entry issues and establishes a national Reentry Resource Center to promote successful approaches and provide training<sup>1</sup>.

More specifically, the bill lays out the following goals:

- To break the cycle of criminal recidivism, increase public safety, and better address the growing population of criminal offenders who return to their communities and commit new crimes
- To rebuild ties between offenders and their families, during incarceration and after reentry into the community, to promote stable families and communities
- To encourage the development and support of, and to expand the availability of, evidence-based programs that enhance public safety and reduce recidivism, such as substance abuse treatment, alternatives to incarceration, and comprehensive reentry services

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<sup>1</sup> Eckholm, Erik. "U.S. Shifting Prison Focus to Re-Entry Into Society," *The New York Times*, April 8, 2008. <http://www.nytimes.com/2008/04/08/washington/08reentry.html?st=cse&sq=second+chance+act&scp=1>

- To protect the public and promote law-abiding conduct by providing necessary services to offenders, during incarceration and after reentry into the community, in a manner that does not confer luxuries or privileges upon such offenders
- To assist offenders reentering the community to establish a self-sustaining and law-abiding life by providing sufficient transitional services for as short of a period as practicable or determined to be necessary by an appropriate treatment professional
- To provide offenders in prisons, jails or juvenile facilities with educational, literacy, vocational, and job placement services to facilitate re-entry into the community

One program, the Adult and Juvenile Offender State and Local Reentry Demonstration Projects, is intended to help states and communities test ways to reduce recidivism. The demonstration grants are authorized at \$55 million per year, although the appropriations process will determine the actual funding level of the program. In fiscal year 2010, \$37 million was appropriated for Reentry Demonstration Projects.

### **Reentry Demonstration Grants**

One program under the Second Chance Act is the Adult and Juvenile Offender State and Local Reentry Demonstration Projects, which is intended to help states and communities test ways to reduce recidivism. The demonstration grants are authorized at \$55 million per year, although the appropriations process will determine the actual funding level of the program. In fiscal year 2010, \$37 million was appropriated for Reentry Demonstration Projects.

The goal of the Reentry Demonstration Project Grants is to provide support to enable state, local, and tribal governments to develop and implement comprehensive and collaborative strategies that address the challenges posed by prisoner reentry and to reduce recidivism. Within the context of this initiative, “reentry” is not envisioned to be a specific program, but rather a process that begins when the offender is first incarcerated and ends with the offender’s successful community reintegration, evidenced by lack of recidivism. This process should provide the offender with appropriate evidence-based services—including addressing individual criminogenic needs—based on a reentry plan that relies on a risk/needs assessment that reflects the risk of recidivism for that offender.

### **Grant Requirements**

Applications are due March 4, 2010 at 8 pm EST. States, units of local government, territories, and Indian tribes may apply. Grant requests can be up to \$750,000 with no mention of a “minimum request.” Awards under the initiative will be for a period

of 12 months with the ability for no-cost extensions. A grantee may be eligible for continued funding for an additional 2 years contingent upon the availability of funds and demonstration of adequate progress toward meeting established goals of the program.

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 matching funds will be used.

#### *Allowable Expenses*

Funds can be used for one or more of the following activities:

- Actuarial-based assessment instruments for reentry planning;
- Efforts to target criminogenic needs that affect recidivism (e.g., anti-social behavior or high-conflict cognitive behavior patterns; limited pro-social supports; substance abuse; unemployment; lack of residential stability);
- Sustained case planning/management in the community;
- A comprehensive range of services (e.g., cognitive behavioral therapy; educational, literacy, vocational, and job placement services; substance abuse treatment; housing placement; mental and physical health care services; family services; and mentoring).

#### *Applicants MUST*

1. Have the explicit support of the chief executive officer of the state, unit of local government, territory, or Indian tribe applying for the grant
2. Provide discussion of the role of corrections in ensuring successful reentry, and include letters of support from the corrections officials responsible for facilities or individuals to be served through this project
3. Discuss the role of local governmental agencies, nonprofit organizations, and community stakeholders that will be coordinated by the applicant to collaborate on the reentry strategy, with certification of the involvement of such agencies and organizations
4. Provide evidence of collaboration with local law enforcement agencies and state and local government agencies overseeing health, mental health, housing, child welfare, education, substance abuse, victims services, and employment services
5. Provide a plan for analysis and identification of regulatory and statutory hurdles to reintegration into the community
6. Describe the evidence-based methodology and outcome measures that will be used to evaluate the program
7. Include documentation reflecting the establishment of a reentry task force

8. Provide a comprehensive reentry plan that describes the long-term strategy, including measurable annual and 5-year performance outcomes,<sup>2</sup> relating to the ultimate goals of increasing public safety and reducing recidivism. This plan must incorporate a detailed reentry implementation schedule and sustainability plan for the program
9. Describe how the project could be replicated broadly.

### *Reporting*

Recipients must report annually on the progress of their project at achieving

- reductions in recidivism rates;
- decreases in crime;
- increases in employment and education opportunities;
- reductions in violations of conditions of supervised release;
- increases in payment of child support;
- increases in housing placement;
- reductions in drug and alcohol abuse;
- increases in participation in substance abuse and mental health services.

### *Target Population*

Applicants must identify and define the specific subset of offenders, or combination of subsets, that are proposed to be the target population of their project. For example, jurisdictions may choose to target specifically offenders who are:

- A specific demographic or set of demographics (age, gender, etc.).
- Returning to a specific community or neighborhood or zip code.
- Housed in the same facility.
- Assessed/classified as high risk.

Applicants must provide their reason for selecting this target population and provide supporting documentation to justify their decision.

### *Priority Considerations*

Priority consideration will be given to applicants that:

- Demonstrate a high degree of collaboration among a variety of public, private, and faith-based organizations.
- Focus their program on geographic areas with a disproportionate population of offenders released from prisons, jails, or juvenile detention facilities.
- Target higher-risk offenders, to include sex offenders, mentally ill offenders, or offenders who have been dually diagnosed with major mental health disorders and alcohol or substance addictions at the same time, for participation in the funded program using validated assessment tools.
- Include input from relevant nonprofit organizations, in any case where

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<sup>2</sup> Demonstration projects must aspire to reduce recidivism among their target population by 50 percent in a 5-year period.

- relevant input is available.
- Include consultation with crime victims and individuals who have been released from prisons, jails, and juvenile facilities.
  - Include coordination with families of offenders.
  - Demonstrate effective case assessment and management abilities to provide a comprehensive and continuous reentry process
  - Use swift, certain, graduated and proportionate responses to violations of parole, probation, or supervision and effectively incorporate the use of community-based sanctions to respond to violation behavior.
  - 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.
  - Applicants who target a more serious offending population will be given priority, even if their overall target number of offenders is smaller. For those applicants not supporting a high-risk target group, the number of targeted offenders must be higher.

### **How to Apply**

Applicants must

- Submit via the Office of Justice Programs' (OJP) Grants Management System  
Applicants should begin the process immediately to meet the GMS registration deadline, especially if this is the first time they have used the system. Complete instructions on how to register and submit an application in GMS can be found at [www.ojp.usdoj.gov/gmscbt/](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/gmscbt/).
- Acquire a DUNS number
- Acquire/renew with CCR
- Complete a SF-424

*For more information, please contact Danielle Wildkress, Staff Lawyer:  
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