

RFP: Second Chance Act Program for Justice-Involved Youth

OVERVIEW

On March 30th, the United States Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of Justice Programs (OJP), and Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Second Chance Act Ensuring Public Safety and Improving Outcomes for Youth in Confinement and While Under Community Supervision program. This program supports state and local efforts to reduce recidivism and improve outcomes for youth returning to their communities after out-of-home detention or placement. Funding will support the following initiatives:

- Implementing evidence-based substance abuse and mental health treatment services;
- Re-entry strategies and programs for gang-involved youth; and
- Training and technical assistance to improve community supervision practices for juveniles with co-occurring substance abuse problems and mental health disorders.

Since eligible applicants for the first two categories are limited to state and local governments and tribal governments, the below document provides additional information on the third initiative, which is open to not-for-profit and for-profit organizations.

The full RFP is available [here](#). Applications are due on May 24th.

FUNDING

Up to \$1 million will be awarded to one organization through this RFP for Community Supervision Review and Enhancement Training and Technical Assistance. The award will be in the form of a cooperative agreement and the recipient will collaborate with OJP to carry out award activities. Funding may not be used to pay any employee total cash compensation (salary plus cash bonus) at a rate that exceeds 110 percent of the maximum annual salary payable to a member of the federal government's Senior Executive Service (SES) at an agency with a Certified SES Performance Appraisal System for that year.

Contracts are expected to last for three years beginning on October 1st.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Eligible applicants for funding under this RFP include not-for-profit organizations, for-profit organizations, and institutions of higher education. Priority will be given to applicants who can best demonstrate that their proposal will:

- Focus their initiative on geographic areas with a disproportionate population of offenders released from confinement;
- Include input from not-for-profit organizations in any case where relevant input is available and appropriate to the grant application, consultation with crime victims, youth released from youth facilities, and coordination with families of offenders;
- Demonstrate effective case assessment and management abilities to provide comprehensive and continuous re-entry supports, including planning while the youth is still in a facility, prerelease transition housing, ensuring that returning youth obtain all necessary referrals for services, and

delivering continuous and appropriate drug treatment, medical care, job training and placement, educational services, and other services and supports;

- Review the process by which the applicant adjudicates violations of parole, probation, or supervision following placement under supervision and/or release from a youth facility, taking into account public safety and the use of graduated, community-based sanctions for minor violations;
- Provide for an independent evaluation of re-entry programs that include, to the maximum extent possible, random assignment and controlled studies to determine the effectiveness of such programs; and
- Target high-risk youth involved in the justice system for community supervision programs through validated assessment tools.

PROGRAM SERVICES

The award recipient will provide training and technical assistance to states and localities to improve community supervision policies and practices for juveniles with co-occurring substance abuse problems and mental health disorders who are placed on probation or are being released from secure confinement. The program goals are to:

- Promote and increase collaboration among agencies and officials who work in probation, pretrial, law enforcement, and related community corrections fields;
- Implement strategies for the identification, supervision, and treatment of medium- to high-risk/needs youth, specifically those youth with co-occurring substance abuse problems and mental health disorders, which may serve as a model for other agencies throughout the nation;
- Objectively assess and/or evaluate the impact of innovative and evidence-based supervision and treatment strategies; and
- Demonstrate the use and efficacy of evidence-based practices and principles to improve the delivery of community supervision strategies and practices.

APPLICATION

Proposals will be scored based on the following criteria:

- Description of the Issue (20%)
- Goals, Objectives, and Performance Measures (5%)
- Project Design and Implementation (45%)
- Capabilities and Competencies (20%)
- Budget (10%)

The award will be distributed based on the above criteria, the availability of funds, geographic diversity, and strategic priorities.

Timeline

Proposals must be submitted by May 24th. The award will be announced by September 30th. Questions should be submitted to grants@ncjrs.gov. Answers to frequently asked questions are available [here](#).