



the NATIONAL REENTRY
RESOURCE CENTER

Second Chance Act Grants: Guidance for Reentry Court Applicants

Brought to you by the National Reentry Resource Center and the Bureau of
Justice Assistance, U.S. Department of Justice

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Speakers

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- ▶ **Judge Jeffery Tauber (ret.)**
Director, Reentry Court Solutions
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Project Director, Harlem Community Justice Center (2009 Mentor Grantee)

Today's Presentation

- ▶ Overview of Second Chance Act
- ▶ Review of the FY 2010 Solicitation
- ▶ Introduction to Reentry Court Models
- ▶ Case Study: Harlem Reentry Court
- ▶ Q&A

The Second Chance Act

Public Law 110-199 signed into law on April 8, 2008:

- ▶ Authorizes \$165 million for prisoner reentry programs in fiscal years 2009 and 2010
- ▶ Purpose: to help states and communities reduce recidivism

Funding Status:

- ▶ FY 2010 \$10 million for reentry courts under Sec. 111

Section 111- Reentry Courts

Authorizes grants to:

- ▶ State and local courts as well as “federally recognized Indian tribal courts”
- ▶ State agencies, municipalities, public agencies, non-profits, territories and “federally recognized Indian tribes” that have agreements with courts

To:

- ▶ Monitor juveniles/adults reentering the community
- ▶ Provide juveniles/adults reentering the community coordinated and comprehensive services and programs
- ▶ Convene community impact panels
- ▶ Provide and coordinate the delivery of community services
- ▶ Establish and implement graduated sanctions

Reentry Court Solicitation

- ▶ Solicitation released on April 14, 2010
- ▶ Solicitation is available at:
<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/10SecondChanceCourtsSol.pdf>
- ▶ Applications are due on June 3, 2010 (8pm ET)

Application Basics

▶ Who can apply?

- ▶ States, units of local government, and “Indian tribes” that demonstrate that the proposed reentry court will be administered by corrections agencies and an entity with judicial authority, such as a state or local court or probation and parole

▶ What will grantees receive?

- ▶ Awards will be for 12 months with availability of no-cost extension
- ▶ A grantee may be eligible for continuation funding for an additional 2 years contingent upon availability and demonstrated progress towards program goals
- ▶ Contingent upon availability of funds, awards of up to \$500,000 will be made

Selection Criteria

- ▶ Statement of the Problem (25%)
- ▶ Program Design and Implementation (20%)
- ▶ Capabilities/Competencies (15%)
- ▶ Budget (10%)
- ▶ Impact/Outcomes, Evaluation, and Sustainability (10%)
- ▶ Collaboration (20%)

Statement of the Problem (25%)

▶ Mandatory Requirements:

- ▶ Statistics on population of offenders released from prisons, jails, or juvenile detention facilities in the locale to be served
- ▶ Target Population

▶ Selection Criteria:

- ▶ Indicate the jurisdiction to be served with details on offender population
- ▶ Describe:
 - ▶ Barriers to reentry
 - ▶ Availability of offender services in immediate community
 - ▶ Basic components of current reentry process
- ▶ Identify a target population and explain why you have selected it
- ▶ Explain how reentry court will help this population

Target Population

Who will be the target population?

- ▶ Identify and define the specific subset of offenders, or combination of subsets, that are proposed to be the target population of the reentry court, e.g., a specific demographic or set of demographics (age, gender, etc.); specific community, neighborhood, or zip code with high population of returning offenders; offenders housed in the same facility; offenders assessed/classified as high risk.
- ▶ Explain why the identified population is important and how the reentry court will help with this particular subset of offenders.

Program Design and Implementation (20%)

- ▶ **Mandatory Requirements:**
 - ▶ Description of reentry court approach (explain judiciary involvement and/or transfer of authority over offender to judiciary)
 - ▶ Minimum number of offenders to be served by the project
 - ▶ Supporting documentation of number of offenders re-released from jail or prison during the previous year in your jurisdiction
 - ▶ A reentry court strategic plan

Program Design and Implementation

▶ **Selection Criteria:**

- ▶ Describe the applicant's reentry court approach, including a detailed explanation of judiciary involvement and/or authority and how authority over the offender will be transferred to the reentry court. See Appendix A for sample approaches. The applicant's description **must be detailed**.
- ▶ Provide a reentry court strategic plan identifying how the applicant will develop and implement each of the six required components (slide follows). This plan should also include an analysis of staff needs necessary to accomplish the tasks outlined in the plan.
- ▶ Provide the likely minimum number of offenders the project will serve. This data should be consistent with the applicant's identified target population.
- ▶ A plan to integrate offenders with their families.
- ▶ A plan to promote the sustainability of the reentry court once federal funding ceases.

Reentry Court Strategic Plan

Your reentry court strategic plan should include how you will develop and implement each of the reentry court components:

- ▶ Assessment and planning
- ▶ Active oversight
- ▶ Management of support services
- ▶ Accountability
- ▶ Graduated and parsimonious sanctions
- ▶ Rewards for success

Capabilities / Competencies (15%)

Applicants must:

- ▶ Describe the management structure and staffing of the project, identifying the agency responsible for the project and the grant coordinator.
- ▶ Demonstrate the capability of the applicant agency to implement the project including gathering and analyzing information; developing a plan; collaborating with state and local agencies and community organizations; and evaluating the program. The management and organizational structure described should match the staff needs necessary to accomplish the tasks outlined in the implementation plan.

Budget (10%)

- ▶ Provide a proposed budget and budget narrative that are cost-effective, complete, and allowable. See Budget (Attachment 2) on page 11.
- ▶ The budget must indicate how the 50 percent federal funds and the 50 percent in-kind match will be allocated in the overall budget.

Impact/Outcomes, Evaluation, Sustainability, and Plan for Collecting Data for Performance Measures (10%)

▶ Mandatory Requirements:

- ▶ Description of methodology to measure annual performance outcomes (see Performance Measures chart, p. 7 of solicitation)
- ▶ A system to track offenders who enroll in and complete support services from individual treatment plans
- ▶ Plan to promote sustainability of the reentry court once federal funding ends

“For the purpose of this solicitation, recidivism is defined as a return to prison, jail, or a correctional facility with either a new conviction or as a result of a violation of the terms of supervision or parole within 12 months of initial release” (p. 7)

Impact/Outcomes, Evaluation, Sustainability, and Plan for Collecting Data for Performance Measures

▶ Selection Criteria:

- ▶ Describe process for assessing the initiative's effectiveness through collection/reporting of required performance metrics data
- ▶ Identify goals and objectives for program development
- ▶ Describe how performance will be documented, monitored, and evaluated, and identify the impact of the strategy once implemented
- ▶ Outline how partnerships will be leveraged to collect data and build sustainability
- ▶ Describe process to track offenders' use of support services
- ▶ Describe integration into state and local justice system plans, including post-grant sustainability and expected results
- ▶ Describe strategy for tracking offenders assigned to reentry process for up to 3 years after release

Collaboration (20%)

- ▶ **Mandatory Requirements:**
 - ▶ List of partners and detailed explanation of each partner's role
 - ▶ Letter of commitment by senior authority from all key partners
 - ▶ List of potential service providers
 - ▶ Description of how program will maintain accountability to the relevant community (e.g., restorative measures)
 - ▶ MOU/formal documentation with State Substance Abuse Authority
- ▶ **Additional Selection Criteria:**
 - ▶ Letter of support from state's Chief Justice
 - ▶ List of partners and detailed explanation of each partner's role in reentry court
 - ▶ **Attachment 3: Project Timeline and Letters of Support**

Priority Considerations

Programs that:

- ▶ Focus on geographic areas with a disproportionate population of offenders released from prisons, jails, or juvenile detention facilities;
- ▶ Include a plan to implement activities that have been demonstrated effective—and evidence-based—in facilitating the successful reentry of offenders;
- ▶ Demonstrate a high degree of collaboration among public, private, and faith-based organizations;
- ▶ Demonstrate that the application has been coordinated with, and is supported by, the state's highest state court;
- ▶ Include coordination with families of offenders; and,
- ▶ Propose a rigorous, scientific local evaluation of the reentry court program using federal or local funding (including in-kind contributions).

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

Reentry Court Models

Judge Jeff Tauber (ret.)
Director
Reentry Court Solutions

State Prison/Parole Based Reentry Courts

Factors to consider:

- ▶ State criminal justice agencies are critical partners/initiators
- ▶ State needs to lead the way in creating jurisdictional authority
- ▶ State needs to provide political, moral and financial support

State Prison/Parole Based Reentry Courts

Models to consider:

- ▶ County-based judicial jurisdiction model (e.g., split-sentencing)
- ▶ State correctional agency jurisdiction model (e.g., administrative court)
- ▶ Collaborative jurisdiction model (e.g., dual judicial officer)

County Jail/Probation Based Reentry Courts

Models to consider:

- ▶ Court supervises individuals in/out of jail
- ▶ Sent to prison but county court retains jurisdiction
- ▶ Sent to prison but jurisdiction returns to court once prison completed

County Jail/Probation Based Reentry Courts

“Pre-Entry courts”

The best solution for reentering individuals is to not put them in prison in the first place

For additional information on models:

- ▶ ***Ten Prison-Based Reentry Court Models***, available online at: <http://www.reentrycourtsolutions.com/educational-materials/selected-prison-based-reentry-court-models/>

- ▶ ***Pre-Entry Court: A Probation-Based Reentry Court***, available online at: <http://www.reentrycourtsolutions.com/pre-entry-courts/pre-entry-court-a-probation-based-reentry-court/>

- ▶ ***Additional web resources on reentry courts:***
 - ▶ www.reentrycourtsolutions.com
 - ▶ <http://www.reentry.gov/publications/courts.html>

Harlem Parole Reentry Court

Christopher Watler

Project Director

Harlem Community Justice Center

Harlem Parole Reentry Court

- ▶ The Center for Court Innovation established the Harlem Parole Reentry in June 2001 in response to the high number of parolees returning to East & Central Harlem, Manhattan.
- ▶ Key Partners: NYS Division of Parole, NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services, NYC Mayor's Office, and the Center for Court Innovation.
- ▶ Parole Administrative Law Judge presides.
- ▶ The program is designed to improve outcomes for parolees by providing needed transitional and social supports, helping individuals connect to employment and secure housing, remain drug-free, and assume familial and personal responsibility.
- ▶ The program comprises the first six months of a parolee's term of supervision.

Program Eligibility

- ▶ Selected from two transitional facilities, Queensboro Correctional Facility (males) or Bayview Correctional Facility (females).
- ▶ Returning to the neighborhoods of East and Central Harlem.
- ▶ Moderate to high risk based on DCJS risk score.
- ▶ Exclusions: serious Axis I mental health diagnoses, sex offenders, persons with a history of arson.
- ▶ Participation is not voluntary.

Program Design

Phase One (approximately 2 months):

Participants are required to :

- ▶ report to their parole officer every week,
- ▶ attend hearings before the Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) every two week, and
- ▶ attend social service programming to address identified needs (drug treatment, mental health treatment, etc.).

Successful completion of Phase One may lead to relaxation of reporting requirements, curfews, travel restrictions, etc.

Phase Two (approximately 4 months):

Participants are required to:

- ▶ report to their parole office every other week,
- ▶ attend hearings before the ALJ once per month,
- ▶ progress from transitional to permanent, full-time employment,
- ▶ assume familial and personal responsibilities (i.e. child support), and
- ▶ continue to attend social service programming.

A graduation ceremony is held for participants who successfully complete the program.

Post-Completion: Following successful completion, the parolee is transferred to a traditional parole bureau. Additional aftercare services are available as needed at the Reentry Court.

Center for Court Innovation Evaluation

- ▶ In March 2010, the Center for Court Innovation released “Do Reentry Courts Reduce Recidivism? Results from the Harlem Parole Reentry Court”
- ▶ Purpose of study: to assess impact on the rearrest, reconviction, and revocation rates for Harlem Parole Reentry Court program participants.
- ▶ Key findings include:
 - ▶ Participants were less likely to engage in new criminal behavior.
 - ▶ Participants who completed the program experienced lower rates of rearrest and reconviction.
 - ▶ Participants were more likely to be revoked and returned to prison, in particular for technical violations (possibly resulting from a “supervision effect” since the program more closely monitors parolees).

Program Enhancements Under SCA

- ▶ Use of COMPAS to measure risk & need.
- ▶ Onsite cognitive behavioral management program (Thinking for a Change).
- ▶ New random assignment enrollment protocol will test treatment group vs. control group outcomes.
- ▶ Graduated response protocol.

For additional information:

- ▶ *Do Reentry Courts Reduce Recidivism? Results from the Harlem Parole Reentry Court*, available online at:
http://www.courtinnovation.org/_uploads/documents/Reentry_Evaluation.pdf
- ▶ *Reentry Courts Process Evaluation (Phase I), Final Report*
National Institute of Justice Sponsored, 2003, available online at:
<http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/202472.pdf>

For more information about the solicitation:

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