

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8161

To authorize implementation grants to community-based nonprofits to operate one-stop reentry centers.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 4, 2020

Ms. BASS (for herself and Mr. RESCENTIALER) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To authorize implementation grants to community-based nonprofits to operate one-stop reentry centers.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “The One Stop Shop
5 Community Reentry Program Act of 2020”.

6 **SEC. 2. COMMUNITY REENTRY CENTER GRANT PROGRAM.**

7 (a) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—The Attorney General
8 is authorized to carry out a grant program to make grants
9 to eligible entities for the purpose of creating community
10 reentry centers.

1 (b) APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS.—Each applica-
2 tion for a grant under this section shall—

3 (1) demonstrate a plan to work with community
4 leaders who interact with formerly incarcerated peo-
5 ple and their families to—

6 (A) identify specific strategies and ap-
7 proaches to providing reentry services;

8 (B) develop a needs assessment tool to sur-
9 vey or conduct focus groups with community
10 members in order to identify—

11 (i) the needs of individuals returning
12 to the community after conviction or incar-
13 ceration, and the barriers such individuals
14 face; and

15 (ii) the needs of the families and com-
16 munities to which such individuals are re-
17 turning; and

18 (C) use the information gathered pursuant
19 to subparagraph (B) to determine the reentry
20 services to be provided by the community re-
21 entry center;

22 (2) identify the correctional institutions from
23 which individuals who are released from incarcer-
24 ation are likely to reenter the community served by
25 the community reentry center, and a plan, if any, to

1 provide transportation for such released individuals
2 to the community reentry center, the individual's
3 residence, or to a location where the individual is or-
4 dered by a court to report;

5 (3) demonstrate a plan to provide accessible no-
6 tice of the location of the reentry intake and coordi-
7 nation center and the services that it will provide
8 (either directly or on a referral basis), including,
9 where feasible, within and outside of correctional in-
10 stitutions identified under paragraph (1);

11 (4) demonstrate a plan to provide intake and
12 reentry needs assessment that is trauma-informed
13 and gender-responsive after an individual is released
14 from a correctional institution, or, in the case of an
15 individual who is convicted of an offense and not
16 sentenced to a term of imprisonment, after such con-
17 viction, and where feasible, before release, to ensure
18 that the individuals served by the center are referred
19 to appropriate reentry services based on the individ-
20 ual's needs immediately upon release from a correc-
21 tional institution or after conviction, and continu-
22 ously thereafter as needed;

23 (5) demonstrate a plan to provide the reentry
24 services identified in paragraph (1)(C);

1 (6) demonstrate a plan to continue to provide
2 services (including through referral) for individuals
3 served by the center who move to a different geo-
4 graphic area to ensure appropriate case manage-
5 ment, case planning, and access to continuous or
6 new services where necessary and based on con-
7 sistent reevaluation of needs; and

8 (7) identify specific methods that the commu-
9 nity reentry center will employ to achieve perform-
10 ance objectives among the individuals served by the
11 center, including—

12 (A) increased access to and participation
13 in reentry services;

14 (B) reduction in recidivism rates;

15 (C) increased numbers of individuals ob-
16 taining and retaining employment;

17 (D) increased enrollment in and degrees
18 earned from educational programs, including
19 high school, GED, and institutions of higher
20 education;

21 (E) increased numbers of individuals ob-
22 taining and maintaining housing; and

23 (F) increased self-reports of successful
24 community living, including stability of living
25 situation and positive family relationships.

1 (c) PREFERENCE.—The Attorney General shall give
2 preference to applicants that demonstrate that they seek
3 to employ individuals who have been convicted of an of-
4 fense, or served a term of imprisonment or that, to the
5 extent allowable by law, employ such formerly incarcerated
6 individuals in positions of responsibility.

7 (d) EVALUATION AND REPORT.—

8 (1) EVALUATION.—The Attorney General shall
9 enter into a contract with a nonprofit organization
10 with expertise in analyzing data related to reentry
11 services and recidivism to monitor and evaluate each
12 recipient of a grant and each community reentry
13 center receiving funds under this section on an ongo-
14 ing basis.

15 (2) ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN.—The nonprofit
16 organization described in paragraph (1) shall provide
17 administrative support to assist recipients of grants
18 authorized by this Act to comply with the conditions
19 associated with the receipt of funding from the De-
20 partment of Justice.

21 (3) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the
22 date on which grants are initially made under this
23 section, and annually thereafter, the Attorney Gen-
24 eral shall submit to Congress a report on the pro-
25 gram, which shall include—

1 (A) the number of grants made, the num-
2 ber of eligible entities receiving such grants,
3 and the amount of funding distributed to each
4 eligible entity pursuant to this section;

5 (B) the location of each eligible entity re-
6 ceiving such a grant, and the population served
7 by the community reentry center;

8 (C) the number of persons who have par-
9 ticipated in reentry services offered by a com-
10 munity reentry center, disaggregated by type of
11 services, and success rates of participants in
12 each service to the extent possible;

13 (D) the number of persons who have par-
14 ticipated in reentry services for which they re-
15 ceived a referral from a community reentry cen-
16 ter, disaggregated by type of services, and suc-
17 cess rates of participants in each service;

18 (E) recidivism rates within the population
19 served by each community reentry center, both
20 before and after receiving a grant under this
21 section;

22 (F) the number of individuals obtaining
23 and retaining employment within the population
24 served by each community reentry center, both

1 before and after receiving a grant under this
2 section; and

3 (G) the number of individuals obtaining
4 and maintaining housing within the population
5 served by each community reentry center, both
6 before and after receiving a grant under this
7 section.

8 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

9 (1) The term “eligible entity” means a commu-
10 nity-based nonprofit organization that—

11 (A) has expertise in the provision of re-
12 entry services; and

13 (B) is located in a geographic area that
14 has disproportionately high numbers of resi-
15 dents who—

16 (i) have been arrested;

17 (ii) have been convicted of a criminal
18 offense; and

19 (iii) return to such geographic area
20 after incarceration.

21 (2) The term “community reentry center”
22 means a center that—

23 (A) offers intake, reentry needs assess-
24 ments, case management, and case planning for

1 reentry services for individuals returning to the
2 community after conviction or incarceration;

3 (B) provides the reentry services identified
4 under subsection (b)(1)(C) at a single location;
5 and

6 (C) provides referrals to appropriate serv-
7 ice providers based on the assessment of needs
8 of the individual.

9 (3) The term “reentry services” means com-
10 prehensive and holistic services that improve out-
11 comes for individuals returning to the community
12 after conviction or incarceration, and may include—

13 (A) seeking and maintaining employment,
14 including through assistance with drafting re-
15 sumes, establishing emails accounts, locating
16 job solicitations, submission of job applications,
17 and preparation for interviews;

18 (B) placement in job placement programs
19 that partner with private employers;

20 (C) obtaining free and low-cost job skills
21 classes, including computer skills, technical
22 skills, vocational skills, and any other job-re-
23 lated skills;

24 (D) locating and maintaining housing,
25 which may include counseling on public housing

1 opportunities, assistance with applications for
2 public housing benefits, and locating and secur-
3 ing temporary or long-term shelter;

4 (E) obtaining identification cards and driv-
5 er's licenses;

6 (F) registering to vote, and applying for
7 voting rights to be restored, where permitted by
8 law;

9 (G) applying for or accessing GED
10 courses;

11 (H) applying for loans for and admission
12 to institutions of higher education;

13 (I) financial counseling;

14 (J) legal assistance or referrals for record
15 expungement, forfeiture of property or assets,
16 family law and custody matters, legal aid serv-
17 ices (including other civil legal aid services),
18 and relevant civil matters including housing and
19 other issues;

20 (K) retrieving property or funds retained
21 by the arresting agency or facility of incarcer-
22 ation, or retrieving property or funds obtained
23 while incarcerated;

24 (L) transportation, including through pro-
25 vision of transit fare;

1 (M) familial counseling;

2 (N) problem-solving, in coordination with
3 counsel where necessary, any difficulties in
4 compliance with court-ordered supervision re-
5 quirements, including restrictions on living with
6 certain family members, contact with certain
7 friends, bond requirements, location and resi-
8 dency restrictions, electronic monitoring compli-
9 ance, court-ordered substance abuse, and other
10 court-ordered requirements;

11 (O) communication needs, including pro-
12 viding a mobile phone, mobile phone service or
13 access, or internet access;

14 (P) applying for State or Federal govern-
15 ment benefits, where eligible;

16 (R) life skills assistance;

17 (S) mentorship;

18 (T) medical and mental health services,
19 and cognitive-behavioral programming;

20 (U) substance abuse treatment; and

21 (V) reactivation, application for, and main-
22 taining professional or other licenses.

23 (4) The term “community leader” means an in-
24 dividual who serves the community in a leadership
25 role, including—

- 1 (A) a school official;
- 2 (B) a faith leader;
- 3 (C) a social service provider;
- 4 (D) a member of a neighborhood associa-
- 5 tion;
- 6 (E) a public safety representative;
- 7 (F) an employee of an organization that
- 8 provides reentry services;
- 9 (G) a member of a civic or volunteer group
- 10 related to the provision of reentry services;
- 11 (H) a health care professional; and
- 12 (I) an employee of a State, local, or tribal
- 13 government agency with expertise in the provi-
- 14 sion of reentry services.

15 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be

17 appropriated \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years

18 2021 through 2025 to carry out this section.

19 (2) EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION.—The Attorney

20 General shall ensure that grants awarded under this

21 section are equitably distributed among the geo-

22 graphical regions and between urban and rural pop-

23 ulations, including Indian Tribes, consistent with the

24 objective of reducing recidivism.

1 **SEC. 3. GRANTS FOR REENTRY SERVICES ASSISTANCE HOT-**
2 **LINES.**

3 (a) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General is au-
5 thORIZED to make grants to States and units of local
6 government to operate reentry services assistance
7 hotlines that are toll-free and operate 24 hours a
8 day, 7 days a week.

9 (2) GRANT PERIOD.—A grant made under
10 paragraph (1) shall be for a period of not more than
11 5 years.

12 (b) HOTLINE REQUIREMENTS.—A grant recipient
13 shall ensure, with respect to a hotline funded by a grant
14 under subsection (a), that—

15 (1) the hotline directs individuals to local re-
16 entry services (as such term is defined in section
17 2(e));

18 (2) any personally identifiable information that
19 an individual provides to an agency of the State
20 through the hotline is not directly or indirectly dis-
21 closed, without the consent of the individual, to any
22 other agency or entity, or person;

23 (3) the staff members who operate the hotline
24 are trained to be knowledgeable about—

25 (A) applicable Federal, State, and local re-
26 entry services; and

1 (B) the unique barriers to successful re-
2 entry into the community after a person has
3 been convicted or incarcerated;

4 (4) the hotline is accessible to—

5 (A) individuals with limited English pro-
6 ficiency, where appropriate; and

7 (B) individuals with disabilities;

8 (5) the hotline has the capability to engage with
9 individuals using text messages.

10 (c) BEST PRACTICES.—The Attorney General shall
11 issue guidance to grant recipients on best practices for im-
12 plementing the requirements of subsection (b).

13 (d) PREFERENCE.—The Attorney General shall give
14 preference to applicants that demonstrate that they seek
15 to employ individuals to operate the hotline who have been
16 convicted of an offense, or served a term of imprisonment.

17 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
18 authorized to be appropriated \$1,500,000 for each of fis-
19 cal years 2021 through 2025 to carry out this section.

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