

Union Calendar No. 455

116TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 8161

[Report No. 116-555]

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. RESCHENTHALER) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

SEPTEMBER 29, 2020

Reported with an amendment; committed to the Committee of the Whole
House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on September 4, 2020]

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 is*
8 *authorized to carry out a grant program to make grants*
9 *to eligible entities for the purpose of creating community*
10 *reentry centers.*

11 *(b) APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS.—Each application*
12 *for a grant under this section shall—*

13 *(1) demonstrate a plan to work with community*
14 *leaders who interact with formerly incarcerated peo-*
15 *ple and their families to—*

16 *(A) identify specific strategies and ap-*
17 *proaches to providing reentry services;*

18 *(B) develop a needs assessment tool to sur-*
19 *vey or conduct focus groups with community*
20 *members in order to identify—*

21 *(i) the needs of individuals returning*
22 *to the community after conviction or incar-*
23 *ceration, and the barriers such individuals*
24 *face; and*

1 (ii) the needs of the families and com-
2 munities to which such individuals are re-
3 turning; and

4 (C) use the information gathered pursuant
5 to subparagraph (B) to determine the reentry
6 services to be provided by the community reentry
7 center;

8 (2) identify the correctional institutions from
9 which individuals who are released from incarcer-
10 ation are likely to reenter the community served by
11 the community reentry center, and develop a plan, if
12 feasible, to provide transportation for such released
13 individuals to the community reentry center, to the
14 individual's residence, or to a location where the indi-
15 vidual is ordered by a court to report;

16 (3) demonstrate a plan to provide accessible no-
17 tice of the location of the reentry intake and coordina-
18 tion center and the services that it will provide (either
19 directly or on a referral basis), including, where fea-
20 sible, within and outside of correctional institutions
21 identified under paragraph (1);

22 (4) demonstrate a plan to provide intake and re-
23 entry needs assessment that is trauma-informed and
24 gender-responsive after an individual is released from
25 a correctional institution, or, in the case of an indi-

1 *vidual who is convicted of an offense and not sen-*
2 *tenced to a term of imprisonment, after such convic-*
3 *tion, and where feasible, before release, to ensure that*
4 *the individuals served by the center are referred to*
5 *appropriate reentry services based on the individual's*
6 *needs immediately upon release from a correctional*
7 *institution or after conviction, and continuously*
8 *thereafter as needed;*

9 *(5) demonstrate a plan to provide the reentry*
10 *services identified in paragraph (1)(C);*

11 *(6) demonstrate a plan to continue to provide*
12 *services (including through referral) for individuals*
13 *served by the center who move to a different geo-*
14 *graphic area to ensure appropriate case management,*
15 *case planning, and access to continuous or new serv-*
16 *ices, where necessary, and based on consistent reevalu-*
17 *ation of needs; and*

18 *(7) identify specific methods that the community*
19 *reentry center will employ to achieve performance ob-*
20 *jectives among the individuals served by the center,*
21 *including—*

22 *(A) increased access to and participation in*
23 *reentry services;*

24 *(B) reduction in recidivism rates;*

1 (C) increased numbers of individuals ob-
2 taining and retaining employment;

3 (D) increased enrollment in and degrees
4 earned from educational programs, including
5 high school, GED, and institutions of higher edu-
6 cation;

7 (E) increased numbers of individuals ob-
8 taining and maintaining housing; and

9 (F) increased self-reports of successful com-
10 munity living, including stability of living situ-
11 ation and positive family relationships.

12 (c) *PREFERENCE.*—*The Attorney General shall give*
13 *preference to applicants that demonstrate that they seek to*
14 *employ individuals who have been convicted of an offense,*
15 *or served a term of imprisonment and have completed any*
16 *court-ordered supervision, or that, to the extent allowable*
17 *by law, employ such formerly incarcerated individuals in*
18 *positions of responsibility.*

19 (d) *EVALUATION AND REPORT.*—

20 (1) *EVALUATION.*—*The Attorney General shall*
21 *enter into a contract with a nonprofit organization*
22 *with expertise in analyzing data related to reentry*
23 *services and recidivism to monitor and evaluate each*
24 *recipient of a grant and each community reentry cen-*

1 *ter receiving funds under this section on an ongoing*
2 *basis.*

3 (2) *ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN.*—*The nonprofit*
4 *organization described in paragraph (1) shall provide*
5 *administrative support to assist recipients of grants*
6 *authorized by this Act to comply with the conditions*
7 *associated with the receipt of funding from the De-*
8 *partment of Justice.*

9 (3) *REPORT.*—*Not later than one year after the*
10 *date on which grants are initially made under this*
11 *section, and annually thereafter, the Attorney General*
12 *shall submit to Congress a report on the program,*
13 *which shall include—*

14 (A) *the number of grants made, the number*
15 *of eligible entities receiving such grants, and the*
16 *amount of funding distributed to each eligible*
17 *entity pursuant to this section;*

18 (B) *the location of each eligible entity re-*
19 *ceiving such a grant, and the population served*
20 *by the community reentry center;*

21 (C) *the number of persons who have partici-*
22 *pated in reentry services offered by a community*
23 *reentry center, disaggregated by type of services,*
24 *and success rates of participants in each service*
25 *to the extent possible;*

1 (D) the number of persons who have partici-
2 pated in reentry services for which they received
3 a referral from a community reentry center,
4 disaggregated by type of services, and success
5 rates of participants in each service;

6 (E) recidivism rates within the population
7 served by each community reentry center, both
8 before and after receiving a grant under this sec-
9 tion;

10 (F) the numbers of individuals obtaining
11 and retaining employment within the population
12 served by each community reentry center, both
13 before and after receiving a grant under this sec-
14 tion; and

15 (G) the number of individuals obtaining
16 and maintaining housing within the population
17 served by each community reentry center, both
18 before and after receiving a grant under this sec-
19 tion.

20 (e) *DEFINITIONS.*—*In this section:*

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

23 (A) has expertise in the provision of reentry
24 services; and

1 (B) is located in a geographic area that has
2 disproportionately high numbers of residents,
3 when compared to the local community, who—

4 (i) have been arrested;

5 (ii) have been convicted of a criminal
6 offense; and

7 (iii) return to such geographic area
8 after incarceration.

9 (2) The term “community reentry center” means
10 a center that—

11 (A) offers intake, reentry needs assessments,
12 case management, and case planning for reentry
13 services for individuals returning to the commu-
14 nity after conviction or incarceration;

15 (B) provides the reentry services identified
16 under subsection (b)(1)(C) at a single location;
17 and

18 (C) provides referrals to appropriate service
19 providers based on the assessment of needs of the
20 individuals.

21 (3) The term “reentry services” means com-
22 prehensive and holistic services that improve outcomes
23 for individuals returning to the community after con-
24 viction or incarceration, and may include—

1 (A) seeking and maintaining employment,
2 including through assistance with drafting re-
3 sumes, establishing emails accounts, locating job
4 solicitations, submitting of job applications, and
5 preparing for interviews;

6 (B) placement in job placement programs
7 that partner with private employers;

8 (C) obtaining free and low-cost job skills
9 classes, including computer skills, technical
10 skills, vocational skills, and any other job-related
11 skills;

12 (D) locating and maintaining housing,
13 which may include counseling on public housing
14 opportunities, assisting with applications for
15 public housing benefits, locating and securing
16 temporary or long-term shelter, and applying for
17 home energy and utility assistance programs;

18 (E) obtaining identification cards and driv-
19 er's licenses;

20 (F) registering to vote, and applying for
21 voting rights to be restored, where permitted by
22 law;

23 (G) applying for or accessing GED courses;

24 (H) applying for loans for and admission
25 to institutions of higher education;

1 (I) *financial counseling;*

2 (J) *legal assistance or referrals for record*
3 *expungement, forfeiture of property or assets,*
4 *family law and custody matters, legal aid serv-*
5 *ices (including other civil legal aid services), and*
6 *relevant civil matters including housing and*
7 *other issues;*

8 (K) *retrieving property or funds retained by*
9 *the arresting agency or facility of incarceration,*
10 *or retrieving property or funds obtained while*
11 *incarcerated;*

12 (L) *transportation, including through pro-*
13 *vision of transit fare;*

14 (M) *familial counseling;*

15 (N) *problem-solving, in coordination with*
16 *counsel where necessary, any difficulties in com-*
17 *pliance with court-ordered supervision require-*
18 *ments, including restrictions on living with cer-*
19 *tain family members, contact with certain*
20 *friends, bond requirements, location and resi-*
21 *dency restrictions, electronic monitoring compli-*
22 *ance, court-ordered substance abuse, and other*
23 *court-ordered requirements;*

1 (O) communication needs, including pro-
2 viding a mobile phone, mobile phone service or
3 access, or internet access;

4 (P) applying for State or Federal govern-
5 ment benefits, where eligible, and assisting in lo-
6 cating free or reduced cost food and sustenance
7 benefits;

8 (Q) life skills assistance;

9 (R) mentorship;

10 (S) medical and mental health services, and
11 cognitive-behavioral programming;

12 (T) substance abuse treatment;

13 (U) reactivation, application for, and
14 maintenance of professional or other licenses;
15 and

16 (V) providing case management services, in
17 connection with court-orders terms of release, or
18 other local publicly supported social work case
19 management.

20 (4) The term “community leader” means an in-
21 dividual who serves the community in a leadership
22 role, including—

23 (A) a school official;

24 (B) a faith leader;

25 (C) a social service provider;

1 (D) a member of a neighborhood associa-
2 tion;

3 (E) a public safety representative;

4 (F) an employee of an organization that
5 provides reentry services;

6 (G) a member of a civic or volunteer group
7 related to the provision of reentry services;

8 (H) a health care professional; or

9 (I) an employee of a State, local, or tribal
10 government agency with expertise in the provi-
11 sion of reentry services.

12 (5) The term “success rate” means the rate of re-
13 cidivism (as measured by a subsequent conviction or
14 return to prison), job placement, permanent housing
15 placement, or completion of certification, trade, or
16 other education program.

17 (f) *AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.*—

18 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—There is authorized to be ap-
19 propriated \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021
20 through 2025 to carry out this section.

21 (2) *EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION.*—The Attorney
22 General shall ensure that grants awarded under this
23 section are equitably distributed among the geo-
24 graphical regions and between urban and rural popu-

1 *lations, including Indian Tribes, consistent with the*
2 *objective of reducing recidivism.*

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

5 *(a) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—*

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

11 *(2) GRANT PERIOD.—A grant made under para-*
12 *graph (1) shall be for a period of not more than 5*
13 *years.*

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

17 *(1) the hotline directs individuals to local re-*
18 *entry services (as such term is defined in section*
19 *2(e));*

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

1 (3) *the staff members who operate the hotline are*
2 *trained to be knowledgeable about—*

3 (A) *applicable Federal, State, and local re-*
4 *entry services; and*

5 (B) *the unique barriers to successful reentry*
6 *into the community after a person has been con-*
7 *victed or incarcerated;*

8 (4) *the hotline is accessible to—*

9 (A) *individuals with limited English pro-*
10 *ficiency, where appropriate; and*

11 (B) *individuals with disabilities;*

12 (5) *the hotline has the capability to engage with*
13 *individuals using text messages.*

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

17 (d) *PREFERENCE.—The Attorney General shall give*
18 *preference to applicants that demonstrate that they seek to*
19 *employ individuals to operate the hotline who have been*
20 *convicted of an offense, or have served a term of imprison-*
21 *ment and have completed any court-ordered supervision.*

22 (e) *AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is*
23 *authorized to be appropriated \$1,500,000 for each of fiscal*
24 *years 2021 through 2025 to carry out this section.*

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