

## **Prisoner Reentry: Federal Funding For Services By Faith-Based & Other Non-Government Organizations**

### 1. President Bush's **Prisoner Reentry Initiative** (PRI)

- Department of Labor PRI grants (awarded November 2005)
  - \$660,000 per year for up to 3 years beginning Spring 2006
  - 30 grantees<sup>1</sup> in 20 states (<http://www.dol.gov/cfbci/reentryfactsheet.htm>)
  - Contact: Scott Shortenhaus, Center For Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, USDOL: 202 693-6450 [shortenhaus.scott@dol.gov](mailto:shortenhaus.scott@dol.gov)
  
- Department of Justice PRI grants (awarded Summer 2006)
  - \$450,000 - \$1.8 Million
  - provided to the 20 state prison systems<sup>2</sup> where Dept Of Labor grantees are located (<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/06PRIawards.pdf>)
  - for pre-release services for the state and local inmates (but not those inmates in Federal Bureau Of Prisons) who will receive post-release services from Labor grantees
  - Contact: Andrew Molloy, Sr. Policy Advisor, Bureau of Justice Assistance, USDOJ: 202 514-9909 [Andrew.Molloy@usdoj.gov](mailto:Andrew.Molloy@usdoj.gov)

### 2. Dept of Justice's **Anti-Gang Initiative** – Voucher-Based Reentry Services Demonstration Project

- \$500,000 to each of six cities: Cleveland, Dallas-Ft Worth, E. Los Angeles, Milwaukee, Tampa, and “222 Corridor” between Lancaster and Easton, PA (<http://www.psn.gov/>); funded Fall 2006
- Contact U.S. Attorneys Office covering each city: see <http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/offices/index.html>

### 3. **“Ready 4 Work” Program**

- Provides job assessment, training and placement, and mentoring, for ex-offenders; supported by Departments of Labor and Justice
- grantee sites: 11 for adult non-violent felons<sup>3</sup>, six for juvenile offenders<sup>4</sup>
- See [http://www.dol.gov/cfbci/Ready4Work\\_contacts.htm](http://www.dol.gov/cfbci/Ready4Work_contacts.htm)

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<sup>1</sup> Tucson, Phoenix, San Diego, Oakland, Sacramento, Fresno, Denver, Hartford, Ft. Lauderdale, Des Moines, Chicago, Baton Rouge, New Orleans, Boston, Baltimore, Pontiac (MI), St. Louis, Kansas City (MO), Egg Harbor City (NJ), Brooklyn, Astoria (Newark), Bronx, Cincinnati, Portland (OR), Philadelphia, Houston, San Antonio, Dallas, Seattle, Milwaukee.

<sup>2</sup> AZ, CA, CO, CT, FL, IA, IL, LA, MA, MD, MI, MO, NJ, NY, OH, OR, PA, TX, WA, and WI

<sup>3</sup> Chicago, Detroit, Houston, Jacksonville, Los Angeles, Memphis, Milwaukee, New York, Oakland, Philadelphia and Washington, D.C.

<sup>4</sup> Boston, Brooklyn, Camden, Houston, Los Angeles, Seattle

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4. Dept of Justice's **Weed & Seed** funding

- US Attorney in your city can apply for designation of high-crime neighborhood as Weed & Seed site (“weed out” crime elements and “seed in” positive programs)
- Steering (or Advisory) Committee for each site consists of local faith-based and community representatives, who determine how to invest funding in law enforcement and prisoner reentry (\$1.1 million spread over four years)
- See <http://contacts.weedandseed.info/>

5. Federal Bureau of Prisons' (Dept of Justice's) **Residential Reentry Centers** (Halfway Houses)

- FBOP pays providers on contract to provide returning ex-offenders with short-term, secure housing with some programming
- Stew Rowles 202-305-8906 [rowles@bop.gov](mailto:rowles@bop.gov) or Ron Hayes 202-305- 8741 [rhayes@bop.gov](mailto:rhayes@bop.gov)

6. **Department of Veterans Affairs Programs** for Ex-Vet Ex-Offenders

- Substance abuse, mental health, disability compensation, vocational rehabilitation and employment
- Veteran Affairs' Montgomery GI Bill and Veterans Workforce Investment Program; Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program (HVRP), sponsored by DOL's Veterans Employment and Training Service office (VETS); Health Care For Homeless Veterans; Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program
- Contact: Darin Selnick, Director, Center For Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, USDVA: 202 273-7499 [darin.selnick@va.gov](mailto:darin.selnick@va.gov)

7. **“Access To Recovery” Voucher Program** of Dept of Health & Human Services' Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

- Grantees in CA, CT, FL, ID, IL, LA, MO, NJ, NM, TN, TX
- See [http://www.samhsa.gov/news/newsreleases/040303bg\\_howworks.htm](http://www.samhsa.gov/news/newsreleases/040303bg_howworks.htm)

8. Department of Labor **“One Stop Career Centers”**

- Assist ex-offenders in finding jobs
- See <http://www.careeronestop.org/>

9. **Department of Housing and Urban Development**

- Section 8 Rent Subsidies

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- Public Housing (most ex-offenders are not categorically banned)
- Contact David Carradini, HUD Center For Faith-Based and Community Initiatives: 202 708-2404 [david\\_j.\\_carradini@hud.gov](mailto:david_j._carradini@hud.gov)

10. Department of Labor's **Federal Fidelity Bonding Program**

- Insures those who employ ex-offenders against theft
- <http://www.bonds4jobs.com/bondingprogram.html>

11. **Federal Work Opportunity Tax Credit** for employers of ex-offenders

- Federal tax credit that encourages employers to hire ex-offenders by reducing employers' federal income tax liability by as much as \$2,400 per qualified new worker
- <http://www.doleta.gov/business/Incentives/opptax/>

12. **VISTA** (Corporation For National and Community Service)

- Partnerships began August 2005 in 15 cities<sup>5</sup> between VISTA and Weed & Seed in which full-time VISTAs recruit volunteer mentors for prisoners near release
- <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ccdo/programs/reentry.html#vista>

13. Office of **Probation and Pretrial Services**, Administrative Office of the US Courts

- During supervised release, OPPS provides comprehensive reentry services
- <http://www.uscourts.gov/fedprob/supervise.html>

14. Department of Health and Human Services funding for **HIV testing and services**

- testing – Centers for Disease Control
- Minority Aids Initiative (MAI)
- rapid testing - SAMHSA
- Contact Mike Costigan, HHS Center For Faith-Based and Community Initiatives: 202 358-3595 [Michael.Costigan@hhs.gov](mailto:Michael.Costigan@hhs.gov)

15. **Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) block grant** to states

Ex., Ohio's General Assembly gave Governor's Office of Faith Based and Community Initiatives one percent of state's TANF block grant, or \$22 Million

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<sup>5</sup> Austin, Charleston, Chicago, Cleveland, Columbus, Dallas-Ft Worth, Houston, Indianapolis, Miami, Oakland, Philadelphia, Portland (OR), Providence, San Antonio, Washington DC

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16. Dept of Justice's **Serious and Violent Offender Reentry Initiative (SVORI)**

- dispensed \$110 Million to build capacity of 69 reentry service providers
- funding ended in June 2006, but multi-year evaluation is in progress  
<http://www.svori-evaluation.org/>

17. Federal Bureau of Prisons (DOJ) **Faith- or Character-Based Pre-Release Program**

- “Life Connections”: voluntary 18-month curriculum in six sites
- BOP contracts with faith leaders to provide programming
- expanding to more facilities in 2007

See also City, County and State Grants and Contracts for prisoner reentry services<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> *Ex.*, Community-Based Reentry Initiative Grant Program of California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation; New Creations Community Outreach, Detroit, MI (313) 875-3883. Over 20 state prison systems operate faith- or character-based pre-release units (many similar to FBOP's “Life Connections” program).