

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 981

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 10, 2023

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE (for herself and Ms. BROWN) 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 “One Stop Shop Com-
5 munity Reentry Program Act of 2023”.

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 stakeholders who interact with formerly incarcerated
5 people or individuals with a conviction record and
6 their families to—

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

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

12 (i) the needs of individuals after con-
13 viction or incarceration, and the barriers
14 such individuals face; and

15 (ii) the needs of the families and com-
16 munities to which such individuals belong;
17 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 institutions from which individ-
23 uals who are released from incarceration are likely
24 to reenter the community served by the community
25 reentry center, and develop a plan, if feasible, to

1 provide transportation for such released individuals
2 to the community reentry center, to 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 institutions
10 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 an institution, or, in the case of an individual
15 who is convicted of an offense and not sentenced to
16 a term of imprisonment, after such conviction, and
17 where feasible, before release, to ensure that the in-
18 dividuals served by the center are referred to appro-
19 priate reentry services based on the individual's
20 needs immediately upon release from an institution
21 or after conviction, and continuously thereafter as
22 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;

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 or the equivalent thereof, and insti-
20 tutions of higher education, and receipt of pro-
21 fessional or occupational licenses;

22 (E) increased enrollment in vocational re-
23 habilitation, technical schools, or vocational
24 training;

1 (F) increased numbers of individuals ob-
2 taining and maintaining permanent and stable
3 housing; and

4 (G) increased self-reports of successful
5 community living, including stability of living
6 situation and positive family relationships; and

7 (8) to the extent practicable, identify State,
8 local, and private funds available to supplement the
9 funds received under this section.

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

17 (d) EVALUATION AND REPORT.—

18 (1) EVALUATION.—The Attorney General shall
19 enter into an agreement with a nonprofit organiza-
20 tion with expertise in analyzing data related to re-
21 entry services and recidivism to monitor and evalu-
22 ate each recipient of funds under this section.

23 (2) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the
24 date on which grants are initially made under this
25 section, and annually thereafter, the Attorney Gen-

1 eral shall submit to Congress a report on the pro-
2 gram, which shall include—

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

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

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

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

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

24 (F) the numbers of individuals obtaining
25 and retaining employment within the population

1 served by each community reentry center, both
2 before and after receiving a grant under this
3 section;

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

9 (H) the number of individuals enrolled in
10 an educational program, including high school,
11 or the equivalent thereof, and institutions of
12 higher education, both before and after receiv-
13 ing a grant under this section;

14 (I) the number of individuals enrolled in
15 vocational rehabilitation, technical schools, or
16 vocational training, both before and after re-
17 ceiving a grant under this section;

18 (J) for each eligible entity receiving a
19 grant under this section, the number of individ-
20 uals employed who have been convicted of an
21 offense, or served a term of imprisonment and
22 have completed any court-ordered supervision,
23 to include the number of formerly incarcerated
24 individuals in positions of responsibility; and

1 (K) other relevant information, which may
2 include recommendations, if any, to improve the
3 effectiveness and efficiency of the grant pro-
4 gram under this section, and to address bar-
5 riers faced by individuals receiving reentry serv-
6 ices from community reentry centers.

7 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

8 (1) COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDER.—The term
9 “community stakeholder”—

10 (A) means an individual who serves the
11 community; and

12 (B) includes—

13 (i) a school official;

14 (ii) a faith leader;

15 (iii) a social service provider;

16 (iv) a leader of a neighborhood asso-
17 ciation;

18 (v) a public safety representative;

19 (vi) an employee of an organization
20 that provides reentry services;

21 (vii) a member of a civic or volunteer
22 group related to the provision of reentry
23 services;

24 (viii) a health care professional; and

1 (ix) an employee of a State, local, or
2 tribal government agency with expertise in
3 the provision of reentry services.

4 (2) COMMUNITY REENTRY CENTER.—The term
5 “community reentry center” means a center that—

6 (A) offers intake, reentry needs assess-
7 ments, case management, and case planning for
8 reentry services for individuals after conviction
9 or incarceration;

10 (B) provides the reentry services identified
11 under subsection (b)(1)(C) at a single location;
12 and

13 (C) provides referrals to appropriate serv-
14 ice providers based on the assessment of needs
15 of the individuals.

16 (3) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-
17 ty” means a community-based nonprofit organiza-
18 tion that—

19 (A) has expertise in the provision of re-
20 entry services; and

21 (B) is located in a geographic area that
22 has disproportionately high numbers of resi-
23 dents, when compared to the local community,
24 who—

25 (i) have been arrested;

1 (ii) have been convicted of a criminal
2 offense; and

3 (iii) return to such geographic area
4 after incarceration.

5 (4) REENTRY SERVICES.—The term “reentry
6 services”—

7 (A) means comprehensive and holistic serv-
8 ices that improve outcomes for individuals after
9 conviction or incarceration; and

10 (B) includes—

11 (i) seeking and maintaining employ-
12 ment, including—

13 (I) assistance with drafting re-
14 sumes, establishing emails accounts,
15 locating job solicitations, submitting
16 of job applications, and preparing for
17 interviews; and

18 (II) securing any licenses, certifi-
19 cations, government-issued identifica-
20 tions, or other documentation nec-
21 essary to obtain employment;

22 (ii) placement in job placement pro-
23 grams that partner with private employers;

24 (iii) obtaining free and low-cost job
25 skills classes, including computer skills,

- 1 technical skills, vocational skills, and any
2 other job-related or other necessary skills;
- 3 (iv) supporting preparation for post-
4 secondary education, including academic
5 counseling, peer mentoring, and commu-
6 nity support;
- 7 (v) locating and maintaining housing,
8 which may include housing counseling, as-
9 sisting with finding and securing afford-
10 able housing including in areas of oppor-
11 tunity, assisting with applications for sub-
12 sidized housing and housing-related bene-
13 fits, locating and identifying temporary
14 shelter when housing cannot be found im-
15 mediately, and applying for home energy
16 and utility assistance programs;
- 17 (vi) obtaining identification cards,
18 driver's licenses, replacement Social Secu-
19 rity cards, birth certificates, and citizen-
20 ship or immigration documentation;
- 21 (vii) registering to vote, and applying
22 for voting rights to be restored, where per-
23 mitted by law;

- 1 (viii) applying for or accessing high
2 school equivalency classes, vocational reha-
3 bilitation, or technical courses;
- 4 (ix) applying for loans for and admis-
5 sion to institutions of higher education;
- 6 (x) financial counseling planning, em-
7 powerment, or coaching;
- 8 (xi) legal assistance or referrals for
9 record sealing or expungement, forfeiture
10 of property or assets, family law and cus-
11 tody matters, legal aid services (including
12 other civil legal aid services), and relevant
13 civil matters including housing and other
14 issues;
- 15 (xii) retrieving property or funds re-
16 tained by the arresting agency or facility of
17 incarceration, or retrieving property or
18 funds obtained while incarcerated;
- 19 (xiii) transportation, including
20 through provision of transit fare;
- 21 (xiv) individual and familial coun-
22 seling;
- 23 (xv) problem-solving, in coordination
24 with counsel where necessary, any difficul-
25 ties in compliance with court-ordered su-

1 pervision requirements, including restric-
2 tions on living with certain family mem-
3 bers, contact with certain friends, bond re-
4 quirements, location and residency restric-
5 tions, electronic monitoring compliance,
6 court-ordered substance use disorder treat-
7 ment, and other court-ordered require-
8 ments;

9 (xvi) communication needs, including
10 providing a mobile phone, mobile phone
11 service or access, or internet access;

12 (xvii) applying for State or Federal
13 government benefits, where eligible, and
14 assisting in locating free or reduced cost
15 food and sustenance benefits;

16 (xviii) life skills assistance;

17 (xix) mentorship;

18 (xx) medical and mental health serv-
19 ices, and cognitive-behavioral program-
20 ming;

21 (xxi) substance use disorder treat-
22 ment;

23 (xxii) reactivation, application for, and
24 maintenance of professional or other li-
25 censes;

1 (xxiii) providing case management
2 services, in connection with court-ordered
3 terms of release, or other local publicly
4 supported social work case management;

5 (xxiv) safety planning with victims of
6 domestic violence, dating violence, sexual
7 assault, stalking, and human trafficking;
8 and

9 (xxv) applying for State Vocational
10 Rehabilitation services for individuals with
11 disabilities that may qualify or conduct an
12 evaluation to determine whether they may
13 be eligible or potentially eligible for voca-
14 tional rehabilitation services.

15 (5) SUCCESS RATE.—The term “success rate”
16 means the rate of recidivism (as measured by a sub-
17 sequent conviction or return to prison), job place-
18 ment, permanent housing placement, or completion
19 of certification, trade, or other education program.

20 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be
22 appropriated \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years
23 2024 through 2028 to carry out this section.

24 (2) EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION.—The Attorney
25 General shall ensure that grants awarded under this

1 section are equitably distributed among the geo-
2 graphical regions and between urban and rural pop-
3 ulations, including Indian Tribes, consistent with the
4 objective of reducing recidivism.

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

7 (a) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General is au-
9 thORIZED to make grants to States, Indian Tribes,
10 and units of local government to operate reentry
11 services assistance hotlines that are toll-free and op-
12 erate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

13 (2) GRANT PERIOD.—A grant made under
14 paragraph (1) shall be for a period of not more than
15 5 years.

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

19 (1) the hotline directs individuals to local re-
20 entry services (as such term is defined in section
21 2(e));

22 (2) any personally identifiable information that
23 an individual provides to an agency of the State or
24 Indian Tribe through the hotline is not directly or

1 indirectly disclosed, without the consent of the indi-
2 vidual, to any other agency or entity, or person;

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

5 (A) applicable Federal, State, Tribal, and
6 local reentry services; and

7 (B) the unique barriers to successful re-
8 entry into the community after a person has
9 been convicted or incarcerated;

10 (4) the hotline is accessible to—

11 (A) individuals with limited English pro-
12 ficiency, consistent with applicable law; and

13 (B) individuals with disabilities;

14 (5) the hotline has the capability to engage with
15 individuals using text messages.

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

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

24 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1 (1) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian Tribe”
2 has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the
3 Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance
4 Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

5 (2) STATE.—The term “State” means—

6 (A) a State;

7 (B) the District of Columbia;

8 (C) the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico;

9 and

10 (D) any other territory or possession of the
11 United States.

12 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
13 authorized to be appropriated \$1,500,000 for each of fis-
14 cal years 2024 through 2028 to carry out this section.

○