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I'm Karhlton Moore, director of the US Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs' Bureau of Justice Assistance. President Biden recently proclaimed April as Second Chance Month. Second Chance Month is about showcasing the many ways in which we can support people returning to their communities from prisons and jails from across the country. Every year in the United States more than 400,000 people leave state and federal prisons and more than seven million cycle into and out of jails. The challenges faced by these individuals and their families can be overwhelming; challenges like limited access to employment, housing, primary and behavioral healthcare, and many other community services. And these challenges are especially difficult when combined with the stigma and legal restrictions that follow people long after justice involvement. That's why it's vital to provide programs that support people during and after the reentry process by connecting individuals to safe, stable housing, stable, full-time employment, accessible primary and behavioral healthcare, and community supports that are essential to reducing recidivism and promoting healthier, safer communities.

Back in Ohio, when I was the director of the Office of Criminal Justice Services, I had the honor of serving on the Ohio Ex-Offender Reentry Coalition. I was able to see first-hand how our partners, organizations and individuals just like you were leveraging every tool available to deliver an evidence-based approach that addresses the needs of individuals returning to the community and in so many areas, like education, family reunification, substance use disorder services, behavioral health therapies, job training, mentorship, and housing. For those of you working to provide this important programming, thank you. Your commitment is making a difference for individuals returning from incarceration, their families, and your community. And for those of you who are returning to your communities after a period of incarceration or are family members of individuals who are reentering, we support you and your efforts. The Bureau of Justice Assistance and the Department of Justice are committed to all of you and to supporting your success.

The Second Chance Act law, which was passed in 2008 and reauthorized in 2018, provides federal grants to improve reentry outcomes in communities across the country. Since 2009, BJA has allocated over \$600 million to state, local, tribal jurisdictions, and nonprofit organizations to support local reentry programming through the Second Chance Act grant programs. Through fiscal year 2022, Second Chance Act grants have been used to support successful reentry and reduce recidivism across 845 state and local agencies in every region of the country, including US territories. Over 350,000



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participants have received services in cognitive behavioral interventions, substance use treatment, job placement, and vocational services.

BJA also supports the National Reentry Resource Center, which is your one-stop shop for reentry related resources that includes written products as well as learning and funding opportunities. The National Reentry Resource Center is hosting Second Chance Month in collaboration with our Second Chance Act training and technical assistance providers, the American Institutes for Research, Vera Institute of Justice, The Council of State Governments Justice Center, RTI International, and other partners. By participating in Second Chance Month, you will have the opportunity to engage in valuable learning opportunities that will help you, your family members, or people your agency or organization support to be more successful in their reentry efforts. Visit [BuildSecondChances.org](https://BuildSecondChances.org) to learn about the many events and resources through April.

I encourage you to also think about how you might leverage Second Chance Act funds to support these efforts. In 2023, BJA plans to make available more than \$80 million in grants across multiple purpose areas to support local reentry programs. I encourage you to visit [BJA.OJP.GOV](https://BJA.OJP.GOV) to learn more about these funding opportunities, many of which are open now.

Throughout Second Chance Month, we also want to hear from you. Please share your thoughts and experiences by posting with the hashtag #ReentryMatters on Twitter. Thank you once again for joining us in Second Chance Month. We value your engagement and commitment to this important work.