Second Chance Act

Responding to the Technology-Based Career Training Program Grant Solicitation

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The Council of State Governments Justice Center

The Council of State Governments Justice Center

- National non-profit, non-partisan membership association of state government officials

- Engages members of all three branches of state government

- Provides practical, nonpartisan advice informed by the best available evidence

JUSTICE ★ CENTER
THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS
Collaborative Approaches to Public Safety

Corrections	Courts	Justice Reinvestment	Law Enforcement
Mental Health	Reentry	Substance Abuse	Youth

The National Reentry Resource Center

- The NRRC is a project of the CSG Justice Center and is supported by the Bureau of Justice Assistance

csgjusticecenter.org/nrrc

- NRRC staff have worked with nearly 600 SCA grantees

- The NRRC provides individualized, intensive, and targeted technical assistance, training, and distance learning to support SCA grantees.

✓ Please register for the monthly NRRC newsletter at:

csgjusticecenter.org/subscribe/

✓ Please share this link with others in your networks that are interested in reentry!

The Second Chance Act

- Public Law 110-199 signed into law on April 8, 2008

- Authorizes grants to state, local, and tribal governments and nonprofit organizations to support programs, policies and practices that reduce recidivism

Speakers

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Agenda

Grant Program Overview

Program Requirements & Expectations

Application & Selection Criteria

Resources & Important Contacts

Goals and Objectives

*The goal of this program is to increase the post-release **employability** of the incarcerated population in technology-based jobs.*

The objective of the program is to establish and provide career training programs for incarcerated adults and juveniles during the 6-24 month period before release from a prison, jail, or juvenile facility with connections to follow-up services after release in the community.

Technology Career Training Grantees
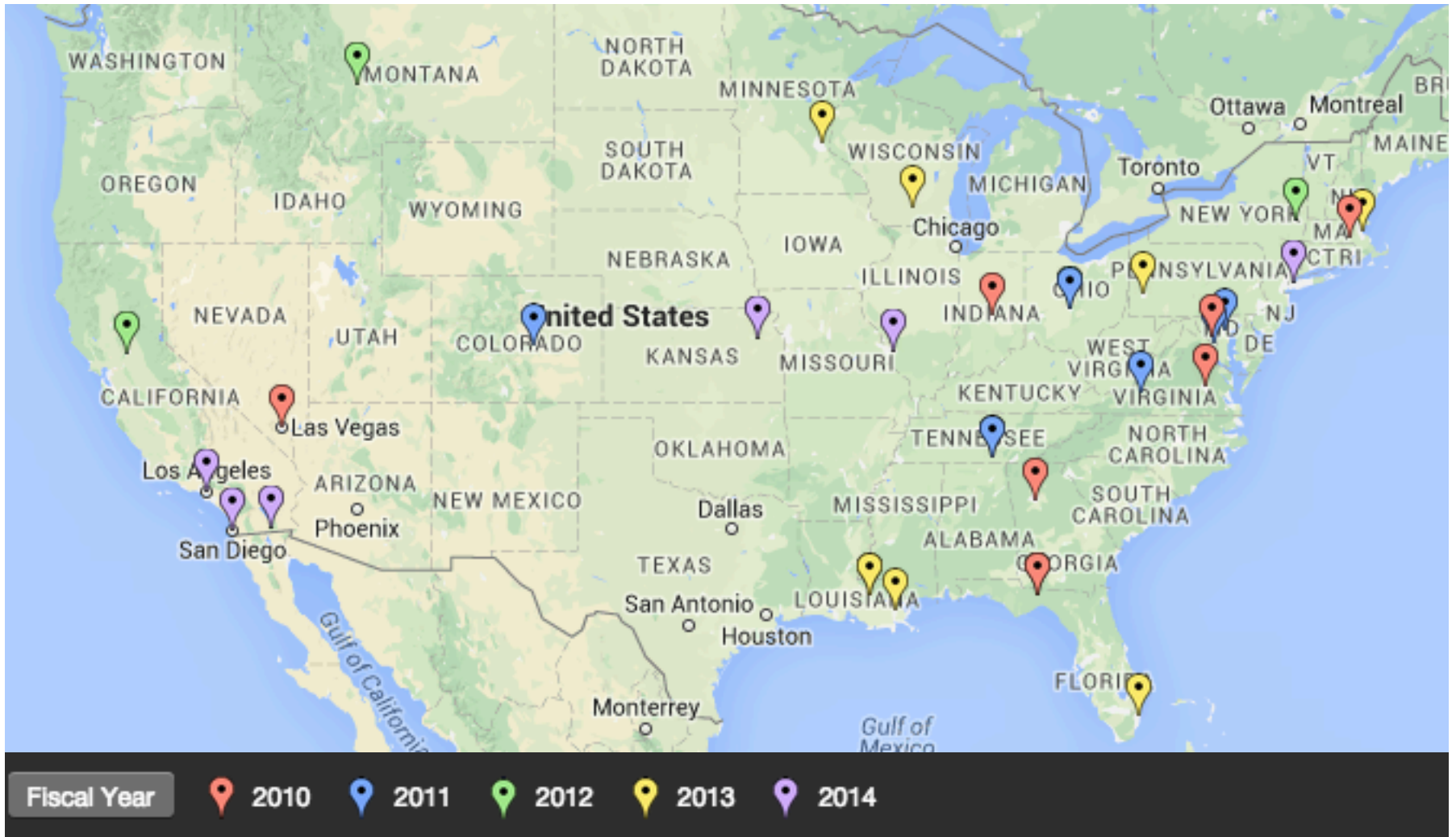
Technology Career Training Grantees

- **$19,764,513** awarded since 2010

- 19 states and the District of Columbia

- Diversity in lead agency
    - 11 state correction departments
    - 4 juvenile justice agencies
    - 4 county governments
    - 3 city governments
    - 3 educational agencies
    - 3 employment/training agencies
    - 2 commerce or labor departments

Grant Solicitation Changes

The FY2015 solicitation has various key changes that separate it from past solicitations for the Technology Career Training Grant.

Extended Award Period
- FY2014 = 12 months
- FY2015 = 36 months

Increased Pre-release Period
- FY2014 = 6-18 months prior to release
- FY2015 = 6-24 months prior to release

Internet Access
- FY2015 allows for less restrictions regarding internet access, however internet access is not required

Post-release Services
- FY2014 = Maximum 6 months
- FY2015 = Maximum 12 months

Updated Priority Considerations
- Employability/job readiness assessments
- Partnerships with educational institutions

Logistics

Submission Deadline:

- May 19, 2015

Eligibility:

- States
- Units of local government
- Territories
- Federally recognized Indian tribes

Award Amount:

- Up to 5 awards of up to $750,000 each

Award Length:

- 36 month project period

Find the solicitation here:

https://www.bja.gov/Funding/15SCATechCareersSol.pdf

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Mandatory Requirements

Partnership with technology-based job training entity
- Training provided within the identified confinement facility(ies)
- Documentation demonstrating partnership (ex: MOA)
- Discuss instructors, accredited programming, and/or direct path to continuing education
- See Section 3.8 of Financial Guide for requirements (http://ojp.gov/financialguide/PostawardRequirements/chapter13page1.htm)

Provide **technology-related job training** in occupational fields
- Demonstrate labor demand for chosen field(s) in/around geographic areas to which target population will be returning

Mandatory Requirements

Identify **moderate to high-risk target population** as identified using a validated risk assessment tool

- Identify the validated risk assessment tool
- Identify which risk levels are eligible for participation
- Describe how many total people the program proposed to serve over the length of the project period
- Provide data to demonstrate that the number of individuals the program proposes to serve is reasonable
- Programs currently operating: state how many people that meet the stated target population characteristics have been served in the last 6 months
- New programs: state how many people met the target population characteristics within the past 6 months

Provide a **baseline recidivism rate** for the proposed target population

- Include documentation to support the development of the rate

Mandatory Requirements

Provide **access to the internet** by incarcerated persons, as appropriate, while protecting the public

- Information on technology access in confinement: http://csgjusticecenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/reentry-council-mythbuster-IT-adults.pdf

Ensure all program participants receive **individualized reentry plans and case management** that link them to community-based services and supports post-release

Ensure the ability to **collect and report data**

- Post-program employment outcomes
- Recidivism indicator data including unique identification numbers for each participant

Technology-Related Job Training

Examples from the BJA Solicitation	Examples from Past Grantees
Computer programming	Microsoft Office training
Web and mobile application development	Telecommunications/Broadband
"Green-technology" related projects	IT Essentials
Auto mechanics	Manufacturing
Manufacturing technology	Heavy Equipment Operator/ Maintenance
Health technology	Certified Web Internet Professional

Priority Considerations

- Apply **evidence-based practices** provided in *What Works in Job Training: A Synthesis of the Evidence*
  - For more information go to http://csgjusticecenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/reentry-council-mythbuster-IT-adults.pdf

- Implement a **job-driven checklist** that includes essential parts of job-driven training
  - For more information see *Ready to Work: Job-Driven Training and American Opportunity* https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/docs/skills_report.pdf

- Include **reentry career planning** as intensive post-release services provided by the grantee or subcontractors focusing on job placement and employment retention services

Priority Considerations

- Demonstrate **formal partnerships with employers** in in-demand job sectors and with local Workforce Investment Boards and/or other external employment assistance programs

- Demonstrate **formal partnerships with local educational institutions** that may provide instructors, accredited programming, and/or a direct path to continuing education

- Projects through which participants receive **industry-recognized certificates**

- Provide ongoing **training to employers** on successful approaches to working with trainees/employees engaged through the program

- Demonstrate the **leveraging of resources** to support and/or sustain the proposed project

Target Population

- Moderate to high-risk

- Incarcerated adults or juveniles

- Incarcerated in a state, local, or tribal prison, jail, juvenile detention/correctional facility, juvenile camp, juvenile community-based program, or a juvenile residential facility

- 6-24 months prior to release from a prison, jail, or juvenile facility

- Convicted as an adult or adjudicated as a juvenile

Allowable Uses of Funds

- Employability or job readiness assessments

- Classroom occupational training

- Training activities that lead to permanent employment in a technology-based job

- Alignment with apprenticeship programs in a technology-based job

- Career counseling and work-based learning

- Basic skills training
  - Adult basic education
  - English as a Second Language
  - Job readiness training

- Job search and placement assistance in the technology field

- Equipment or supplies necessary for participation and completion of the training program

Allowable Uses of Funds

- Technology instructors with technology-based job/career experience

- Recruiting, training, and supervising mentors, including peer mentors

- Reentry planning, case management, and post-release services for a maximum 12 months period

- Collection, tracking, and reporting performance measure data

- Cognitive behavioral therapy that changes criminogenic thinking

- Resources for Civil Legal Aid

Performance Measurement

- Applicants that receive funding under this solicitation must provide data to measure the results of their work done under this solicitation

- Post award, recipients will be required to submit quarterly performance metrics. Quarterly reports are submitted through BJA's online Performance Measurement Tool (PMT)

The PMT is located at **www.bjaperformancetools.org**

Review the complete list of performance measures for this grant at

**www.bjaperformancetools.org/help/
scatechnologycareersquestionnaire.pdf**

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Project Abstract

Applications should include a high-quality project abstract that summarizes the proposed project in 400 words or less. Project abstracts should be

- Written for a general public audience
- Submitted as a separate attachment
- Single-spaced, using a standard 12-point font with 1-inch margins

Find a detailed template for the project abstract here:

**ojp.gov/funding/Apply/Resources/
ProjectAbstractTemplate.pdf**

Selection Criteria

Selection Criteria	Weight
Statement of the problem	10%
Project design & implementation	40%
Capabilities, competencies, & collaboration	25%
Plan for collecting the data required for performance measures & sustainability	15%
Budget	10%

Statement of the Problem

- Describe the challenges of providing technology career-based training for residents returning to the community from incarceration

- Provide an assessment of the local demand for employees trained in the targeted technology-related job sector in the geographic areas to which program participants are likely to return

- Indicate the jurisdiction or tribal community to be served including the facility where programming is proposed to occur

- Summarize the status and job placement outcomes of any existing job training initiatives

- Describe the equipment, facility, security, and personnel needs required to successfully execute the propose training program

Program Design and Implementation

- Identify goals and objectives for program development, implementation, and outcomes

- Describe process or plan for identifying, referring, and assessing potential participants

- Highlight the incorporation of evidence-based programs or practices

- Describe in detail how the **Mandatory Requirements** and **Priority Considerations** have been met

- Describe in detail how proposed activities fall within the **Allowable Uses of Award Funds**

Program Design and Implementation

- Include a curriculum that helps participants acquire and develop skills needed to build potentially successful careers in technology-related jobs

- Incorporate the following activities:
  - Address skills and competencies demanded by the targeted technology career
  - Support participants' career advancement
  - Where applicable, attainment of a recognized certificate, degree, and/or license

Capabilities, Competencies, and Collaboration

- Describe the management structure and staffing of the project, identifying the agency responsible for the project and the grant coordinator

- Demonstrate the capability of the lead organization and collaborative partners to implement the project, including gathering and analyzing information, developing a plan, evaluating the program, and resumes for key personnel

- Describe how the project would be organized and staffed to meet each of the requirements

Capabilities, Competencies, and Collaboration

- Describe in detail the public and/or private partner(s) with which the applicant will work collaboratively
    - Demonstrate partners can provide resources/expertise to the project, are willing to support high-risk individuals through the learning and job-training process, and with post-release services
    - Include evidence of partnership(s)

Data Collection & Sustainability

- Describe the process for assessing the project's effectiveness through the collection and reporting of the required performance metrics data.

- Outline what data and information will be collected and describe how evaluation and collaborative partnerships will be leveraged to build long-term support and resources for the program.

- Describe how performance metrics will be documented, monitored, and evaluated, and identify the impact of the strategy once implemented.

- Identify what data elements and information will be collected and a description of how evaluation and collaborative partnerships will be leveraged to build long-term support and resources for the program.

- Discuss how this effort will be integrated into the applicant's justice system plans or commitments, how the program will be financially sustained after federal funding ends, and the expected long-term results for the program.

Budget

- Complete, cost effective, and allowable

- Applicants must budget funding to travel to Department of Justice-sponsored grant meetings. Applicants should estimate the costs of travel and accommodations for three staff to attend two meetings in Washington D.C.

- Matching funds are not required. Indicate any cost sharing arrangements within the budget section

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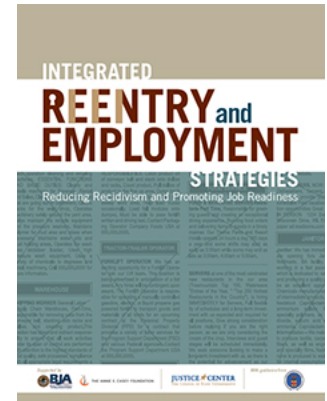Grant Program Overview

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Resources

- Integrated Reentry and Employment Strategies: Reducing Recidivism and Promoting Job Readiness

  https://www.bja.gov/Publications/CSG-Reentry-and-Employment.pdf

- Office of Justice Programs CrimeSolutions.gov

  - Resource of evidence-based programs

- What Works in Reentry Clearinghouse

  http://whatworks.csgjusticecenter.org/

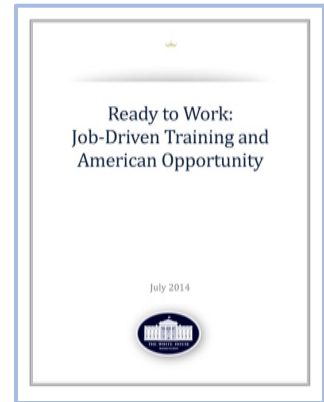# Resources

- **Ready to Work: Job-Driven Training and American Opportunity**
  https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/docs/skills_report.pdf

- **What Works In Job Training: A Synthesis of the Evidence**
  http://www.dol.gov/asp/evaluation/jdt/jdt.pdf

- **Reducing Recidivism and Improving Outcomes for Youth in the Juvenile Justice System**
  http://csgjusticecenter.org/youth/publications/juvenile-justice-white-paper/
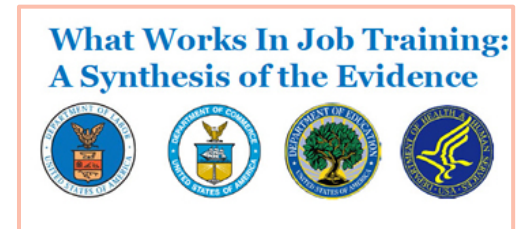
Important Contacts

Application Submission Technical Assistance

Grants.gov Customer Support Hotline

- 1-800-518-4726
  - Open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- support@grants.gov

Solicitation Assistance Contact Information

National Criminal Justice Reference Service Response Center

- 1-800-851-3420
  - Open 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Eastern time, Monday-Friday
  - Open 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern time, May 19, 2015
- responsecenter@ncjrs.gov

Questions and Answers

Thank You

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