

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8161

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 9, 2020

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

AN ACT

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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “The One Stop Shop
3 Community Reentry Program Act of 2020”.

4 **SEC. 2. COMMUNITY REENTRY CENTER GRANT PROGRAM.**

5 (a) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—The Attorney General
6 is authorized to carry out a grant program to make grants
7 to eligible entities for the purpose of creating community
8 reentry centers.

9 (b) APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS.—Each applica-
10 tion for a grant under this section shall—

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

14 (A) identify specific strategies and ap-
15 proaches to providing reentry services;

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

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

23 (ii) the needs of the families and com-
24 munities to which such individuals are re-
25 turning; and

1 (C) use the information gathered pursuant
2 to subparagraph (B) to determine the reentry
3 services to be provided by the community re-
4 entry center;

5 (2) identify the correctional institutions from
6 which individuals who are released from incarceration
7 are likely to reenter the community served by
8 the community reentry center, and develop a plan, if
9 feasible, to provide transportation for such released
10 individuals to the community reentry center, to the
11 individual's residence, or to a location where the in-
12 dividual is ordered by a court to report;

13 (3) demonstrate a plan to provide accessible no-
14 tice of the location of the reentry intake and coordi-
15 nation center and the services that it will provide
16 (either directly or on a referral basis), including,
17 where feasible, within and outside of correctional in-
18 stitutions identified under paragraph (1);

19 (4) demonstrate a plan to provide intake and
20 reentry needs assessment that is trauma-informed
21 and gender-responsive after an individual is released
22 from a correctional institution, or, in the case of an
23 individual who is convicted of an offense and not
24 sentenced to a term of imprisonment, after such con-
25 viction, and where feasible, before release, to ensure

1 that the individuals served by the center are referred
2 to appropriate reentry services based on the individ-
3 ual's needs immediately upon release from a correc-
4 tional institution or after conviction, and continu-
5 ously thereafter as needed;

6 (5) demonstrate a plan to provide the reentry
7 services identified in paragraph (1)(C);

8 (6) demonstrate a plan to continue to provide
9 services (including through referral) for individuals
10 served by the center who move to a different geo-
11 graphic area to ensure appropriate case manage-
12 ment, case planning, and access to continuous or
13 new services, where necessary, and based on con-
14 sistent reevaluation of needs; and

15 (7) identify specific methods that the commu-
16 nity reentry center will employ to achieve perform-
17 ance objectives among the individuals served by the
18 center, including—

19 (A) increased access to and participation
20 in reentry services;

21 (B) reduction in recidivism rates;

22 (C) increased numbers of individuals ob-
23 taining and retaining employment;

24 (D) increased enrollment in and degrees
25 earned from educational programs, including

1 high school, GED, and institutions of higher
2 education;

3 (E) increased numbers of individuals ob-
4 taining and maintaining housing; and

5 (F) increased self-reports of successful
6 community living, including stability of living
7 situation and positive family relationships.

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

15 (d) EVALUATION AND REPORT.—

16 (1) EVALUATION.—The Attorney General shall
17 enter into a contract with a nonprofit organization
18 with expertise in analyzing data related to reentry
19 services and recidivism to monitor and evaluate each
20 recipient of a grant and each community reentry
21 center receiving funds under this section on an ongo-
22 ing basis.

23 (2) ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN.—The nonprofit
24 organization described in paragraph (1) shall provide
25 administrative support to assist recipients of grants

1 authorized by this Act to comply with the conditions
2 associated with the receipt of funding from the De-
3 partment of Justice.

4 (3) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the
5 date on which grants are initially made under this
6 section, and annually thereafter, the Attorney Gen-
7 eral shall submit to Congress a report on the pro-
8 gram, which shall include—

9 (A) the number of grants made, the num-
10 ber of eligible entities receiving such grants,
11 and the amount of funding distributed to each
12 eligible entity pursuant to this section;

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

16 (C) the number of persons who have par-
17 ticipated in reentry services offered by a com-
18 munity reentry center, disaggregated by type of
19 services, and success rates of participants in
20 each service to the extent possible;

21 (D) the number of persons who have par-
22 ticipated in reentry services for which they re-
23 ceived a referral from a community reentry cen-
24 ter, disaggregated by type of services, and suc-
25 cess rates of participants in each service;

1 (E) recidivism rates within the population
2 served by each community reentry center, both
3 before and after receiving a grant under this
4 section;

5 (F) the numbers of individuals obtaining
6 and retaining employment within the population
7 served by each community reentry center, both
8 before and after receiving a grant under this
9 section; and

10 (G) the number of individuals obtaining
11 and maintaining housing within the population
12 served by each community reentry center, both
13 before and after receiving a grant under this
14 section.

15 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

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

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

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

24 (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 (2) The term “community reentry center”
6 means a center that—

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

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

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

17 (3) The term “reentry services” means com-
18 prehensive and holistic services that improve out-
19 comes for individuals returning to the community
20 after conviction or incarceration, and may include—

21 (A) seeking and maintaining employment,
22 including through assistance with drafting re-
23 sumes, establishing emails accounts, locating
24 job solicitations, submitting of job applications,
25 and preparing for interviews;

1 (B) placement in job placement programs
2 that partner with private employers;

3 (C) obtaining free and low-cost job skills
4 classes, including computer skills, technical
5 skills, vocational skills, and any other job-re-
6 lated skills;

7 (D) locating and maintaining housing,
8 which may include counseling on public housing
9 opportunities, assisting with applications for
10 public housing benefits, locating and securing
11 temporary or long-term shelter, and applying
12 for home energy and utility assistance pro-
13 grams;

14 (E) obtaining identification cards and driv-
15 er's licenses;

16 (F) registering to vote, and applying for
17 voting rights to be restored, where permitted by
18 law;

19 (G) applying for or accessing GED
20 courses;

21 (H) applying for loans for and admission
22 to institutions of higher education;

23 (I) financial counseling;

24 (J) legal assistance or referrals for record
25 expungement, forfeiture of property or assets,

1 family law and custody matters, legal aid serv-
2 ices (including other civil legal aid services),
3 and relevant civil matters including housing and
4 other issues;

5 (K) retrieving property or funds retained
6 by the arresting agency or facility of incarcer-
7 ation, or retrieving property or funds obtained
8 while incarcerated;

9 (L) transportation, including through pro-
10 vision of transit fare;

11 (M) familial counseling;

12 (N) problem-solving, in coordination with
13 counsel where necessary, any difficulties in
14 compliance with court-ordered supervision re-
15 quirements, including restrictions on living with
16 certain family members, contact with certain
17 friends, bond requirements, location and resi-
18 dency restrictions, electronic monitoring compli-
19 ance, court-ordered substance abuse, and other
20 court-ordered requirements;

21 (O) communication needs, including pro-
22 viding a mobile phone, mobile phone service or
23 access, or internet access;

24 (P) applying for State or Federal govern-
25 ment benefits, where eligible, and assisting in

1 locating free or reduced cost food and suste-
2 nance benefits;

3 (Q) life skills assistance;

4 (R) mentorship;

5 (S) medical and mental health services,
6 and cognitive-behavioral programming;

7 (T) substance abuse treatment;

8 (U) reactivation, application for, and main-
9 tenance of professional or other licenses; and

10 (V) providing case management services, in
11 connection with court-orders terms of release,
12 or other local publicly supported social work
13 case management.

14 (4) The term “community leader” means an in-
15 dividual who serves the community in a leadership
16 role, including—

17 (A) a school official;

18 (B) a faith leader;

19 (C) a social service provider;

20 (D) a member of a neighborhood associa-
21 tion;

22 (E) a public safety representative;

23 (F) an employee of an organization that
24 provides reentry services;

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

3 (H) a health care professional; or

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

7 (5) The term “success rate” means the rate of
8 recidivism (as measured by a subsequent conviction
9 or return to prison), job placement, permanent hous-
10 ing placement, or completion of certification, trade,
11 or other education program.

12 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be
14 appropriated \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years
15 2021 through 2025 to carry out this section.

16 (2) EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION.—The Attorney
17 General shall ensure that grants awarded under this
18 section are equitably distributed among the geo-
19 graphical regions and between urban and rural pop-
20 ulations, including Indian Tribes, consistent with the
21 objective of reducing recidivism.

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

24 (a) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General is au-
2 thorized to make grants to States and units of local
3 government to operate reentry services assistance
4 hotlines that are toll-free and operate 24 hours a
5 day, 7 days a week.

6 (2) GRANT PERIOD.—A grant made under
7 paragraph (1) shall be for a period of not more than
8 5 years.

9 (b) HOTLINE REQUIREMENTS.—A grant recipient
10 shall ensure, with respect to a hotline funded by a grant
11 under subsection (a), that—

12 (1) the hotline directs individuals to local re-
13 entry services (as such term is defined in section
14 2(e));

15 (2) any personally identifiable information that
16 an individual provides to an agency of the State
17 through the hotline is not directly or indirectly dis-
18 closed, without the consent of the individual, to any
19 other agency or entity, or person;

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

22 (A) applicable Federal, State, and local re-
23 entry services; and

1 (B) the unique barriers to successful re-
2 entry into the community after a person has
3 been convicted or incarcerated;

4 (4) the hotline is accessible to—

5 (A) individuals with limited English pro-
6 ficiency, where appropriate; and

7 (B) individuals with disabilities;

8 (5) the hotline has the capability to engage with
9 individuals using text messages.

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

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

18 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
19 authorized to be appropriated \$1,500,000 for each of fis-
20 cal years 2021 through 2025 to carry out this section.

Passed the House of Representatives December 8,
2020.

Attest: CHERYL L. JOHNSON,
Clerk.