

The Second Chance Reauthorization Act

Section-by-Section Analysis

Section 1: Short Title

This section designates the title of the bill as the Second Chance Reauthorization Act.

Section 2: Improvements to Existing Programs

This section consolidates and improves the grant programs authorized by the Second Chance Act, and reauthorizes them at reduced levels to better reflect current appropriations.

a. Adult and Juvenile Offender State and Local Demonstration Projects.

This subsection reauthorizes the Adult and Juvenile Offender State and Local Reentry Demonstration Projects Grant Program, which promotes successful reintegration into the community of individuals who have been incarcerated, and divides it into two parts so that grant money is awarded separately for planning and for implementation. Currently, grantees receive one grant for both planning and implementation, without an independent review of the plan. This section is reauthorized through 2020 at a reduced level of \$35,000,000 per year.

This subsection makes several improvements to the program structure by giving priority consideration to applicants who work with a local evaluator to set meaningful recidivism goals. This section bolsters support for grantees with programs that target offenders with histories of homelessness, substance abuse, or mental illness. Finally, it allows funding under this section to be used for reentry courts and includes a provision to ensure geographic diversity.

b. Grants for Family-Based Substance Abuse Treatment

This subsection reauthorizes the grants for Family-Based Substance Abuse Treatment through 2020 at existing levels (\$10,000,000 per year). This program establishes or enhances residential substance abuse treatment programs in correctional facilities that include recovery and family supportive services. It expands the eligible grantees to include nonprofit organizations, as well as state and local governments, and gives priority consideration to nonprofit organizations with demonstrated relationships to State and local agencies.

c. Grant Program to Evaluate and Improve Educational Methods at Prisons, Jails and Juvenile Facilities

This subsection shifts existing funding from research to the implementation of best practices in prison education programs. It directs the Attorney General to develop best practices for prison and jail educational methods after examining the research authorized by the original Second Chance Act. This section is reauthorized through 2020 at existing levels (\$5,000,000 per year).

d. Careers Training Demonstration Grants

This subsection reauthorizes the Technology Careers Training Demonstration Program (renamed the “Careers Training Demonstration Grants”) and expands eligible applicants to include nonprofit organizations. It also opens the program to non-technology career training. Finally, this section gives priority consideration to applicants who conduct individualized post-release employment planning, demonstrate connections to employers, or track employment

outcomes. This section is reauthorized through 2020 at existing levels (\$10,000,000 per year).

e. Offender Reentry Substance Abuse and Criminal Justice Collaboration Program

This subsection reauthorizes the Offender Reentry Substance Abuse and Criminal Justice Collaboration Program at existing levels (\$15,000,000 per year) through 2020. This program funds grants to improve drug treatment, develop programs for supervised long-term substance abusers, strengthen rehabilitation efforts, and establish pharmacological drug treatment services as part of programs offered to incarcerated offenders.

f. Community-Based Mentoring and Transitional Service Grants to Nonprofit Organizations

This subsection renames the mentoring grants program and broadens its scope to include transitional services to assist in the reintegration of offenders into the community. It defines transitional services, clarifies that exonerees are eligible for participation under this Act, and authorizes the grants at existing levels (\$15,000,000 per year) through 2020.

Section 3: Audit and Accountability of Grantees

This section bolsters grantee accountability by requiring periodic audits and mandates that no applicants with an unresolved audit may receive Second Chance Act funding. It prohibits nonprofit organizations with offshore accounts from receiving funding under this grant program. It requires that the Department of Justice receive written approval from the Deputy Attorney General for any conference that uses more than \$20,000 in Department funds. Finally, this section prohibits grantees from lobbying any representative of the Department of Justice or of the Federal Government or a State, local, or tribal government about grant funding.

Section 4: Federal Reentry Improvements

This section improves, consolidates, and reauthorizes funding for federal reentry programs. The Responsible Reintegration of Offenders Program is repealed in an effort to eliminate duplication, as the Department of Labor already funds a similar program.

This section reauthorizes the Federal Prisoner Reentry Initiative at current levels of \$5,000,000 per fiscal year through 2020. It requires that the Bureau of Prisons (BOP) establish a comprehensive prisoner reentry program (including pre-release planning), assist offenders in obtaining identification prior to their release, and work with the Department of Labor to incentivize employers to hire former prisoners.

The existing Elderly and Family Reunification for Certain Nonviolent Offenders Pilot Program is made permanent and renamed the "Program for Certain Aging Offenders". The age of eligibility is lowered from 65 to 60 years and inmates must have served at least two-thirds of their sentence in order to participate. This section increases the discretion of prison officials to determine when inmates over 60 should be released to home detention so that taxpayers do not spend money incarcerating and paying medical costs for elderly inmates who no longer threaten public safety. The recidivism rate for federal inmates 60 years and over is just 5.4%. Reporting requirements for BOP are also enhanced.

The Study on Effectiveness of Depot Naltrexone for Heroin Addiction is repealed because the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) supported the study which was conducted by the University of Pennsylvania. The final results of that study will be released later in 2015. Reentry research is reauthorized at reduced levels of \$5,000,000 per year through 2020. A new program, the Partnerships to Expand Access to Reentry Programs Proven to Reduce Recidivism, is added. This will allow certain faith-based and community-based nonprofit organizations to partner with local and federal prisons to provide mentoring or other programming demonstrated to reduce recidivism.

The Federal Satellite Tracking and Reentry Training Program is repealed in an effort to reduce overall authorizations. This program was never appropriated and the Administrative Office of the Courts never used this authority to establish a tracking program.

42 U.S.C.A. § 3797w-2, State, tribal, and local reentry courts, is repealed in an effort to reduce overall authorization levels. Reentry courts have been added as an allowed use under Adult and Juvenile Offender State and Local Demonstration Projects.

42 U.S.C.A. § 3797q, Drug Treatment Alternatives to Prison (DTAP) Programs, is repealed in an effort to reduce overall authorization levels. DTAP is an allowable use under Adult and Juvenile Offender State and Local Demonstration Projects.

Section 5: Federal Interagency Reentry Coordination

This section codifies existing efforts to coordinate reentry at the federal level. The Second Chance Act of 2007 called for a reentry task force, but did not codify it. In January 2011, the Attorney General convened the Federal Interagency Reentry Council, which brings representatives from 20 agencies together to improve communication, collaboration, and coordination to identify best practices that can be replicated in reentry programming. Some of their accomplishments include developing educational materials, clarifying existing federal policies, developing a website to serve as a resource center, and creating an intranet that allows the agencies to share information. This reauthorization requires that the task force produce a report summarizing its achievements and including recommendations for Congress that would further reduce barriers to successful reentry. There are no authorizations for this section.

Section 6: Conference Expenditures

This section prohibits any awarded grantee to host or support any expenditure for conferences that uses more than \$20,000 in Department of Justice Funds, unless the Deputy Attorney General, Assistant Attorney General, Directors or principal deputies, gives prior written authorization.

Total Authorizations (per fiscal year):

Adult and Juvenile Offender Reentry Demonstration Grants	\$35 million
Family-Based Substance Abuse Treatment Grants	\$10 million
Grant Program to Evaluate and Improve Educational Methods at Prisons, Jails, and Juvenile Facilities	\$5 million
Careers Training Demonstration Grants	\$10 million
Reentry Substance Abuse Program	\$15 million

Community-based Mentoring and Transitional Service Grants	\$15 million
Federal Reentry Program	\$5 million
Reentry Research	\$5 million
Total	\$100 million