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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS LAUNCHES \$3M GRANT PROGRAM TO SUPPORT REENTRY

TRENTON, N.J. – Oct. 28, 2021- In an unprecedented move to expand support of reentry services for individuals exiting the state's correctional system, the New Jersey Department of Corrections is launching the New Jersey Locally Empowered, Accountable and Determined (NJ LEAD) \$3M grant. Reentry programs provide critical foundational support for those reintegrating into society, with wraparound services that support a myriad of transitional needs from mental health, physical health, shelter, employment, among other basic needs. The grant would help reentry organizations enhance and expand on their service offerings, providing individuals the tools for a successful trajectory post-release. The three funding categories are:

A. Reintegration Service Coordination in Urban Communities

This category will support a Municipal Reintegration Service Coordinator who will serve as the lead convener of interagency interdisciplinary service coordination for the Mayor's Office and the Chief liaison to the New Jersey Department of Corrections, Office of Community Engagement and Reentry Initiatives.

B. Reentry Supportive Services in Urban Communities

This category will support nonprofit community-based corporations or associations for the provision of comprehensive post-release case management and wraparound supportive services for people returning home from incarceration.

C. Innovative Reentry Career and Entrepreneurial Initiatives in New Jersey

This category will support nonprofit community-based corporations or associations for the provision of Innovative Reentry Initiatives that will increase and improve the ability of the formerly incarcerated to achieve economic stability.

"Community partnerships are essential to establishing successful reintegration for people exiting the NJDOC system," said NJDOC Acting Commissioner, Victoria L. Kuhn, Esq. "The ultimate

goal is to ensure a smooth and successful transition out of prison. We are incredibly grateful for the opportunity to launch the NJLEAD program to bridge the robust services provided within the NJDOC with the valiant work of our community partners."

"There is no one-size-fits-all model for reentry," said Assistant Commissioner of the Division of Programs, Dr. Darcella Sessomes, who is leading the initiative for the Department. "Successful reintegration occurs when someone leaves our facilities after having taken advantage of the opportunities provided inside the prison and is able to continue their transformation once they return to their community. Reintegration requires a concerted effort between the Department, public agencies, local reentry organizations, and private citizens. The Department is proud to offer funding to support local community agencies to enhance and expand critical post-release reentry services to ensure everyone has an opportunity for a second chance."

The grant application period for categories A and B opens November 1, 2021, and closes on November 22, 2021, at 12 P.M. The grant application period for a category C opens November 15, 2021, and closes on December 6, 2021, at 12 P.M.

Notices of Grant Opportunities (NGOs) will be posted on the New Jersey Department of Corrections website located at: <https://www.nj.gov/corrections/pages/grants.html>.

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