



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

WHITTLESEY ROAD

PO BOX 863

TRENTON NJ 08625-0863

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

TAHESHA L. WAY
Lt. Governor

VICTORIA L. KUHN, ESQ.
Commissioner

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Media Contact:

Amy Z. Quinn

Amy.Z.Quinn@doc.nj.gov
(856) 889-0571

NJDOC ANNOUNCES \$7 MILLION GRANT PROGRAM TO SUPPORT AND EXPAND AVAILABILITY OF REENTRY SERVICES *PROGRAM IS AVAILABLE TO COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS THAT ASSIST FORMERLY INCARCERATED PERSONS*

TRENTON – The New Jersey Department of Corrections (NJDOC) through the Division of Programs and Reintegration Services announced the availability of \$7 million in grants to provide support to local non-profits and communities to assist formerly incarcerated persons as they reenter society.

The Locally Empowered, Accountable and Determined (NJLEAD) reentry grant program is designed to promote various evidence-informed and effective reentry initiatives for those returning from prison. NJLEAD aims to establish a coordinated and collaborative system of services to ensure a continuum of care and treatment from prison to community. The funding was made available through the Fiscal Year 2024 Appropriations Act.

“We are pleased to have the opportunity to continue the community integration successes and provide a third round of NJLEAD grant funding for reentry providers,” said **New Jersey Department of Corrections Commissioner Victoria L. Kuhn, Esq.** “We have seen the tangible effects reentry services have on successful reintegration and are proud of the reentry collaboration between the NJDOC team and our NJLEAD partners, as we work together to transform lives.”

NJLEAD grants provide critical foundational support for those exiting incarceration, with wraparound services including mental and physical health services, housing, employment, and entrepreneurship. NJLEAD provides reentry organizations with support to enhance and expand services to ensure individuals have the tools necessary for success following incarceration. Additional grants are available to enable local communities to create municipal liaisons that will establish an interagency collaboration of resources and a guided discharge process to ensure returning citizens' successful reintegration into the community.

“Our NJLEAD partners represent a critical piece of the reentry equation by providing a holistic continuum of care at the local level for those released from prison and returning to their communities. From housing and employment services to entrepreneurship development, NJLEAD partners engage in every aspect of reentry care and support for persons returning from incarceration,” said **Dr. Darcella Patterson Sessomes, NJDOC Chief of Programs and Reintegration Services.**

Four categories of funding are available:

Reintegration Service Coordination in Urban Communities

This category supports a Municipal Reintegration Service Coordinator who serves 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.

Reentry Supportive Services in Urban Communities

This category supports 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. This category must include a housing component.

Innovative Reentry Career and Entrepreneurial Initiatives in New Jersey

This category supports non-profit community-based corporations or associations for the provision of innovative entrepreneurial development that will increase and improve the ability of incarcerated persons within 364 days of release or the formerly incarcerated to achieve economic stability and independence.

Innovative Supplemental Prerelease Reentry Preparation Services and Vocational Training and Certification

This category seeks proposals specifying how municipal or state government entities, as well as for-profit and non-profit community-based organizations or associations will use funds to implement innovative, pre-release, evidence-based psycho-educational rehabilitative, discharge planning services, and vocational training or work readiness programs that will increase and improve the ability of incarcerated persons within 364 days of release to achieve successful reintegration and independence.

Interested organizations have until Jan. 17, 2024 to submit their applications. Notice of grant opportunities are available on the New Jersey Department of Corrections' website located at: <https://www.nj.gov/corrections/pages/grants.html>.

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About the New Jersey Department of Corrections

The mission of the New Jersey Department of Corrections is advancing public safety and promoting successful reintegration in a dignified, safe, secure, rehabilitative, and gender-informed environment, supported by a professional, trained, and diverse workforce, enhanced by community engagement.