



New Jersey Department of Corrections

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NJDOC Announces Grants to Over 40 Organizations to Strengthen Reentry Services Across the State

Funding will support community-based organizations to assist individuals transitioning from incarceration back into their community

TRENTON, NJ – The New Jersey Department of Corrections (NJDOC) has awarded nearly \$7 million in FY 2025 NJLEAD (New Jersey Locally Empowered, Accountable, and Determined) grants. Funding goes directly to nonprofits, municipalities, and training centers working on the front lines of reentry, helping people transition home, prepare for work, and stay connected to their communities.

“New Jersey has one of the lowest rates of recidivism in the nation, and we know from experience that the period after release is when people are most vulnerable to falling back into old patterns. When individuals leave custody without housing, employment, or a support system, the chances of returning to prison rise dramatically,” said NJDOC Commissioner Victoria L. Kuhn, Esq. “These grants are our way of breaking that cycle. By putting resources directly into the hands of trusted local organizations, we make sure people have real opportunities to succeed.”

NJLEAD provides resources to organizations that serve returning citizens so they can offer appropriate programs and the opportunity to rebuild lives through job training, housing assistance, case management, trauma support, and vocational skills development. These grants connect people with local organizations who know their communities best, making reentry work both personal and practical. The impact reaches far beyond individuals and represents stronger families, safer neighborhoods, and a more resilient New Jersey.

“NJLEAD is built on the belief that local organizations and communities know best how to serve their people from their communities. These grants make it possible to expand case management, trauma recovery, job training, and prerelease services in a way that is the most impactful,” said Dr. Darcella Patterson Sessomes, Chief of Programs and Reintegration Services.

Reintegration Service Coordination in Urban Communities

Supports municipalities in coordinating local reentry strategies, building partnerships, and ensuring services are accessible to residents returning home by hiring a Reentry Coordinator for the municipality who can direct residents to local supports.

City of Paterson	\$152,000
City of Newark	\$175,000
Neptune Township	\$112,750

Reentry Supportive Services

Funds community-based organizations that provide direct case management, housing assistance, mental health services, and other wraparound supports for people leaving incarceration.

Team Resurrection	\$160,000
Helping Arms	\$260,000
Salvation and Social Justice	\$350,000
SCORES Reentry	\$250,000
Kommunity Kare	\$175,000
Habakkuk's Vision Charitable Ministries, Inc.	\$250,000
Transition Professionals	\$198,000
The Kintock Group: Vantage Point	\$350,000
Education Health Centers of America	\$175,000
Pyramid House	\$130,000
Isaiah House	\$275,000
Reformed Church Of Highland Park	\$300,000
Urban League of Union County	\$300,000
Communities in Cooperation, Inc.	\$250,000
Returning Citizens Support Group	\$100,000
Greater Bergen Community Action	\$200,000
YWCA Northern NJ	\$100,000
Trinity Episcopal Church	\$60,000
Most Excellent Way Life Center	\$175,000

Innovative Reentry Cooperative Economic Empowerment

Supports programs that build career pathways, entrepreneurship opportunities, and job readiness so that people leaving prison can earn stable wages and contribute to their local economies.

Rutgers University – Raised	\$60,000
Second Chance NJ	\$75,000

Ideal Institute of Technology	\$250,000
Women’s Center for Entrepreneurship	\$110,000
Cathedral Community Development Center	\$75,000
The Workwell Partnership	\$200,000
Newark Workforce Development Board	\$100,000
The Beloved Project of NJ	\$75,000
African American Chamber of Commerce NJ	\$250,000
Union County Economic Development Corp.	\$60,000
Urban League of Essex County	\$200,000
MidAtlantic State Career and Education Center	\$200,000

Innovative Prerelease Preparation and Vocational Training

Provides prerelease life coaching, certifications, and vocational training so that individuals leave correctional facilities with skills and credentials that can translate directly into work.

African American Chamber of Commerce NJ	\$100,000
Dr. Carl Williams, LLC Counseling Services	\$100,000
New Jersey Performing Arts Center	\$145,000
Sojourn Institute, LLC	\$51,000
The WOW Center	\$100,000
The BLOC Foundation	\$100,000
Partners Uplifting Our Daughters and Sons	\$75,000
Severe Solutions	\$80,000
National Action Network Newark Tech World	\$80,000

About the New Jersey Department of Corrections

The mission of NJDOC is to advance public safety and promote successful reintegration in a dignified, safe, secure, rehabilitative, and gender-informed environment, supported by a professional, trained, and diverse workforce, enhanced by community engagement. For more information, visit: NJDOC.gov.