



New Jersey Department of Corrections

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Media Inquiries

Chris Greeder

Christopher.Greeder01@doc.nj.gov

NJDOC Awards 2026 NJLEAD Grants to 41 Organizations to Strengthen Reentry, Employment, and Community Stability

Funding supports local initiatives providing housing assistance, job training, case management, trauma support, and comprehensive pre- and post-release services

TRENTON, NJ — The New Jersey Department of Corrections (NJDOC) has awarded nearly \$7 million through the 2026 New Jersey Locally Empowered, Accountable, and Determined (NJLEAD) grants to 41 community organizations across the state. These investments expand community access to critical resources that promote long-term stability and opportunity for returning citizens.

"Successful reentry strengthens public safety and creates stronger communities," said **Commissioner Victoria L. Kuhn, Esq.** "These investments support local organizations that help individuals secure housing, find employment, access treatment and build stable lives after release. Their work is an important part of New Jersey's continued progress in reducing recidivism."

As a vital component of the Department's reintegration strategy, the NJLEAD initiative bridges the gap for individuals returning home from incarceration. By investing directly in grassroots and community organizations, NJLEAD empowers trusted local providers to reduce institutional barriers to successful reentry – combining immediate stability resources like housing assistance with long-term programs like vocational training.

These comprehensive community investments directly support New Jersey's proven track record of success; according to the Department's most recent Recidivism Outcome Report, only 6 percent of individuals released from NJDOC custody in 2021 were reincarcerated for a new conviction within three years, continuing a long-term decline in recidivism across the state.

"Community organizations are essential partners in successful reentry," said **Dr. Darcella Patterson Sessomes, Chief of Programs and Reintegration Services.** "These grants expand access to evidence-based services and strengthen the local networks that help individuals succeed after release."

Real Impact by the Numbers (Calendar Year 2025)

The NJLEAD initiative continues to deliver measurable, life-changing support across New Jersey's communities. Over the course of calendar year 2025, NJLEAD partners achieved the following milestones:

- 7,335 prerelease contacts made through targeted reentry outreach events to prepare individuals for release.
- 13,882 community contacts established to support individuals already navigating their reintegration.
- Over 300 individuals recently released from incarceration provided with vital emergency housing.

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.

Organization	Award Amount
City of Paterson	\$152,000
Neptune Township	\$143,000

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.

Organization	Award Amount
Urban League of Union County	\$400,000
Isaiah House	\$375,000
Habakkuk's Vision Charitable Ministries, Inc.	\$350,000
The Kintock Group	\$350,000
Communities in Cooperation, Inc	\$350,000
Reformed Church of Highland Park - AHC	\$350,000
Salvation and Social Justice	\$350,000
Helping Arms	\$280,000

Greater Bergen Community Action	\$250,000
Education & Health Centers of America	\$225,000
New Beginnings Behavioral Health	\$200,000
Returning Citizens Support Group	\$200,000
SCORES Reentry, Inc.	\$200,000
Pyramid House Foundation	\$180,000
Joseph's House of Camden	\$175,000
Camden Council on Economic Opportunity	\$175,000
Kommunity Kares, Inc.	\$175,000
Most Excellent Way of Life	\$175,000
The WOW Center	\$150,000
Trinity Episcopal Church	\$110,000
TEAM Resurrection	\$110,000

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.

Organization	Award Amount
AACCNJ Reentry Ventures	\$200,000
Urban League of Essex County	\$145,000
The Workwell Partnership	\$125,000
Associated Humane Societies	\$100,000
YWCA-Northern NJ	\$80,000
Cathedral Community Development Center	\$75,000
Women's Center for Entrepreneurship (WCEC)	\$75,000
Union County Economic Development Corp. (UCEDC)	\$50,000

The Father Center of NJ	\$50,000
Strong Ones LLC dba New Entry	\$25,000
Enosis The Leadership Network	\$25,000

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.

Organization	Award Amount
DRCW	\$125,000
NAN Newark Tech World	\$100,000
NJPAC	\$100,000
The THINK Group	\$75,000
Sojourn Institute LLC	\$50,000
Ladies of Hope Ministries	\$50,000
Union County Fatherhood Initiative Coalition, Inc.	\$50,000

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About New Jersey Department of Corrections (NJDOC)

The mission of the New Jersey Department of Corrections is enhancing public safety through rehabilitation, accountability and reentry. For more information, visit: NJDOC.gov.