

MEETING DATE: June 12, 2025**AGENDA ITEM:** D**TO:** BSCC Chair and Members**FROM:** Katie Thompson, Field Representative, katie.thompson@bscc.ca.gov**SUBJECT:** Adult Reentry Grant (ARG) Program, Cohort 4 Funding
Recommendations: **Requesting Approval**

Summary

This agenda item requests Board approval of the Adult Reentry Grant (ARG) Program Cohort 4 awards as recommended by the Scoring Panel (Attachment D-1). If the proposed list of award recommendations is approved, a total of 39 community-based organizations will receive \$127.2 million to implement Warm Handoff/Reentry Services and Rental Assistance. Proposals selected for funding will be under agreement from June 30, 2025 through June 30, 2029. A list of applicants recommended for funding is provided in Attachment D-2 and corresponding project summaries are provided in Attachment D-3.

Background

The ARG Program provides funding for community-based organizations (CBOs) to support individuals formerly incarcerated in state prison. The ARG was established in the Budget Act of 2018 (Senate Bill 840, Chapter 29, Statutes of 2018) and has received annual appropriations to provide funding for rental assistance and to support the warm handoff and reentry of people transitioning from state prisons to their communities. The Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) has administered the ARG Program without interruption since its establishment, awarding more than \$221 million to 217 projects through three rounds of funding.

The Budget Acts of 2023 (Assembly Bill 102, Chapter 38, Statutes of 2023) and 2024 (Assembly Bill 107, Chapter 22, Statutes of 2024) appropriated \$57 million, respectively, for a total of \$114 million to award competitive grants, as follows:

- \$54.15 million shall be available for the **warm handoff and reentry** of offenders transitioning from state prison to communities.
- \$54.15 million shall be available for **rental assistance**.
- Up to 5 percent (\$5.7 million) shall be available to BSCC for costs to administer the grant programs.

On July 12, 2024, the Board appointed Board Member Jason Johnson, Director of the Division of Adult Parole Operations at the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, as Chair of the ARG Cohort 4 ESC. The ESC convened in September 2024 and October 2024 to develop the Request for Proposals (RFP) for Cohort 4. On November 21, 2024, the Board approved the release of the [Cohort 4 RFP](#), as recommended by the

ESC. This RFP included \$108.3 million for local assistance grants. Proposals were due March 3, 2025.

In review, the following are the key components of the Cohort 4 ARG Program:

- **Eligibility:** Only community-based organizations with nonprofit (501(c)(3) status) in California that provide direct services to the community were eligible to apply.
- **Grant Period:** ARG projects will be awarded for a 42-month term, from July 1, 2025 to December 31, 2028. The first three years (July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2028) are for implementation and service delivery. The last six months (July 1, 2028, to December 31, 2028) are for completion of an audit report and a final evaluation report.
- **New Grant Structure:** Historically, BSCC has administered separate RFP processes for the two ARG components, Warm Handoff/Reentry and Rental Assistance, treating them as stand-alone grant projects. To streamline the grant and allow for more continuity of care, the ESC recommended a new grant structure, where applicants submitted one proposal that addressed both components.
- **Funding Thresholds:** Eligible applicants could apply for a maximum of \$4,500,000 for the entire grant period. Within that funding threshold, applicants could request:
 - \$2,250,000 in the Warm Hand-Off/Reentry Services category
 - \$2,250,000 in the Rental Assistance category

In response to the ARG Cohort 4 RFP, the BSCC received an unprecedented 270 proposals, requesting more than \$860 million in funding. The large number of proposals led BSCC to recruit additional subject matter experts to the ESC, as well as several BSCC staff to form a Scoring Panel. After a technical review, BSCC determined that 231 proposals met all submission criteria and forwarded them to the Scoring Panel for funding consideration. On April 19 to 20, 2025, BSCC staff trained the Scoring Panel on the proposal rating process established in the RFP. Once all scores were submitted, BSCC staff generated a ranked list of all proposals.

After the release of the RFP, the BSCC identified an additional \$19 million that was relinquished or remained unspent from prior cohorts. As a part of this Board item, staff recommends including this additional funding in the Cohort 4 awards, bringing the total to \$127.2 million.

There is sufficient available funding to offer full grant awards to 34 community-based organizations (CBOs) and a partial award to five CBOs. (See Attachment D-2.)

Recommendation/Action Needed

On behalf of the Adult Reentry Grant Program ESC, staff recommends the Board take the following actions:

1. Make conditional awards to fully fund 34 ARG proposals totaling \$119 million;

2. Partially fund five (5) proposals for \$8.2 million, as they fell at the funding cut-off on the ranked order list;
3. Authorize staff to continue awarding funds from the rank-ordered list if any applicant is unable to accept the award, relinquishes an award, or is deemed ineligible first by offering to any partial awardee and then to the next highest-ranked application(s); and
4. Authorize staff to continue awarding funds from the rank-ordered list during the grant period if funding becomes available through the 2025-26 Budget Act, or because a grantee becomes ineligible during the grant period or relinquishes the award during the grant period.
5. Dissolve the Adult Reentry Grant, Cohort 4 Executive Steering Committee and Scoring Panel upon approval of the funding recommendations.

Attachments

- D-1: Adult Reentry Grant Cohort 4 Scoring Panel Roster
- D-2: List of Applicants Recommended for Funding
- D-3: Project Summaries