

MEETING DATE: September 10, 2020 **AGENDA ITEM:** E

TO: BSCC Chair and Members

FROM: Tanya Hill, Field Representative, tanya.hill@bscc.ca.gov

SUBJECT: Adult Reentry Grant Warm Handoff Request for Proposals Development Process for 2020-2021: **Requesting Approval**

Summary

This agenda item requests Board approval for the development process for the second round of Adult Reentry Grant Warm Handoff awards. It includes three key components:

1. A process to use the original Adult Reentry Grant Request for Proposals but make minor and technical edits and seek public comment for other changes that might be necessary. The Board would review and approve the revised Request for Proposals at a future meeting;
2. A requirement that eligibility for Cohort II funding be limited to applicants from community-based organizations (CBOs) that have not yet received ARG funding.
3. The convening of a scoring committee to read and rate new proposals.

Background

Adult Reentry Grant

The Adult Reentry Grant program provides funding for community-based organizations to deliver reentry services for people formerly incarcerated in state prison. The grant was initially established in the [Budget Act of 2018](#) (Senate Bill 840, Chapter 29, Statutes of 2018) and provided \$50 million in funding for three components of reentry services as follows:

- \$25,000,000 for rental assistance
- \$9,350,000 for warm handoff
- \$15,000,000 for rehabilitation of existing property or buildings

The Budget Act of 2019 (Assemble Bill 74, Chapter 23, Statutes of 2019) provided an additional \$32,950,000 divided equally between rental assistance and warm handoff ([Attachment E-2](#)) and, when added to the original allocation of grant funds, increased total available as follows:

- \$40,651,250 for rental assistance
- \$25,001,250 for warm handoff

In July 2019, the Board approved 69 grant awards for both rental assistance and warm handoff.

The Budget Act of 2020 (Assembly Bill 89, Chapter 7, Statutes of 2020) appropriated additional funding in the amount of \$37,000,000, divided equally between rental assistance and warm handoff programs ([Attachment E-3](#)) and allocated as follows:

- \$17,575,000 for Rental Assistance
- \$17,575,000 for Warm Handoff
- \$1,850,000 to the BSCC for costs to administer the grant

History

Key Board activities implementing the Adult Reentry Grant Program:

- On July 12, 2018, the Board appointed Board Chair Penner and then Board Member Francine Tournour as Co-Chairs of the Adult Reentry Grant Executive Steering Committee ([Attachment E-4](#)).
- A 17-member committee was formed and convened October 11, 2018, November 1, 2018 and November 14, 2018 to develop the RFP for the Adult Reentry Grant Program.
- The Board approved the release of the Adult Reentry Grant RFP on January 17, 2019 with a proposal due date of March 25, 2019 ([Attachment E-5](#)).
- In April and May 2019, the ESC read, rated and ranked 147 proposals.
- On July 11, 2019, the Board approved a total of 69 awards for the Adult Reentry Grant Program with 16 awards going to Rental Assistance applicants and 53 awards to Warm Handoff applicants (Attachment E-6).
- In February 2020, the Board approved the single award for the Rehabilitation of existing property or buildings.
- On August 13, 2020, in an effort to expedite the 2020 rental assistance funding to help with early state prison releases due to COVID-19, the Board approved eight additional rental assistance awards from the ranked list of unfunded applicants in the previous round of ARG recipients (Attachment E-7).

RFP Development Process: Warm Hand-Off Cohort II

The BSCC typically begins its ESC process a year prior to making award recommendations to the Board. However, it is recommended that the RFP development process be expedited because of the additional urgency for reentry resources due to housing instability, COVID-19, and early releases from state prison. In addition, because the initial RFP was developed only a year ago, substantive changes to the prior RFP are not warranted at this time.

What is Proposed?

1. Re-release the Round I Adult Reentry Grant Warm Hand-Off RFP with technical amendments and opportunity for public comment;
2. Allocate FY 2020-21 funding to Warm Handoff Cohort II;
3. Limit Cohort II to community-based organization applicants that have not yet received funding and those that received only partial funding in Cohort I (those not already awarded funds in Cohort I)
4. Convene a scoring committee to read and rate proposals.

Why is it Proposed?

1. The Board released the initial RFP in January 2019 and awards were made in July 2019. Consequently, the BSCC has not yet received meaningful data that would indicate whether substantive changes to the initial RFP are required or would be beneficial. In view of this, staff recommends updating and reusing the current RFP with minor and technical changes for Cohort II. This would be accomplished by:
 - Staff making technical changes to the RFP (based on experience and grantee feedback).
 - Posting the amended RFP to the BSCC website (in track changes so the changes are easy to see) and widely disseminated.
 - Providing a 30-day public comment period to respond to the technical changes in the amended RFP.
 - Staff making additional changes, as determined appropriate, based on the public comment.
 - The Board approving the updated RFP at a future meeting.
2. Limiting Cohort II to new applicants would allow new community-based organizations an opportunity to apply for funding. In addition, BSCC grantees that have received multiple BSCC grants with overlapping timelines have had challenges with tracking funds across programs and exhausting funds during the grant cycle.
3. The Board would convene a Scoring Committee for the limited purpose of reading and rating proposals. This Committee would be fully briefed and trained on the RFP and how to rate the proposals. Staff would request a Chair for this Committee at a future Board meeting and post a request for Committee members on the BSCC website.

RFP Activities and Tentative Timeline

Below is a tentative timeline of activities necessary to administer a competitive RFP for the Adult Reentry Grant Program Warm Handoff component.

Activity	Date
Post RFP revisions for 30-day public comment	October 1-30, 2020
Revised RFP presented for Board Approval	November 19, 2020
Release Revised Request for Proposals	November 20, 2020
Notice of Intent to Apply Due to the BSCC	January 8, 2021
Proposals Due to the BSCC	February 5, 2021
Proposal Rating Process and Development of Funding Recommendations	February-May 2021
BSCC Board Considers Funding Recommendations	June 2021
Grants Begin	July 1, 2021
Mandatory New Grantee Orientation	August 2021 (Date to be determined)

Recommendation/Action Needed

Staff recommends that the Board:

1. Approve the posting of the draft Adult Reentry Grant Warm Hand-Off RFP with amendments limiting eligibility to new applicants and technical amendments for public comment;
2. Approve the use of a Scoring Committee for the purpose of scoring proposals.

Attachments

[E-1: Budget Act 2018 - Senate Bill 840](#)

[E-2: Budget Act 2019 - Assembly Bill 74](#)

[E-3: Budget Act 2020 - Assembly Bill 74](#)

[E-4: Executive Steering Committee Roster](#)

[E-5: Rental Assistance and Warm Handoff Request for Proposals](#)

E-6: Rental and Warm Handoff Proposals Funded with the FY 2018 and 2019 Budget Acts

E-7: Rental Assistance Proposals Funded with the FY 2020 Budget Act