



LINDA M. PENNER  
*Chair*

KATHLEEN T. HOWARD  
*Executive Director*

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

## BOARD OF STATE AND COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS

2590 VENTURE OAKS WAY, SUITE 200 • SACRAMENTO CA 95833 • 916.445.5073 • BSCC.CA.GOV



EDMUND G. BROWN, JR.  
*Governor*

### The Adult Reentry Grant Program Applicant Information

**DATE:** December 20, 2018

**TO:** Interested Parties

**SUBJECT:** Information for Applicants Interested in Applying for the Adult Reentry Grant Program

This notice is prepared by the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) for interested parties who are considering applying for the Adult Reentry Grant Program and contains important and updated information that may impact potential applicants.

Adult Reentry Grant Program was established through the Budget Act of 2018 (Senate Bill 840, Chapter 29, Statute of 2018) and will appropriate approximately \$50,000,000 in funding for community-based organizations to support offenders formerly incarcerated in state prison.

The Adult Reentry Grant Program funds are to be allocated as follows:

1. \$25,000,000 for rental assistance;
2. \$9,350,000 to support the “warm hand-off” and reentry of offenders transitioning from prison to communities;
3. \$15,000,000 for the rehabilitation of existing property or buildings for housing offenders released from prison;

Funding for the Adult Reentry Grant will be awarded by the BSCC as competitive grants. An Executive Steering Committee made up of subject matter experts from relevant state and community-based agencies and departments with expertise in public health, housing, workforce development, reentry, and effective rehabilitative treatment for adult offenders has been created to assist in developing the Request for Proposals (RFP), grant-program criteria, and will make recommendations to the BSCC Board regarding grant award decisions.

The Request for Proposals (RFP) will address funding available for the 1) Rental Assistance and 2) Warm Hand-Off Reentry Services components of the grant. The RFP will not include a process for applying for grant funding for the third component of the grant; Rehabilitation of Existing Property. This component of the project will be addressed separately at a future date.

Although the project schedule for the Adult Reentry Grant is subject to change, the tentative schedule calls for:

- The release of a RFP January 18, 2019
- A solicitation period of approximately 9 weeks
- The grant awards to be made in July 2019
- A project end date of February 2023

### The Housing First Model

Welfare and Institutions Code sections 8255 et seq. requires that a state agency or department that funds, implements, or administers a state program that provides housing or housing-related services to people experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness, are to adopt guidelines and regulations to include Housing First policies.

It is important for potential applicants to be aware Housing First policies apply to the Adult Reentry Grant. As such, this will require grantees proposing projects that include housing or housing-related services to people experiencing homelessness or at-risk of homelessness to incorporate the core components of Housing First in their proposed program design.

### What is Housing First?

Housing First is an approach to serving people experiencing homelessness that recognizes a homeless person must first be able to access a decent, safe place to live, that does not limit length of stay (permanent housing), before stabilizing, improving health, reducing harmful behaviors, or increasing income. Under the Housing First approach, anyone experiencing homelessness is connected to a permanent home as quickly as possible, and programs remove barriers to accessing the housing, like requirements for sobriety or absence of criminal history. It is based on the “hierarchy of need” in which people must access basic necessities like a safe place to live and food to eat before being able to achieve quality of life or pursue personal goals. Housing First values choice not only in where to live, but whether to participate in services. For this reason, tenants are not required to participate in services to access or retain housing.<sup>1</sup>

Pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code sections 8255 et seq., the “core components of Housing First means all of the following:

- 1) Tenant screening and selection practices that promote accepting applicants regardless of their sobriety or use of substances, completion of treatment, or participation in services.
- 2) Applicants are not rejected on the basis of poor credit or financial history, poor or lack of rental history, criminal convictions unrelated to tenancy, or behaviors that indicate a lack of “housing readiness.”
- 3) Acceptance of referrals directly from shelters, street outreach, drop-in centers, and other parts of crisis response systems frequented by vulnerable people experiencing homelessness.
- 4) Supportive services that emphasize engagement and problem solving over therapeutic goals and service plans that are highly tenant-driven without predetermined goals.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://hcd.ca.gov/grants-funding/active-funding/docs/Housing-First-Fact-Sheet.pdf>

- 5) Participation in services or program compliance is not a condition of permanent housing tenancy.
- 6) Tenants have a lease and all the rights and responsibilities of tenancy, as outlined in California's Civil, Health and Safety, and Government codes.
- 7) The use of alcohol or drugs in and of itself, without other lease violations, is not a reason for eviction.
- 8) In communities with coordinated assessment and entry systems, incentives for funding promote tenant selection plans for supportive housing that prioritize eligible tenants based on criteria other than "first-come-first-serve," including, but not limited to, the duration or chronicity of homelessness, vulnerability to early mortality, or high utilization of crisis services. Prioritization may include triage tools, developed through local data, to identify high-cost, high-need homeless residents.
- 9) Case managers and service coordinators who are trained in and actively employ evidence-based practices for client engagement, including, but not limited to, motivational interviewing and client-centered counseling.
- 10) Services are informed by a harm-reduction philosophy that recognizes drug and alcohol use and addiction as a part of tenants' lives, where tenants are engaged in nonjudgmental communication regarding drug and alcohol use, and where tenants are offered education regarding how to avoid risky behaviors and engage in safer practices, as well as connected to evidence-based treatment if the tenant so chooses.
- 11) The project and specific apartment may include special physical features that accommodate disabilities, reduce harm, and promote health and community and independence among tenants."

## Resources

Below are links to resources related to relevant legislation and Housing First information that potential applicants should explore in advance of the release of the RFP for the Adult Reentry Grant Program:

1. Senate Bill 840 Adult Reentry Program  
<http://www.bscc.ca.gov/downloads/SB%20840%20Adult%20Reentry%20Grant%20Statute.pdf>
2. Senate Bill 1380 Housing First  
<http://www.bscc.ca.gov/downloads/SENATE%20BILL%201380.pdf>
3. Housing First - Corporation for Supportive Housing PowerPoint  
<http://www.bscc.ca.gov/downloads/ARG%20Ppt%20PDF-Housing%20First.pdf>
4. Housing First Checklist: Assessing Projects and Systems for a Housing First Orientation  
[https://www.usich.gov/resources/uploads/asset\\_library/Housing\\_First\\_Checklist\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.usich.gov/resources/uploads/asset_library/Housing_First_Checklist_FINAL.pdf)

5. What is Housing First? California Department of Housing and Community Development  
<http://hcd.ca.gov/grants-funding/active-funding/docs/Housing-First-Fact-Sheet.pdf>
6. Housing First in Permanent Supportive Housing  
<https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/Housing-First-Permanent-Supportive-Housing-Brief.pdf>
7. Wikipedia Housing First  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Housing\\_First](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Housing_First)
8. Deploying Housing First Systemwide <https://www.usich.gov/solutions/housing/housing-first/>

For additional information or questions contact:

Colleen Stoner, Field Representative, [colleen.stoner@bscc.ca.gov](mailto:colleen.stoner@bscc.ca.gov)

Or go to the BSCC website at:

[http://www.bscc.ca.gov/s\\_cppgrantfundedprograms.php](http://www.bscc.ca.gov/s_cppgrantfundedprograms.php)