

Hello Tracie,

My name is Avalon Edwards and I will be providing public comment at the BSCC meeting today. Below is my comment.

My name is Avalon Edwards, and I'm a Policy Fellow with Starting Over Inc, which provides re-entry services and transitional housing support for those returning home from incarceration and experiencing homelessness in the greater Inland Empire region. As our community members and loved ones rejoin us after their time of incarceration, they are entering a society in the midst of a pandemic and economic collapse. The process of re-entry is daunting enough without these additional factors; too many incarcerated individuals leave custody without the stable housing, health care, and access to food and medication that they need to thrive in their communities. For these reasons, it is crucial that the BSCC allocate significant CESF funding to emergency housing and re-entry organizations working to ensure safe and healthy re-entry for our formerly incarcerated community members.

Thank you.

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Avalon Edwards

Public Policy Fellow

Starting Over, Inc.