

MEETING DATE: February 10, 2022

AGENDA ITEM: F

TO: BSCC Chair and Members

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

SUBJECT: Adult Reentry Grant Cohort III Request for Proposals Approval:
Requesting Approval

Summary

This agenda item requests Board approval to release the Request for Proposals for the Cohort III Adult Reentry Grant Warm Handoff grant program that makes available \$67 million for programs to support individuals as they are released from state prison.

Background

Adult Reentry Grant

The Adult Reentry Grant (ARG) Program was established in the 2018 Budget Act (Senate Bill 840, Chapter 29, Statutes of 2018) and received additional funding through the Budget Act of 2019 (Assembly Bill 74, Chapter 23, Statutes of 2019) and the Budget Act of 2020 (Assembly Bill 89, Chapter 7, Statutes of 2020). A total of 115 projects have been awarded \$105,727,500 in funding since ARG was implemented.

The Budget Act of 2021 (Assembly Bill 128, Chapter 21, Statutes of 2021) (Attachment F-1) appropriated \$67 million to award competitive grants for community-based organizations (CBOs) to support individuals formerly incarcerated in state prison, as follows:

- \$31,825,000 shall be available for rental assistance. Priority shall be given to individuals released to state parole.
- \$31,825,000 shall be available to support the warm handoff and reentry of offenders transitioning from state prison to communities. Priority shall be given to individuals released to state parole.
- Up to 5 percent (\$3,350,000) shall be available to the Board of State and Community Corrections for costs to administer the grant programs.

Funds appropriated in this item are available for encumbrance or expenditure through June 30, 2024.

On July 15, 2021, the Board appointed Chief Kelly Vernon, Kings County Probation Department, as Chair of the Adult Reentry Grant Program Executive Steering Committee (ESC) and delegated authority to the Chair to work with BSCC staff to establish an ESC with relevant subject-matter expertise. Staff posted information on the BSCC website inviting statements of interest to participate on the committee, and then formed an ESC membership that included a diverse range of subject-matter experts.

The Adult Reentry Grant Program ESC (Attachment F-2) met on November 8-9, 2021 to develop the RFP that is now provided for the Board's consideration. This RFP will address

funding available for the 1) Rental Assistance and 2) Warm Handoff and Reentry Services components of the grant.

Key Grant Components

The Adult Reentry Grant Program is subject to the provisions of Welfare and Institutions Code sections 8255-8257.2, which require applicants proposing projects that include housing or housing-related services to adhere to the principles of Housing First.

Under the Housing First approach, anyone experiencing homelessness is connected to a permanent home as quickly as possible without regard to sobriety or criminal history. Housing First removes barriers to housing by allowing individuals to decide whether to participate in services.

Except for grantees that provide recovery housing,¹ grantees that provide housing or housing-related services funded by the Adult Reentry Grant Program will be expected to implement a Housing First model to the extent that it applies to the specific services they offer.

The ESC has developed an RFP that is divided into two sub-applications, and applicants may submit a separate sub-proposal for one or both of the following:

| Sub-Application | Eligible Applicants May Request | Total ARG Program Funds Allocated to this Category |
|------------------------|---|---|
| Rental Assistance | Up to \$2.7 million for entire 42-month grant period. | \$31.8 million |
| Warm Hand-off Reentry | Up to \$750,000 entire 42-month grant period. | \$31.8 million |

The statutory language authorizing the Adult Reentry Grant Program does not specify the types of Rental Assistance and Warm Handoff and Reentry Services to be funded. Applicants should select programs that best fit the needs of the community they propose to serve. Notwithstanding, the ESC has defined Rental Assistance activities to be those intended to help eligible people establish or maintain affordable, permanent housing. The ESC has defined Warm Handoff and Reentry Service activities as those that place a priority on services that lead to permanent housing and critical, timely interventions that meet the immediate needs of individuals upon their release from prison or placement on parole.

Below are some examples of eligible activities and services that could be provided by a sub-applicant.

¹ "Recovery housing" means sober living facilities and programs that provide housing in an abstinence-focused and peer-supported community for people recovering from substance use issues. Participation is voluntary, unless that participation is pursuant to a court order or is a condition of release for individuals under the jurisdiction of a county probation department or the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 8256, subd. (c)(3).)

| Examples of Eligible Rental Assistance Services | Examples of Eligible Warm Handoff and Reentry Services |
|---|--|
| <p>Including but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short-term emergency housing assistance • Landlord incentives • Permanent supportive housing • Rent subsidies • Transitional housing • Stipends to families willing to house target population • Vouchers • Move in costs • Credit repair | <p>Including but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reach-in services • Case management services • Transportation • Food • Emergency services • Employment/vocational • Social services • Behavioral health care • Mentors • Transitional services • System navigation |

The ESC has established that eligible CBO applicants are those organizations located in the State of California and have 501(c)(3) status (i.e., non-profit).

RFP Activities and Tentative Timeline

Below is a tentative timeline of activities necessary to administer a competitive RFP for the Adult Reentry Grant Program:

| Activity | Date |
|--|-------------------|
| RFP Presented for Board Approval | February 10, 2022 |
| Release Request for Proposals | February 11, 2022 |
| Bidder’s Conference | March 3, 2022 |
| Proposals Due to the BSCC | April 8, 2022 |
| Proposal Rating Process and Development of Funding Recommendations | April-August 2022 |
| Present Funding Recommendations to Board | September 8, 2022 |
| Grants Begin | October 1, 2022 |

Recommendation/Action Needed

Staff recommends that the Board:

1. Approve the release of the Adult Reentry Grant Program Cohort III RFP.

Attachments

- F-1: Budget Act 2021 – Assembly Bill 128
- F-2: Executive Steering Committee Roster
- F-3: Adult Reentry Grant RFP Cohort III