

BJA FY 2026 Smart Reentry Demonstration Program

Grants.gov Funding Opportunity Number: O-BJA-2026-172673

Application Deadlines in Eastern Time (ET):

1. Complete SF-424 and submit in Grants.gov: **September 24, 2026, by 11:59 PM ET**
 2. Submit full application in JustGrants: **October 1, 2026, by 8:59 PM ET**
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1. BASIC INFORMATION

Purpose of the Funding

The Office of Justice Programs (OJP) is committed to advancing work that furthers the U.S. Department of Justice's (DOJ) mission to keep our country safe and secure and uphold the rule of law and protect the rights of American citizens. OJP provides federal leadership, funding, and other critical resources to directly support law enforcement, combat violent crime, protect American children, provide services to American crime victims, and address public safety challenges, including human trafficking and the opioid crisis.

This is a notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) for the **BJA FY 2026 Smart Reentry Demonstration Program**. This opportunity supports state, local, and tribal governments to implement comprehensive and collaborative reentry strategies to increase the likelihood of successful reentry for people returning to communities from adult correctional facilities, and to establish or expand a program or service ("intervention") to reduce recidivism. Interventions may address a variety of needs related to reentry as outlined in section 101, subsection (b) of the Second Chance Act (34 USC §10631 – Adult and juvenile offender state and local reentry demonstration projects).

The Second Chance Act (SCA) of 2007 and the First Step Act of 2018 authorize federal grants to facilitate reentry services and programs for people leaving incarceration. In FY 2026, BJA is releasing six NOFOs to support adults reentering the community and enhance public safety in different ways. Applicants are welcome to seek funding through more than one NOFO. <https://bja.ojp.gov/program/sca-programs/overview>.

See the [Eligible Applicants](#) section for eligibility details.

Funding Details

Announcement Type	Initial
Assistance Listing Number	16.812
Statutory Authority	Pub. L. No. 90-351, Title I, Sec. 2976 (codified at 34 U.S.C. 10631); Department of Justice Appropriations Act, 2026 (Pub. L. No. 119-74, 140 Stat. 5, 32, para. 13)
Grants.gov Opportunity Number	O-BJA-2026-172673
Expected Total Amount of Funding	Up to \$6,805,353
Anticipated Number of Awards	Up to 7
Award Type(s)	Grant
Anticipated Award Amount	Up to \$1,100,000

Expected Award Period(s)	36 months starting on October 1, 2026
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Key Dates and Times

NOFO Release Date	August 13, 2026
SAM.gov Registration/Renewal	Begin the process by August 25, 2026, and no later than September 10, 2026
Step 1: Grants.gov Deadline	11:59 p.m. ET on September 24, 2026
Step 2: JustGrants Deadline	8:59 p.m. ET on October 1, 2026
Anticipated Notification Date	By September 30, 2026

See [Questions?](#) at the end of this NOFO for agency contact information.

2. ELIGIBILITY

Eligible Applicants

The types of entities that are eligible to apply are:

Government Entities

- State governments
- County governments
- City or township governments
- Special district governments
- Native American tribal governments (federally recognized)
- Native American tribal governments (other than federally recognized)

Other

- Other units of local government

“Other” Entities Definition:

- **Other units of local government:** For the purposes of this notice of funding opportunity, other units of local government include towns, boroughs, parishes, villages, or other general purpose political subdivisions of a state.

Cost Sharing (Match) Requirement: This NOFO requires cost sharing (match). See [Program Description: Cost Sharing \(Match\) Requirement](#) for details on the cost sharing (match) calculation and what types of contributions are acceptable. If your application does not include the required cost sharing, it will be deemed ineligible for funding.

Limit on Number of Applications: You may submit more than one application if each application proposes a different project.

Multiple SCA Applications: You may apply to more than one [BJA FY2026 Second Chance Act program](#) and may reuse portions of your narrative across multiple applications. All other required materials must be submitted separately in response to each NOFO.

Additional Eligibility Factors

Certifications: You must submit the following certifications. See [Additional Application Components](#) for how to submit.

- Mandatory Chief Executive Assurance to *Collect and Report Recidivism Indicator Data*—*Applicants must certify that it will collect unique identifiers and recidivism indicator performance data for each program participant to meet program reporting requirements.*

3. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Statutory Authority

Pub. L. No. 90-351, Title I, Sec. 2976 (codified at 34 U.S.C. 10631); Department of Justice Appropriations Act, 2026 (Pub. L. No. 119-74, 140 Stat. 5, 32, para. 13)

Agency Funding Priorities

To help meet its mission, OJP may give priority consideration to applications proposing (as applicable within the scope of this NOFO) projects designed to advance the goals listed below:

- (a) Directly supporting law enforcement operations (including immigration law enforcement operations);
- (b) Combatting violent crime;
- (c) Supporting services to American citizens;
- (d) Protecting American children; and
- (e) Supporting American victims of trafficking and sexual assault.

Priority consideration will also be given under this NOFO for state/local law enforcement efforts that are coordinated with federal law enforcement efforts through: (i) established and full participation in, or (ii) commitment to enter into and fully participate in a 287(g) partnership and/or a Homeland Security Task Force (HSTF). To request priority consideration, applicants must provide a letter of support from DOJ through the U.S. Attorney's Office's Lead HSTF Attorney (for the applicable HSTF), certifying the applicant is currently or intends to participate in HSTF activities or major DOJ operations; with respect to a 287(g) partnership, the applicant must provide documentary evidence that it is already an established 287(g) partner, or else, evidence of a bona fide commitment to engage in such a partnership.

In addition to the Agency priorities, listed above, additional priority considerations are:

1. A commitment to partner with a local evaluator to identify and analyze data that will (a) enable the grantee to target the intended offender population, (b) serve as a baseline for purposes of the evaluation, and (c) provide for an independent evaluation that includes, to the maximum extent possible, random assignment and controlled studies to determine the effectiveness of programs;
2. Focus on geographic areas with a disproportionate population of offenders released from prisons or jails;
3. Include a commitment to review the process by which the applicant adjudicates violations of parole, probation, or supervision following release from prison or jail, taking into account public safety and the use of graduated, community-based sanctions for minor and technical violations of parole, probation, or supervision;
4. Target people assessed as moderate and high-risk for recidivism through validated assessment tools for intervention; or
5. Target people with histories of homelessness, substance abuse, or mental illness for intervention.

Note: Addressing these priorities is one of many factors that OJP considers in making funding decisions. Receiving priority consideration does not guarantee funding.

Unallowable Activities: The following are certain unallowable costs and certain activities that are out of the program scope and will not be funded.

1. Out of program scope is any program or activity, at any tier that, directly or indirectly, violates (or promotes or facilitates the violation of) federal immigration law (including 8 U.S.C. § 1373) or impedes or hinders the enforcement of federal immigration law—including by failing to comply with 8 U.S.C. § 1373, give access to DHS agents, or honor DHS requests and provide requested notice to DHS agents.
2. Out of program scope is any program or activity, at any tier that violates any applicable Federal civil rights or nondiscrimination law. This includes violations that (1) indirectly violate the law, including by promoting or facilitating violations; or (2) unlawfully favor individuals in any race or protected group, including on a majority or minority, or privileged or unprivileged, basis, within a given area, population, or sector.
3. As specified in the [DOJ Grants Financial Guide](#), in Chapter 3.13 “Unallowable Costs” (“Legal Services for Aliens”), any obligations of funds, at any tier, under this award to provide (or to support the provision of) legal services to any removable alien or any alien otherwise unlawfully present in the United States shall be unallowable costs for purposes any award made under this notice, but the foregoing shall not be understood to apply: (1) to legal services to obtain protection orders for victims of crime; or (2) to immigration-related legal services

that may be expressly authorized or required by any law, or any judicial ruling, governing or applicable to the award.

Goals and Objectives of This Funding Opportunity

Goal: Implement a plan for comprehensive approaches to reentry that reduces recidivism and enhances public safety.

- **Objective 1:** Identify a target population of people returning to communities from adult correctional facilities that drives recidivism rates.
- **Objective 2:** Implement a reentry program that addresses identified factors that inhibit successful reentry in collaboration with state or local government agencies, nonprofit organizations, or other stakeholders.
- **Objective 3:** Assess the impact of the reentry program by tracking outcomes for those in the target population and identify patterns in the factors driving success or failure.

For a description of how awards under this NOFO will contribute to achieving these goals and objectives, see the [Performance Reports](#) section below.

Expected Outcomes

OJP expects recipients to submit deliverables and performance reports, as described below. Read the [Application Resource Guide](#) for more information. OJP will measure success by reviewing a recipient's submission of performance reports and data and the extent to which project implementation reflects progress toward the goals and objectives of this NOFO.

Deliverables

Recipients will be expected to submit the following:

- A comprehensive strategic plan for adult reentry, due within three months of budget approval by BJA, that reflects:
 - o input from a wide range of stakeholders;
 - o needs of the reentry population;
 - o programs, services, and resources available and needed to meet them;
 - o recidivism rates and reduction targets for the overall population as well as specifically for a subpopulation (e.g., young adults, people with histories of housing instability, people returning to a particular zip code) that drives the overall recidivism rate;
 - o documentation of a Reentry Task Force or other relevant convening authority comprised of relevant state, tribal, territorial, or local leaders as well as representatives of relevant agencies, service providers, nonprofit organizations, and stakeholders that examine ways to pool resources to promote lower recidivism rates and minimize the harmful effects of incarceration on families and communities.

- A plan to establish or expand an intervention to address reentry needs of a subpopulation that drives recidivism rates that includes:
 - o a description of the role of the applicant, other governmental agencies and organizations will play, how they will be coordinated;
 - o the evidence-based methodology and outcome measures that will be used to evaluate the intervention;
 - o input of and planned coordination with communities and stakeholders, including persons in the fields of public safety, corrections, housing, health, education, substance abuse, children and families, victims' services, employment, business, and nonprofit organizations that can provide reentry services; and
 - o a long-term strategy to fund the program after federal funding is discontinued.
- A final report memorializing efforts to evaluate the overall strategy and/or intervention that assesses inmate reentry needs and measurable annual and 3-year performance outcomes and that uses, to the maximum extent possible, randomly assigned and controlled studies, or rigorous quasi-experimental studies with matched comparison groups, to determine effectiveness.
- Final Performance Report (see below) to include recidivism outcomes as noted in Appendix A.

Performance Reports

OJP requires recipients to submit regular performance reports that communicate progress toward achieving [Program Goals and Objectives](#). Read information on [performance reporting](#).

Award recipients will receive further guidance on post award reporting requirements.

Cost Sharing (Match) Requirements

This funding opportunity requires cost sharing (match) from the award recipient. Read the [DOJ Grants Financial Guide](#) for additional definitions and requirements of cost sharing (match), including the allowable sources of both in-kind and cash cost sharing.

Recipients must satisfy this cost sharing (match) requirement with cash and/or in-kind contributions.

Explanation of the Calculation

This funding opportunity requires a 50% match based on the total project costs. Federal funds awarded may not cover more than 50%, and you must cover at least 50% of the total project costs.

Match Waiver

Pursuant to an appropriations provision (Pub. L. No. 119-74, 140 Stat. 5, 38), the match may be waived for fiscal hardship upon request by a grantee. To be considered for a

match waiver, a letter of request signed by the Authorized Representative must be submitted with the application describing the fiscal hardship. Fiscal hardship may be defined in terms related to reductions in overall correctional budgets, furloughing or reductions in force of correctional staff, or other similar documented actions which have resulted in severe budget reductions. A match waiver request must be submitted as a separate attachment to the application, submitted through JustGrants, and titled as the “Match Waiver.”

Read the [Application Resource Guide](#) for steps on calculating the amount of match based on your budget.

4. APPLICATION CONTENTS AND FORMAT

Application Contents List

OJP will only consider applications that contain all required parts, which are marked ***Required*** below. Refer to the [DOJ Grant Application Submission Checklist](#) for application instructions.

Application Item	Submission Type
Step 1: Grants.gov	
Application for Federal Assistance: SF-424 *Required*	Online Form
Step 2: JustGrants	
Standard Applicant Information *Required*	Online Form
Proposal Abstract	Text Box
Data Requested With Application - Financial Management and System of Internal Controls Questionnaire (including Applicant Disclosure of High-Risk Status) - Agency Funding Priorities Inventory	Online Form
Proposal Narrative *Required*	Attachment
Budget *Required*	Online Form
Other Budget/Financial Attachments - Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (if applicable) - Consultant Rate (if applicable)	Attachment

• Limitation on Use of Award Funds for Employee Compensation for Awards Over \$250,000; Waiver (if applicable) • Disclosure of Process Related to Executive Compensation (if applicable)	
Memorandum of Understanding	Attachment
Additional Application Components • Tribal Authorizing Resolution (if applicable) • Research and Evaluation Independence and Integrity Statement (if applicable) • Curriculum Vitae or Resumes for Evaluation Team (if selected) • Timeline *Required* • Mandatory Chief Executive Assurance to Collect and Report Recidivism Indicator Data (Appendix A) *Required*	Attachment

In addition to the items marked ***Required*** in the table above, the following are considered basic minimum requirement elements that are considered in the responsiveness review:

- The application is submitted by an eligible applicant.
- The requested award amount does not exceed the award ceiling.
- The application is responsive to the scope of the NOFO.

Standard Applicant Information ***Required***

Review and edit as needed the information imported from the SF-424 submitted in Grants.gov. Add ZIP codes for areas affected by the project.

Proposal Abstract

In JustGrants, enter a proposal abstract (limited to 2,000 characters) summarizing the proposed project. As abstracts for funded projects are public, do not include any personally identifying information (e.g., staff names). The abstract should include the following information:

- The name of the applicant's proposed project.
- The purpose of the proposed project (i.e., what the project will do and why it is necessary).
- Where the project will take place (i.e., the service area, if applicable).
- Who will be served by the project (i.e., who will be helped or have their needs addressed by the project).
- What activities will be carried out to complete the project.

- The subrecipient(s)/partner organizations or entities, if known.
- Deliverables and expected outcomes (i.e., what the project will achieve).
- Name(s) of other SCA NOFOs to which the applicant applied.

View an example of a [proposal abstract](#).

Data Requested With Application

Financial Management and System of Internal Controls Questionnaire (including Applicant Disclosure of High-Risk Status)

Review information on this [questionnaire](#).

Agency Funding Priorities Inventory

Applicants seeking priority consideration under the [Agency Funding Priorities](#) section should answer the inventory questions in their entirety in the web-based form in JustGrants.

Proposal Narrative ***Required***

Format of the Proposal Narrative

Submit the narrative as an attachment in JustGrants. The document should:

- Be double-spaced, using a standard 12-point size font.
- Have no less than 1-inch margins.
- Have numbered pages.
- Not exceed 10 pages.

Tables, charts, and graphs included in the proposal narrative will count towards the page limit and may use a legible font smaller than 12-point. If the Proposal Narrative does not follow this format, OJP may reduce the score/ranking of the application.

Sections of the Proposal Narrative

The Proposal Narrative must include the four sections listed below. If you want priority consideration, the Proposal Narrative must state which [priority\(ies\)](#) your project will advance and describe how it will do so.

Note: Applicants may apply to more than one BJA FY 2026 Second Chance Act program and may reuse portions of their narrative across multiple applications. All other required materials must be submitted separately in response to each NOFO.

1. Description of the Need (5%): What critical issue or problem do you propose to address with this project? Please include:

- A brief explanation of the need, gap, or issue to be addressed by the proposed project.
- Supporting information, data, or evidence to demonstrate the need's existence, size, and impact on the target population and community.
- How the need relates to the purpose of the NOFO.

2. Project Goals and Objectives (15%): How will the proposed project address the need identified and address the purpose of the NOFO? Please include:

- Project goals (goals are broad, visionary statements on what you hope to accomplish).
- Project objectives (objectives are specific outcomes you plan to achieve through project activities).
- How your project goals and objectives relate to the goals and objectives of the funding opportunity.

3. Project Design and Implementation (35%): How will you implement project activities that meet the project goals and objectives? Please include:

- List the activities you will conduct to achieve the proposed goals and objectives. Include supporting information, such as data, names of validated assessment tools, use of research-informed strategies as applicable.
- When the activities will take place.
- How you will deliver or complete those activities.
- A description of the target population, including eligibility requirements for program participation, and the number proposed to be engaged, including explanation of how this number was determined and can be served in the allotted grant timeframe.
- Identify and explain the baseline recidivism rate for the target population.
- Who in your organization will staff the activities, including key staff.
- A description of methods and measures that will be used to assess the effectiveness of the program, as well as who will be responsible for implementing evaluation activities.
- What deliverables, reports, and other items will be produced as part of the project.
- If you plan to use subrecipients to help conduct the project, please name them (if they are known) or describe how the applicant will identify them. Please describe their role in conducting project activities.

4. Capabilities and Competencies (30%): What administrative and technical capacity and expertise do you bring to successfully complete this project? Please include:

- A short description of your capacity to deliver the proposed project and meet the post-award requirements, including developing required deliverables and collecting and reporting the required performance measure data.
- A description of projects or activities your organization and key partners have conducted, or are currently conducting, that demonstrates your ability to undertake the proposed project activities.
- Provide a summary of relevant experience of team members and key partners with responsibilities for implementing and evaluating the project. If the evaluation

team has been selected, upload curriculum vitae or resumes for key members of the evaluation team.

- Upload “Mandatory Chief Executive Assurance to Collect and Report Recidivism Indicator Data” ([Appendix A](#)).

Project Evaluations: An applicant that proposes to use award funds to conduct project evaluations must follow the guidance on [project evaluations](#).

Budget and Associated Documentation

Budget (15%) ***Required***

- Use the Budget Detail Worksheet (Web-Based Form) to submit the budget. Read information on [budget preparation](#) and [JustGrants Application Submission Training](#).
- List each cost needed to implement the project under the appropriate cost category.
- Clearly name and describe each cost.
- Show the computation of each cost (e.g., cost per unit, number of units, and total cost).
- Enter narrative, as needed, to explain the cost calculations and connection to your project goals, objectives, and activities.
- Include only costs that are reasonable, allocable, and necessary to implement the project. They must be allowable under the funding statute and agency requirements.¹
- In addition to unallowable costs identified in the DOJ Grants Financial Guide, award funds may not be used for the following:
 - o Prizes, rewards, entertainment, trinkets, or any other monetary incentives
 - o Client stipends
 - o Gift cards
 - o Vehicle purchases
 - o Food and beverages

Budget/Financial Attachments

- **Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (if applicable):** If the budget includes indirect costs calculated using a current, federally approved indirect cost rate, upload your indirect cost rate agreement. Read information about [indirect costs](#).
- **Consultant Rate (if applicable):** Read information on [limits to consultant rates](#) and whether you need to request approval to exceed those limits.
- **Limitation on Use of Award Funds for Employee Compensation for Awards Over \$250,000; Waiver (if applicable):** Read information on this [limitation](#) to determine whether you need to submit a waiver.

¹ See [2 C.F.R. Part 200, Subpart E](#) and the [DOJ Grants Financial Guide](#). Read information on [unallowable costs](#) that apply to all funding opportunities.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and Supporting Documents

Attach a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) or letter of intent between the applicant and each of the project partner(s). Read information on what to include in an [MOU/letter of intent](#).

MOUs should be submitted as one separate attachment to the application. Unsigned draft MOUs may be submitted with the application, but you should describe in a cover page to the attachment why they are unsigned.

Additional Application Components

Attach these in JustGrants:

- **Tribal Authorizing Resolution (if applicable):** Read information on whether you may need to submit a [Tribal Authorizing Resolution](#).
- **Research and Evaluation Independence and Integrity Statement (if applicable):** Read information whether you may need to submit this [statement](#).
- **Curriculum Vitae or Resumes:** If the evaluation team has been selected, provide resumes for the key members of the team.
- **Mandatory Chief Executive Assurance to Collect and Report Recidivism Indicator Data (Appendix A) *Required***
- **Timeline:** Provide a timeline listing key activities and milestones, and the quarters during which they will take place. ***Required***

Disclosures and Assurances

Read the [disclosures and assurances](#) and complete them in JustGrants:

- Disclosure of Lobbying Activities
- Disclosure of Duplication in Cost Items (if applicable)
- DOJ Certified Standard Assurances
- DOJ Certifications
- Applicant Disclosure and Justification—DOJ High-Risk Grantees (if applicable)

5. SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS AND DEADLINES

The [DOJ Grant Application Submission Checklist](#) provides instructions for how to submit your application by the [deadlines](#). [Executive Order \(E.O.\) 12372](#) (Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs) does not apply to this funding opportunity: read the [Application Resource Guide](#) for details. Read OJP's policy for applicants to [request late submission](#) due to technical difficulties, severe weather, or natural or manmade disasters.

6. APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

The [Application Resource Guide](#) explains the responsiveness review, review criteria, and review and selection process, including risk review, and deciding official. Refer to the [Application Contents List](#) for all required application components and other basic minimum requirement elements that are considered in the responsiveness review. The [Proposal Narrative](#) and [Budget](#) sections of this NOFO indicates the weight of peer review criteria.

7. AWARD NOTICES

Read about the [award notification](#) process.

8. POST-AWARD REQUIREMENTS & ADMINISTRATION

Read the [Application Resource Guide](#) for more information about standard award terms and conditions, administrative and national policy requirements, and post-award reporting requirements.

9. QUESTIONS?

NOFO Contact	Name: OJP Response Center Phone: 800-851-3420 or 202-353-5556 (TTY for hearing-impaired callers only) Email: OJP.ResponseCenter@usdoj.gov Hours: 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. ET, Monday–Friday
SAM.gov Help Desk	Website: sam.gov/help Hours: 8 a.m.–8 p.m. ET, Monday–Friday (closed federal holidays)
Grants.gov Help Desk	Phone: 800-518-4726 Email: support@grants.gov Website: grants.gov/support Hours: 24 hours a day, 7 days a week (closed federal holidays)
JustGrants Help Desk	Phone: 833-872-5175 Email: JustGrants.Support@usdoj.gov Hours: 7:00 a.m.–9:00 p.m. ET, Monday–Friday and 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. ET on Saturday, Sunday, and federal holidays.

APPENDIX A: MANDATORY CHIEF EXECUTIVE ASSURANCE TO COLLECT AND REPORT RECIDIVISM INDICATOR DATA

I hereby assure that, if awarded grant funds under the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) FY 2026 Second Chance Act Smart Reentry Demonstration Program, my organization will collect unique identifiers and recidivism indicator performance data for each program participant and will aggregate all such data and submit them via JustGrants as required upon grant closeout. I understand that the inability or refusal to submit such data after an award is made may impact my organization's ability to receive future BJA competitive grant funding.

Signature

Title

Date