

OJJDP FY 2026 Second Chance Act Youth Reentry Program

Grants.gov Funding Opportunity Number: O-OJJDP-2026-172751

Application Deadlines in Eastern Time (ET):

1. Complete SF-424 and submit in Grants.gov: **November 2, 2026, by 11:59 p.m. ET**
 2. Submit full application in JustGrants: **November 9, 2026, by 8:59 p.m. ET**
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OJJDP

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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 **OJJDP FY 2026 Second Chance Act Youth Reentry Program**. This opportunity will support states, units of local government, federally recognized Native American Tribal governments, and community-based organizations to provide (1) comprehensive reentry services for moderate- to high-risk youth before, during, and after release from confinement, and (2) support transitional services to assist youth to successfully reenter the community. This program supports collaborations between state agencies, local government, Tribes, and community- and faith-based organizations to address the challenges that reentry and recidivism reduction pose for moderate to high-risk juvenile offenders returning to their communities from juvenile residential or correctional facilities.

This NOFO provides two categories of funding:

- **Category 1: Improving Youth Reentry** will support states, local governments, and Tribal governments in partnership with interested persons (including federal corrections and supervision agencies), service providers, and nonprofit organizations to provide comprehensive reentry services for moderate to high-risk youth before, during, and after release from confinement.
- **Category 2: Strengthening Community-Based Youth Reentry Programs** will support nonprofit organizations to provide transitional services to assist in the successful reintegration of youth into the community.

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

Funding Details

Announcement Type	Initial
Assistance Listing Number	16.812
Statutory Authority	Category 1 of this program is authorized pursuant to Section 101 of the Second Chance Act (SCA) of 2007, Public Law No. 110–199, 122 Stat. 657, 661 (as amended by Public Law No. 115– 391) codified at 34 U.S.C. § 10631. Category 2 of this program is authorized pursuant to Section 211 of the SCA, Public Law No. 110-199, 122 Stat. 657, 679 (as amended by Public Law No. 115-391) codified at 34 U.S.C. § 60531.
Grants.gov Opportunity Number	O-OJJDP-2026-172751
Competition ID Number	Category 1: C-OJJDP-2026-00016-PROD Category 2: C-OJJDP-2026-00017-PROD
Expected Total Amount of Funding	\$12,440,720
Anticipated Number of Awards	Category 1: 5 Category 2: 11
Award Type(s)	Grant
Anticipated Award Amount	Up to \$750,000
Expected Award Period(s)	36 months starting on January 1, 2027

Key Dates and Times

NOFO Release Date	September 25, 2026
SAM.gov Registration/Renewal	Begin the process by October 2, 2026, and no later than October 16, 2026
Step 1: Grants.gov Deadline	11:59 p.m. ET on November 2, 2026
Step 2: JustGrants Deadline	8:59 p.m. ET on November 9, 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:

Category 1: Improving Youth Reentry Government Entities

- State governments
- County governments
- City or township governments
- Native American Tribal governments (federally recognized)

Other

- Units of local government

Category 2: Strengthening Community-Based Youth Reentry Programs Nonprofit Organizations

- Nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), other than institutions of higher education
- Nonprofits that do not have a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education

“Other” Entities Definition:

- **Other Units of Local Government:** For the purposes of this NOFO, other units of local government include towns, boroughs, parishes, villages, or other general purpose political subdivisions of a state.

Cost Sharing (Match) Requirement:

- **Category 1: Improving Youth Reentry.** This NOFO category 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.
- **Category 2: Strengthening Community-Based Youth Reentry Programs.** This category does **not** require cost sharing (match).

Limit on Number of Applications: You may submit more than one application if each application proposes a different project. Each application should apply to only one category of the NOFO.

If a project will be carried out by two or more entities (project partners), only one entity may submit the application. The other entities (project partners) must be proposed as subrecipients rather than co-applicants. An entity may be proposed as a subrecipient in more than one application. For additional information regarding subawards, see the [Application Resource Guide](#).

Additional Eligibility Factors

Required Partnership:

- **Category 1: Improving Youth Reentry.** Applicants should include evidence of partnership including federal corrections and supervision agencies, service providers, and nonprofit organizations. This may be documented through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).
- **Category 2: Strengthening Community-Based Youth Reentry Programs.** Applicants must include—as an attachment—a draft or fully executed MOU that clearly demonstrates an established relationship between the applicant and the correctional agencies that (1) oversee the specific facility or facilities from which the applicant proposes to recruit the target reentering population, and (2) oversee community corrections—probation and/or parole—for the target population. This requirement is intended to ensure that Category 2 applicants have pre-release access to confined youth for purposes of conducting pre-release case planning within 90 days, at minimum, prior to program youth's release, as is required for Category 2 projects and for providing prerelease services, where possible. Award recipients will be required to submit fully executed MOUs to OJJDP for approval in order to access funds in excess of \$50,000. The MOUs must remain in effect during the award period of performance, unless OJJDP gives prior approval.

3. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Statutory Authority

Category 1 authorized pursuant to the Second Chance Act of 2007 (SCA), Section 101, Pub. Law No. 110–199, 122 Stat. 657, 661 (as amended by Pub. Law No. 115–391) codified at 34 U.S.C. § 10631.

Category 2 authorized pursuant the SCA, Section 211, Pub. Law No. 110-199, 122 Stat. 657, 679, (as amended by Pub. Law No. 115-391) codified at 34 U.S.C. § 60531.

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.

In addition, priority consideration will 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 priority considerations listed above, additional priority considerations are:

1. Second Chance Act, Section 101, Program-Specific Priority
 - a. Category 1. Priority consideration will be given to Category 1 applications as follows under Section 101 of the Second Chance Act (SCA) (codified at 34 U.S.C. § 10631) that best:
 - i. Demonstrate a commitment to partner with a local evaluator to identify and analyze data that will enable the grantee to target the intended youth population and serve as a baseline for purposes of the evaluation.
 - ii. Demonstrate a focus initiative on geographic areas with a disproportionate population of youth released from prisons, jails, and juvenile facilities.
 - iii. Include input from nonprofit organizations in any case where relevant input is available and appropriate to the grant application; input and coordination with facility administrators for service delivery prerelease; consultation with youth who are released from prisons, jails, and juvenile facilities; consultation with crime victims; and input and coordination with the youth's families, the juvenile justice coordinating council of the region, the reentry coordinating council of the region, or from other interested persons.
 - iv. Demonstrate effective case assessment and management abilities to provide comprehensive and continuous reentry, including planning for prerelease transitional housing and community release that begins upon admission for juveniles and jail inmates and, as appropriate, for prison inmates, depending on the length of the sentence.

- v. Establish prerelease planning procedures to ensure that a youth's eligibility for federal, Tribal, or state benefits upon release is established prior to release, subject to any limitations in law, and to ensure that youth obtain all necessary referrals for reentry services, including assistance identifying and securing suitable housing.
- vi. Deliver continuous and appropriate mental health services, drug treatment, medical care, job training and placement, educational services, vocational services, and any other service or support needed for reentry.
- vii. Review the process by which the applicant adjudicates violations of parole, probation, or supervision following release from prison, jail, or a juvenile facility, considering public safety and the use of graduated, community-based sanctions for minor and technical violations of parole, probation, or supervision (specifically those violations that are not otherwise, and independently, a violation of law).
- viii. Provide for an independent evaluation of reentry programs that include, to the maximum extent possible, random assignment and controlled studies to determine the effectiveness of such programs.
- ix. Target youth assessed as moderate and high risk for reentry programs through validated assessment tools; or target youth with histories of homelessness, substance abuse, or mental illness, including prerelease assessment of the youth's housing status and behavioral health needs with clear coordination with mental health, substance abuse, and homelessness service systems to achieve stable and permanent housing outcomes with appropriate support services. To receive priority consideration under this area, applicants must specify in the program design how the applicant will address the priorities above.

2. SCA, Section 211, Program-Specific Priority

- a. Category 2. Priority consideration will be given to Category 2 applications as follows under Section 211 of the SCA (codified at 34 U.S.C. § 60531) that best:
 - i. Include a plan to implement activities that have been demonstrated effective in facilitating successful youth reentry.
 - ii. Provide for an independent evaluation that includes, to the maximum extent feasible, random assignment of youth to program delivery and control groups.

To receive priority consideration under the areas above, applicants must specify in the program design how the applicant will address the priorities above.

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 for Categories 1 and 2: Improve youth outcomes and public safety by reducing recidivism among youth following release into the community from a juvenile residential facility. For the purposes of this program, recidivism is defined as a return to a residential placement facility, jail, or prison with a new juvenile adjudication and/or criminal conviction or as the result of a violation of the terms of supervision within 24 months of initial release.

Category 1: Improving Youth Reentry

- **Objective 1:** Identify the supports youth will need in the community by consulting with the youth, family, and case management team.

- **Objective 2:** Develop and implement comprehensive pre- and post-release reentry plans, to include case management as well as identification and coordination of appropriate community-based programs as they return to their communities following confinement.
- **Objective 3:** Include case management and coordination of appropriate community-based programs.

Category 2: Strengthening Community-Based Youth Reentry Programs

- **Objective 1:** Implement or expand community-based reentry programs and services in partnership with corrections, parole, probation, and other reentry service providers.
- **Objective 2:** Demonstrate partnerships that develop and implement comprehensive pre- and post-release case management plans that directly address youth's identified needs, as determined by validated risk and needs assessment tools.

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 do not need to submit any deliverables other than the standard items in the [Post-Award Requirements and Administration](#) section.

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

Category 1: Improving Youth Reentry. 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

Category 1: Improving Youth Reentry. This funding opportunity requires a match based on the total federal award amount. Federal funds awarded under this funding opportunity require a 50 percent match from nonfederal sources. For each federal dollar awarded, the recipient must provide 50 cents toward the project costs.

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 - Proposal Questionnaire *Required*	Online Form
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 *Category 2: Required*	Attachment
Additional Application Components • Curriculum Vitae or Resumes • Tribal Authorizing Resolution (if applicable) • Research and Evaluation Independence and Integrity Statement (if applicable) • Timeline	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).

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 Questionnaire ***Required***

Complete the Proposal Questionnaire in JustGrants. The response to each question should be no more than 1 – 2 paragraphs. The questions are:

- **Description of the Need (5% of application score):**
 - What is the need, gap, or issue to be addressed by the proposed project?
 - What supporting information, data, or evidence demonstrates the need's existence, size, and impact on the target population and community?
 - How does the need relate to the purpose of the NOFO?
- **Project Goals and Objectives (15% of application score):**
 - What are the project goals (goals are broad, visionary statements on what you hope to accomplish)?
 - What are the project objectives (objectives are specific outcomes you plan to achieve through project activities)?
 - How do your project goals and objectives relate to the [goals and objectives of the funding opportunity](#)?
- **Project Design and Implementation (35% of application score):**
 - What activities will you conduct to achieve the proposed goals and objectives?
 - How will you deliver or complete those activities?
 - When will the activities take place?
 - Who in your organization will staff the activities, including key staff?
 - Who will participate in and benefit from the activity?
 - 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 you will identify them. What will be their role in conducting project activities?
- **Capabilities and Competencies (30% of application score):**

- What is your capacity to deliver the proposed project and meet the post-award requirements, if funded?
- What projects or activities has your organization conducted, or is currently conducting, that demonstrate your ability to undertake the proposed project activities?
- What is the relevant experience of team members with key responsibilities for implementing the project?
- **Note on 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% of application score) ***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

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](#) and to determine whether you need to submit a waiver.
- **Disclosure of Process Related to Executive Compensation (if applicable):** An applicant that is a nonprofit organization may be required to make certain disclosures relating to the processes it uses to determine the compensation of its

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.

officers, directors, trustees, and key employees. Read information about this [disclosure and documentation](#) to upload.

Applicants to this funding opportunity are not required to provide this disclosure.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and Supporting Documents

Category 2: Required

Category 2 applicants must include, as an attachment, a draft or fully executed MOU or letter of support that clearly demonstrates an established, collaborative relationship between the applicant and the correctional agencies that (1) oversee the specific facility or facilities from which the applicant proposes to recruit the target reentering population, and (2) oversee community corrections (probation and/or parole) for the target population.

For each named partner involved in the project (whether as a subrecipient that will receive federal funds to carry out part of the federal award, or otherwise), applicants should include a signed MOU or a letter of intent that confirms the partner's agreement to support the project through commitments of staff time, space, services, or other project needs. MOUs or letters of intent demonstrate the commitment of partner organizations to participate in the project. An MOU is a formalized commitment of staff and/or resources that is signed by authorized representatives of both partner organizations. A letter of intent indicates the organizations' intention to partner, but the details of the commitment have not been fully worked out and officially agreed to.

Each MOU should include the following:

- Names of the organizations involved in the agreement.
- What service(s) and other work will be performed under the agreement by what organization.
- Duration of the agreement.
- The roles and responsibilities for staff from both agencies involved in the program.
- Terms of access to the correctional facility or facilities for program staff. (If applicants are unable to conduct in-reach into correctional facilities, the application should explain the reason(s) why such access is not practicable.)
- Information on prerelease programming and interventions provided by the correctional agency to each participant.
- The timeline of the stated partnership and programming responsibilities.

MOUs should be submitted as one separate attachment to the application.

Unsigned draft MOUs may be submitted with the application, but the applicant should describe in a cover page to the attachment why it is unsigned. A fully executed MOU shall be submitted to access funds in excess of \$50,000.

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:** Provide resumes of key personnel who will work on the proposed project or a description of the experience and skills of key personnel necessary to implement the project.
- **Timeline:** Provide a timeline listing key activities and milestones, and the months, or quarters, during which they will take place.

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 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 Questionnaire](#) and [Budget](#) sections of this NOFO indicates the weight of technical 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.