

BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE FACT SHEET

SECOND CHANCE ACT PAY FOR SUCCESS INITIATIVE: OUTCOMES-BASED CONTRACTING TO LOWER RECIDIVISM AND HOMELESSNESS

The Second Chance Act (SCA) authorizes federal grants for vital programs and systems reform aimed at improving the reentry process. It was first signed into law in 2008. In 2018, the Second Chance Reauthorization Act built on and strengthened the landmark legislation. SCA provides funding to state, local, and tribal governments and nonprofit organizations to reduce recidivism and improve outcomes for youth and adults leaving detention and incarceration. The U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs (OJP) funds and administers SCA grants. Within OJP, the Bureau of Justice Assistance awards SCA grants serving adults.



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Purpose of Program

Pay for Success (PFS) leverages outcomes-based contracting (OBC) as a vehicle to support innovative reentry programs that connect individuals to safe, affordable housing and essential reentry services. PFS presents eligible jurisdictions with the unique opportunity to pilot evidence-based program ideas and service models that facilitate successful reentry and long-term stability for their most vulnerable community members returning home from incarceration. This grant program supports outcomes-based contracting for reentry services and permanent supportive housing (PSH). PFS has two categories:

- Category 1: Performance-based and outcomes-based contracting for reentry services.
- Category 2: Performance-based and outcomes-based contracting for PSH.

Eligibility

The following entities are eligible to apply:

- City or township governments.
- State and county governments.
- Federally recognized tribal governments.
- Special district governments.
- Public housing authorities and American Indian housing authorities.



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Featured Grantee Highlights

Hamilton County Sheriff's Office

FY 2019 grantee the **Hamilton County (TN) Sheriff's Office** used its PFS grant to expand a pilot program offering permanent supportive housing (PSH) and Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) to frequent utilizers of the homeless, hospital, and jail systems with severe mental illnesses. The program is leveraging the best practice [Frequent User Systems Engagement \(FUSE\)](#) approach, which has been found to reduce recidivism and increase housing stability. Additionally, the program is leveraging community partnerships to assist with project oversight and outcomes validation.

Executive Office of the Massachusetts Trial Court

FY 2021 grantee the **Executive Office of the Massachusetts Trial Court**, the Massachusetts Probation Service, and the community-based organization Roca, Inc., are engaged in a strategic initiative to create lasting change in the lives of high-risk young people involved in violent crime in Massachusetts. The initiative employs a holistic four-year cognitive intervention to address trauma, instill essential life skills, and provide a secure environment for sustained behavioral change. Building on the success of a previous outcomes-based project, the current PFS initiative now extends these services to additional high-risk individuals aged 18-24 in Suffolk and Hampden Counties.

Approach and Objectives

Planning: Communities receive individualized technical assistance (TA) coaching and support to help them complete required planning deliverables and prepare for implementation of 1) an analysis that demonstrates reentry service or PSH need using data indicating the number and needs of people to be served, and 2) an analysis that demonstrates the performance targets or outcomes selected for payment.

Contracting: Communities also receive TA coaching and support around the development and management of effective outcomes-based contracts, including data collection and reporting, performance and outcome reviews, on- and off-site monitoring, outcomes validation, and incentive payment approvals. This support also allows completion of the final required planning deliverable of 3) an analysis that demonstrates the grantee's decision about the performance-based or outcomes-based contract structure, repayment strategy, and timing of payments.

Implementation Support: Communities receive ongoing support for additional program implementation issues as they arise during the grant cycle.

Funding Amount

A maximum of \$1,000,000 for each award.

Award Period

54 months

ABOUT BJA

BJA helps America's state, local, and tribal jurisdictions reduce and prevent crime, lower recidivism, and promote a fair and safe criminal justice system. BJA provides a wide range of resources—including grants, funding, and training and technical assistance—to law enforcement, courts and corrections agencies, treatment providers, reentry practitioners, justice information sharing professionals, and community-based partners to address chronic and emerging criminal justice challenges nationwide. To learn more about BJA, visit bja.ojp.gov or follow us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/DOJBJA) and X ([@DOJBJA](https://twitter.com/DOJBJA)). BJA is a component of the Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs.