Program Performance Report

Second Chance Act—Technology Careers Grant Program

July 2011–March 2012

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In 2007, the Second Chance Act was signed into law. It was created to help break the cycle of criminal recidivism, improve public safety, and help states, units of local government, and American Indian tribes better address the growing population of offenders who return to their communities. The Second Chance Act provides grants to state, local, and tribal governments to promote the safe and successful reintegration of individuals into the community after they are released from incarceration. Second Chance Act grantees are committed to help those in the reentry process by appropriately assessing risk and need and by offering individualized case plans and services.

The goal of the Second Chance Act is to implement reentry programs that do the following:

- Use validated assessment instruments to screen and identify offenders for participation in reentry programs;
- Implement a transition plan for offenders, incorporating both pre- and post-release services;
- Provide treatment services (including substance abuse and mental health) to offenders;
- Offer additional services (including pro-social, educational, vocational, employment, and housing) to offenders;
- Support offenders with case management to monitor reintegration; and
- Reduce recidivism.[1]

In fiscal year (FY) 2009, Congress appropriated $25 million for Second Chance Act grant programs. This initial round of funding was divided among four grant programs—Adult Mentoring, Adult Demonstration (hereafter Reentry), Juvenile Mentoring, and Juvenile Demonstration—and established the National Reentry Resource Center. In FY 2010, Congress appropriated $100 million in federal funding for the implementation and administration of additional sections authorized by the Second Chance Act. FY 2010 awards were divided among the four existing grant programs noted above, and the legislation authorized four other adult grant programs: Family-Based Prisoner Substance Abuse Treatment Grant Program, Targeting Offenders with Co-occurring Substance Abuse and Mental Health Grant Program, Reentry Court Grant Program, and the Technology Careers Grant Program. In FY 2011, all Second Chance Act grant programs were re-appropriated. This report covers three quarters of data collected from July 2011 to March 2012 for the Technology Careers Second Chance Act grantees. [2]

Key Findings During the Reporting Period

- Grantees, on average, admitted 46% of those deemed eligible for the technology careers program.
- A total of 941 participants were enrolled in the technology careers program. Over time, enrollment has increased by 97%.
- The average rate by grantee of moderate- and high-risk post-release participants admitted to the program was about 72%.
- Educational services were the most utilized service type, followed by pro-social services and cognitive-based services.
- The successful completion rate for participants exiting pre-release services averaged 86%, which represented an increase of 4% from the first quarter.

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[1] Recidivism information is not available at this time. Recidivism performance data will be provided once a large enough sample size has been established. In addition, more robust recidivism information will be provided upon the completion of the National Institute of Justice outcome evaluation.

[2] This report is based on self-reported data reported by grantees in the Performance Measurement Tool (PMT). Data are validated through analysis and through data validation rules that are entered into the PMT.
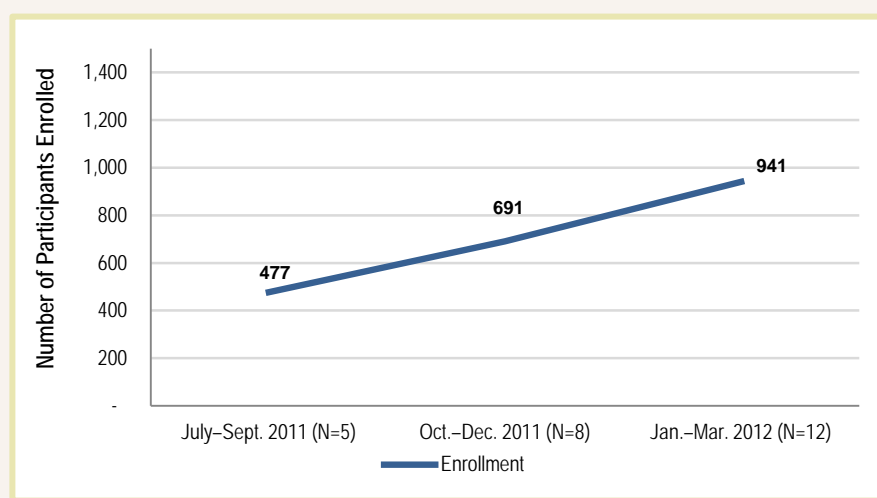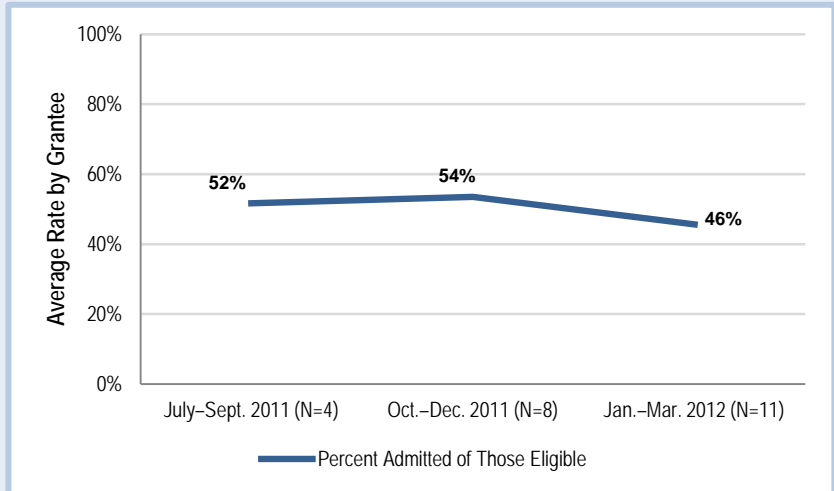
Key Performance Measures

Measure	Data Elements Used To Calculate Measure	Definition	Interpretation
Program Capacity	A. Number of new participants admitted B. Number of eligible offenders % Admitted of Eligible = A/B	Admitted participants compared with the total number who were eligible.	Assesses the intake and screening process—specifically, how many participants the program can serve compared with the need.
Percent New Admissions	A. Number of new participants admitted B. Number of participants enrolled in the reentry program % New Participants = A/B	Number of new participants admitted divided by the total number of participants enrolled in the reentry program.	Assesses the capacity of the program by tracking the percentage of new participants admitted.
Percent High, Moderate, and Low Risk	A. Number of high risk B. Number of moderate risk C. Number of low risk % High Risk = A/(A+B+C) % Moderate Risk = B/(A+B+C) % Low Risk = C/(A+B+C)	Percentage of participants who had a new assessment and their subsequent risk level.	Assesses the target population for percentages of participants who are considered high and moderate risks, the two groups targeted by Second Chance Act funding.
Percent Successfully Completing Program	A. Number of successful completers B. Number who failed the program C. Number who failed due to court criminal involvement D. Number who failed due to lack of engagement E. Number who absconded F. Number of other failures % Completed = A/(A+B+C+D+E+F)	Percentage of participants who successfully completed the program.	Assesses the rate of participants who have successful reintegrated into society.

Graphs of Performance Measures

Program Capacity

Grantees, on average, admitted 46% of those deemed eligible for the technology careers program from January to March 2012. Grantees are serving a large portion of offenders eligible within their target populations.
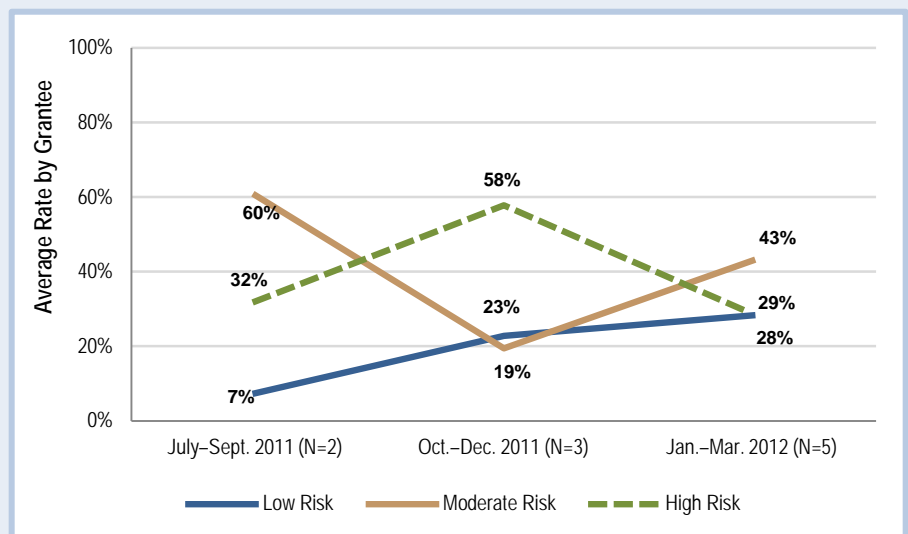
Average Rate by Grantee

52%   54%   46%

100%
80%
60%
40%
20%
0%

July–Sept. 2011 (N=4)   Oct.–Dec. 2011 (N=8)   Jan.–Mar. 2012 (N=11)

— Percent Admitted of Those Eligible

Quarterly Participant Enrollment

In this reporting period, 941 participants were enrolled in the technology careers program.

Number of Participants Enrolled

1,400
1,200
1,000
800
600
400
200
-

477   691   941

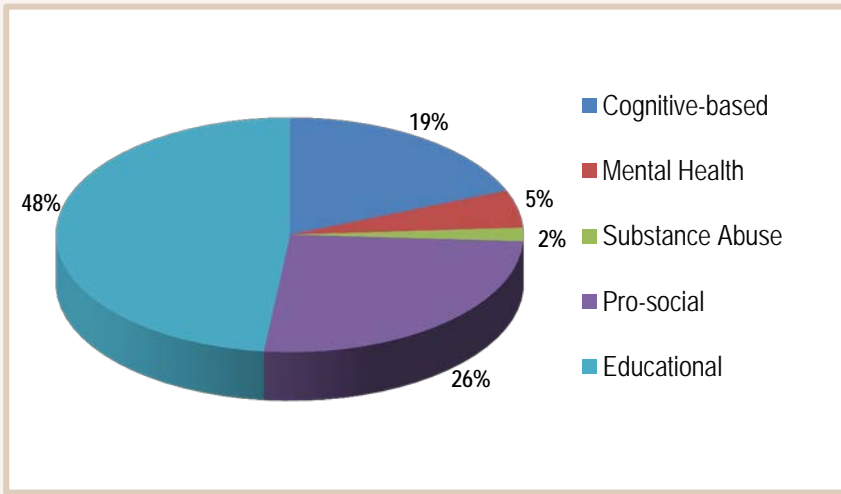July–Sept. 2011 (N=5)   Oct.–Dec. 2011 (N=8)   Jan.–Mar. 2012 (N=12)

— Enrollment

Risk Assessment Level

From January to March 2012, the average rate by grantee of moderate- and high-risk post-release participants admitted to the program was about 72%. The percentage of low-risk participants admitted to the program remained low.
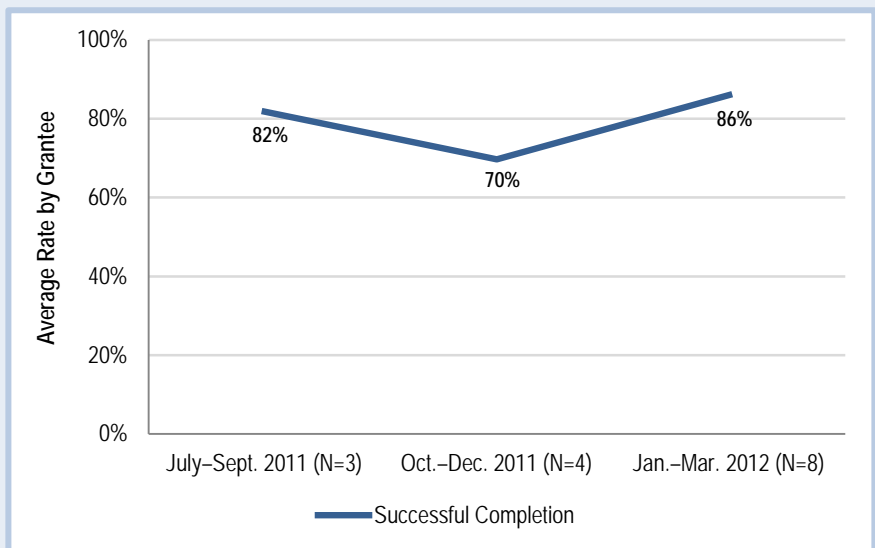
Average Rate by Grantee

100%
80%
60%
40%
20%
0%

60%   58%   43%
32%   23%   29%
7%   19%   28%

July–Sept. 2011 (N=2)   Oct.–Dec. 2011 (N=3)   Jan.–Mar. 2012 (N=5)

— Low Risk   — Moderate Risk   --- High Risk

Post-release Services Utilized Most Often[3]

From January to March 2012, educational services were the most utilized service type, followed by pro-social services and cognitive-based services.

Pie chart legend:
- Cognitive-based — 19%
- Mental Health — 5%
- Substance Abuse — 2%
- Pro-social — 26%
- Educational — 48%

Successful Completion Rate

From January to March 2012, 417 participants completed pre-release program requirements. The successful completion rate for participants exiting pre-release services averaged 86%, which represented an increase of 4% from the first quarter.

Line graph showing Average Rate by Grantee:
- July–Sept. 2011 (N=3): 82%
- Oct.–Dec. 2011 (N=4): 70%
- Jan.–Mar. 2012 (N=8): 86%

Legend: Successful Completion

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[3] Pro-social services can include programs such as anger and stress management, faith-based services, family counseling services, life skills training, and any other type of structured activities. It should also be noted that the Technology Careers program is an employment program, so it is assumed that all participants are receiving employment services.