

## **Second Chance Act Section 101**

### **Twelve Mandatory Requirements of a Comprehensive Reentry Program**

Section 101 of the Second Chance Act outlines the following Mandatory Requirements that must be included in an application to be eligible for funding for a comprehensive reentry program.

1. A reentry strategic plan that describes the jurisdiction's long-term reentry strategy, including measurable annual and 5-year performance outcomes, relating to the long-term goals of increasing public safety and reducing recidivism. One goal of the plan shall be a 50 percent reduction in the rate of recidivism over a 5-year period.
2. A detailed reentry implementation schedule and sustainability plan for the program.
3. Documentation that reflects the establishment of, and ongoing engagement of, a Reentry Task Force comprised of relevant state, tribal, territorial, or local leaders and representatives of relevant agencies, service providers, nonprofit organizations, and other key stakeholders.
4. The Task Force should examine ways to pool resources and funding streams and collect data and best practices in reentry from stakeholder agencies and organizations.
5. The Task Force and the strategic planning requirement above should provide a key opportunity for local policymakers to work together to identify and address local barriers to effective reentry, including barriers that are policy or procedural in nature. (See Mandatory Requirement 10 below.)
6. Discussion of the role of local governmental agencies, nonprofit organizations, Continuums of Care, state or local interagency councils on homelessness, and community stakeholders that will coordinate and collaborated during the planning and implementation of the reentry strategy. The applicant will provide certification of the involvement of such agencies and organizations. These partners and participants in the creation of the reentry strategy should include representatives from the fields of public safety, corrections, housing (including partnerships with public housing authorities), homeless services providers, health, education, substance abuse, children and families, victims' services, employment, and business.
7. Evidence of collaboration with state and local government agencies overseeing health, mental health, housing, homeless services, child welfare, education, substance abuse, victims services, state child support, and employment services, and with local law enforcement agencies.
8. A discussion of the role of state corrections departments, community corrections agencies, and local jail corrections systems in ensuring successful reentry in their communities. Applications must include letters of support from corrections officials responsible for facilities or individuals to be served through this project. (See "What an Application Should Include.")
9. Documentation that reflects explicit support of the chief executive officer of the applicant state, unit of local government, territory, or Indian tribe and how this office will remain informed and connected to the activities of the project. (See "What an Application Should Include.")

10. A description of the evidence-based methodology and outcome measures that will be used to evaluate the program and a discussion of how such measurements will provide a valid assessment of the impact of the program. The primary objective of the Second Chance Act is to reduce recidivism. Based upon reliable research findings, there are six fundamental strategies of evidence-based correctional practice that are widely accepted as efficacious in reducing future criminal behavior. These six strategies are outlined in Appendix 1: Second Chance Act Grantees: What You Need to Know to Ensure Your Program is Built on Principles of Effective Practice. Applicants are required to clearly articulate how these evidence-based strategies are integrated into their program design, and how the program will ensure participants take part in evidence-based services and programs that occur both pre- and post-release.

11. A description of how the project could be scaled up or broadly replicated if demonstrated to be effective.

12. A plan for the analysis of the statutory, regulatory, rules-based, and practice-based hurdles to reintegration of individuals returning from incarceration into the community. (Note: this may be integrated into the strategic planning requirement and guided by the local task force discussed above.) BJA encourages applicants to review the database of the American Bar Association (ABA) National Inventory of the Collateral Consequences of Conviction. The database, available at [www.abacollateralconsequences.org](http://www.abacollateralconsequences.org), will assist attorneys, policymakers, and the public to more easily identify what consequences follow from particular criminal offenses.

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