

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1733

To authorize implementation grants to community-based nonprofits to operate one-stop reentry centers.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 20, 2021

Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. CORNYN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To authorize implementation grants to community-based nonprofits to operate one-stop reentry centers.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “One Stop Shop Com-
5 munity Reentry Program Act of 2021”.

6 **SEC. 2. COMMUNITY REENTRY CENTER GRANT PROGRAM.**

7 (a) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—The Attorney General
8 is authorized to carry out a grant program to make grants
9 to eligible entities for the purpose of creating community
10 reentry centers.

1 (b) APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS.—Each applica-
2 tion for a grant under this section shall—

3 (1) demonstrate a plan to work with community
4 leaders who interact with formerly incarcerated peo-
5 ple and their families to—

6 (A) identify specific strategies and ap-
7 proaches to providing reentry services;

8 (B) develop a needs assessment tool to sur-
9 vey or conduct focus groups with community
10 members in order to identify—

11 (i) the needs of individuals returning
12 to the community after conviction or incar-
13 ceration, and the barriers such individuals
14 face; and

15 (ii) the needs of the families and com-
16 munities to which such individuals are re-
17 turning; and

18 (C) use the information gathered pursuant
19 to subparagraph (B) to determine the reentry
20 services to be provided by the community re-
21 entry center;

22 (2) identify the correctional institutions from
23 which individuals who are released from incarcer-
24 ation are likely to reenter the community served by
25 the community reentry center, and develop a plan, if

feasible, to provide transportation for such released individuals to the community reentry center, to the individual's residence, or to a location where the individual is ordered by a court to report;

(3) demonstrate a plan to provide accessible notice of the location of the reentry intake and coordination center and the services that it will provide (either directly or on a referral basis), including, where feasible, within and outside of correctional institutions identified under paragraph (1);

(4) demonstrate a plan to provide intake and reentry needs assessment that is trauma-informed and gender-responsive after an individual is released from a correctional institution, or, in the case of an individual who is convicted of an offense and not sentenced to a term of imprisonment, after such conviction, and where feasible, before release, to ensure that the individuals served by the center are referred to appropriate reentry services based on the individual's needs immediately upon release from a correctional institution or after conviction, and continuously thereafter as needed;

(5) demonstrate a plan to provide the reentry services identified in paragraph (1)(C);

1 (6) demonstrate a plan to continue to provide
2 services (including through referral) for individuals
3 served by the center who move to a different geo-
4 graphic area to ensure appropriate case manage-
5 ment, case planning, and access to continuous or
6 new services, where necessary, and based on con-
7 sistent reevaluation of needs;

8 (7) identify specific methods that the commu-
9 nity reentry center will employ to achieve perform-
10 ance objectives among the individuals served by the
11 center, including—

12 (A) increased access to and participation
13 in reentry services;

14 (B) reduction in recidivism rates;

15 (C) increased numbers of individuals ob-
16 taining and retaining employment;

17 (D) increased enrollment in and degrees
18 earned from educational programs, including
19 high school, GED, and institutions of higher
20 education;

21 (E) increased numbers of individuals ob-
22 taining and maintaining housing; and

23 (F) increased self-reports of successful
24 community living, including stability of living
25 situation and positive family relationships; and

1 (8) to the extent practicable, identify State,
2 local, and private funds available to supplement the
3 funds received under this section.

4 (c) PREFERENCE.—The Attorney General shall give
5 preference to applicants that demonstrate that they seek
6 to employ individuals who have been convicted of an of-
7 fense, or served a term of imprisonment and have com-
8 pleted any court-ordered supervision, or that, to the extent
9 allowable by law, employ such formerly incarcerated indi-
10 viduals in positions of responsibility.

11 (d) EVALUATION AND REPORT.—

12 (1) EVALUATION.—The Attorney General shall
13 enter into a contract with a nonprofit organization
14 with expertise in analyzing data related to reentry
15 services and recidivism to monitor and evaluate each
16 recipient of a grant and each community reentry
17 center receiving funds under this section on an ongo-
18 ing basis.

19 (2) ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN.—The nonprofit
20 organization described in paragraph (1) shall provide
21 administrative support to assist recipients of grants
22 authorized by this Act to comply with the conditions
23 associated with the receipt of funding from the De-
24 partment of Justice.

1 (3) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the
2 date on which grants are initially made under this
3 section, and annually thereafter, the Attorney Gen-
4 eral shall submit to Congress a report on the pro-
5 gram, which shall include—

6 (A) the number of grants made, the num-
7 ber of eligible entities receiving such grants,
8 and the amount of funding distributed to each
9 eligible entity pursuant to this section;

10 (B) the location of each eligible entity re-
11 ceiving such a grant, and the population served
12 by the community reentry center;

13 (C) the number of persons who have par-
14 ticipated in reentry services offered by a com-
15 munity reentry center, disaggregated by type of
16 services, and success rates of participants in
17 each service to the extent possible;

18 (D) the number of persons who have par-
19 ticipated in reentry services for which they re-
20 ceived a referral from a community reentry cen-
21 ter, disaggregated by type of services, and suc-
22 cess rates of participants in each service;

23 (E) recidivism rates within the population
24 served by each community reentry center, both

1 before and after receiving a grant under this
 2 section;

3 (F) the numbers of individuals obtaining
 4 and retaining employment within the population
 5 served by each community reentry center, both
 6 before and after receiving a grant under this
 7 section; and

8 (G) the number of individuals obtaining
 9 and maintaining housing within the population
 10 served by each community reentry center, both
 11 before and after receiving a grant under this
 12 section.

13 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

14 (1) COMMUNITY LEADER.—The term “commu-
 15 nity leader”—

16 (A) means an individual who serves the
 17 community in a leadership role; and

18 (B) includes—

19 (i) a school official;

20 (ii) a faith leader;

21 (iii) a social service provider;

22 (iv) a member of a neighborhood asso-
 23 ciation;

24 (v) a public safety representative;

1 (vi) an employee of an organization
2 that provides reentry services;

3 (vii) a member of a civic or volunteer
4 group related to the provision of reentry
5 services;

6 (viii) a health care professional; and

7 (ix) an employee of a State, local, or
8 tribal government agency with expertise in
9 the provision of reentry services.

10 (2) COMMUNITY REENTRY CENTER.—The term
11 “community reentry center” means a center that—

12 (A) offers intake, reentry needs assess-
13 ments, case management, and case planning for
14 reentry services for individuals returning to the
15 community after conviction or incarceration;

16 (B) provides the reentry services identified
17 under subsection (b)(1)(C) at a single location;
18 and

19 (C) provides referrals to appropriate serv-
20 ice providers based on the assessment of needs
21 of the individuals.

22 (3) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-
23 ty” means a community-based nonprofit organiza-
24 tion that—

1 (A) has expertise in the provision of re-
2 entry services; and

3 (B) is located in a geographic area that
4 has disproportionately high numbers of resi-
5 dents, when compared to the local community,
6 who—

7 (i) have been arrested;

8 (ii) have been convicted of a criminal
9 offense; and

10 (iii) return to such geographic area
11 after incarceration.

12 (4) REENTRY SERVICES.—The term “reentry
13 services”—

14 (A) means comprehensive and holistic serv-
15 ices that improve outcomes for individuals re-
16 turning to the community after conviction or in-
17 carceration; and

18 (B) includes—

19 (i) seeking and maintaining employ-
20 ment, including through assistance with
21 drafting resumes, establishing emails ac-
22 counts, locating job solicitations, submit-
23 ting of job applications, and preparing for
24 interviews;

- 1 (ii) placement in job placement pro-
- 2 grams that partner with private employers;
- 3 (iii) obtaining free and low-cost job
- 4 skills classes, including computer skills,
- 5 technical skills, vocational skills, and any
- 6 other job-related skills;
- 7 (iv) locating and maintaining housing,
- 8 which may include counseling on public
- 9 housing opportunities, assisting with appli-
- 10 cations for public housing benefits, locating
- 11 and securing temporary or long-term shel-
- 12 ter, and applying for home energy and util-
- 13 ity assistance programs;
- 14 (v) obtaining identification cards and
- 15 driver's licenses;
- 16 (vi) registering to vote, and applying
- 17 for voting rights to be restored, where per-
- 18 mitted by law;
- 19 (vii) applying for or accessing GED
- 20 courses;
- 21 (viii) applying for loans for and ad-
- 22 mission to institutions of higher education;
- 23 (ix) financial counseling;
- 24 (x) legal assistance or referrals for
- 25 record expungement, forfeiture of property

1 or assets, family law and custody matters,
2 legal aid services (including other civil
3 legal aid services), and relevant civil mat-
4 ters including housing and other issues;

5 (xi) retrieving property or funds re-
6 tained by the arresting agency or facility of
7 incarceration, or retrieving property or
8 funds obtained while incarcerated;

9 (xii) transportation, including through
10 provision of transit fare;

11 (xiii) familial counseling;

12 (xiv) problem-solving, in coordination
13 with counsel where necessary, any difficul-
14 ties in compliance with court-ordered su-
15 pervision requirements, including restric-
16 tions on living with certain family mem-
17 bers, contact with certain friends, bond re-
18 quirements, location and residency restric-
19 tions, electronic monitoring compliance,
20 court-ordered substance abuse, and other
21 court-ordered requirements;

22 (xv) communication needs, including
23 providing a mobile phone, mobile phone
24 service or access, or internet access;

1 (xvi) applying for State or Federal
 2 government benefits, where eligible, and
 3 assisting in locating free or reduced cost
 4 food and sustenance benefits;

5 (xvii) life skills assistance;

6 (xviii) mentorship;

7 (xix) medical and mental health serv-
 8 ices, and cognitive-behavioral program-
 9 ming;

10 (xx) substance abuse treatment;

11 (xxi) reactivation, application for, and
 12 maintenance of professional or other li-
 13 censes; and

14 (xxii) providing case management
 15 services, in connection with court-orders
 16 terms of release, or other local publicly
 17 supported social work case management.

18 (5) SUCCESS RATE.—The term “success rate”
 19 means the rate of recidivism (as measured by a sub-
 20 sequent conviction or return to prison), job place-
 21 ment, permanent housing placement, or completion
 22 of certification, trade, or other education program.

23 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be
2 appropriated \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years
3 2022 through 2026 to carry out this section.

4 (2) EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION.—The Attorney
5 General shall ensure that grants awarded under this
6 section are equitably distributed among the geo-
7 graphical regions and between urban and rural pop-
8 ulations, including Indian Tribes, consistent with the
9 objective of reducing recidivism.

10 **SEC. 3. GRANTS FOR REENTRY SERVICES ASSISTANCE HOT-**
11 **LINES.**

12 (a) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General is au-
14 thorized to make grants to States, Indian Tribes,
15 and units of local government to operate reentry
16 services assistance hotlines that are toll-free and op-
17 erate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

18 (2) GRANT PERIOD.—A grant made under
19 paragraph (1) shall be for a period of not more than
20 5 years.

21 (b) HOTLINE REQUIREMENTS.—A grant recipient
22 shall ensure, with respect to a hotline funded by a grant
23 under subsection (a), that—

1 (1) the hotline directs individuals to local re-
2 entry services (as such term is defined in section
3 2(e));

4 (2) any personally identifiable information that
5 an individual provides to an agency of the State or
6 Indian Tribe through the hotline is not directly or
7 indirectly disclosed, without the consent of the indi-
8 vidual, to any other agency or entity, or person;

9 (3) the staff members who operate the hotline
10 are trained to be knowledgeable about—

11 (A) applicable Federal, State, Tribal, and
12 local reentry services; and

13 (B) the unique barriers to successful re-
14 entry into the community after a person has
15 been convicted or incarcerated;

16 (4) the hotline is accessible to—

17 (A) individuals with limited English pro-
18 ficiency, where appropriate; and

19 (B) individuals with disabilities; and

20 (5) the hotline has the capability to engage with
21 individuals using text messages.

22 (c) BEST PRACTICES.—The Attorney General shall
23 issue guidance to grant recipients on best practices for im-
24 plementing the requirements of subsection (b).

1 (d) PREFERENCE.—The Attorney General shall give
2 preference to applicants that demonstrate that they seek
3 to employ individuals to operate the hotline who have been
4 convicted of an offense, or have served a term of imprison-
5 ment and have completed any court-ordered supervision.

6 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

7 (1) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian Tribe”
8 has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the
9 Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance
10 Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

11 (2) STATE.—The term “State” means—

12 (A) a State;

13 (B) the District of Columbia;

14 (C) the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico;

15 and

16 (D) any other territory or possession of the
17 United States.

18 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
19 authorized to be appropriated \$1,500,000 for each of fis-
20 cal years 2022 through 2026 to carry out this section.

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