



**STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS (DOC)**

**NJDOC: Locally, Empowered, Accountable, and Determined (NJLEAD)
Reentry Initiative**

**Category B:
REENTRY SUPPORTIVE SERVICES**

NOTICE OF GRANT OPPORTUNITY

- **Announcement Date:** Monday, February 2, 2026
- **Application Due Date:** Wednesday, February 25, 2026 (5:00 pm)

**Victoria L. Kuhn, Esq.
Commissioner**

REENTRY SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

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Appendix:

Grant Application Title Page

REENTRY SUPPORTIVE SERVICES FOR PEOPLE FORMERLY INCARCERATED

Take Notice that in compliance with N.J.S.A. 52:14-34.4 et seq. (P.L. 1987, c.7), the Department of Corrections hereby publishes a notice of the availability of the following grant:

A. Information for Bidders (Background)

According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, in 2021, the US criminal justice system held almost 1.2 million people in state prisons.¹ A recent analysis of the New Jersey Department of Corrections (NJDOC) inmate census found that the department currently houses approximately 12,000 inmates.² About 59% of all state correctional institution offenders were Black.³ Further analysis revealed that six counties alone — Essex, Camden, Passaic, Atlantic, Middlesex, Union, and Hudson — account for more than half (62%) of NJDOC commitments.⁴

Many citizens fail to realize that incarceration is not a permanent circumstance for most individuals. According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, at least 95% of all State prisoners will be released at some point, with approximately 80% being released to parole supervision.⁵ Community reintegration from state prison is a challenging process. A lack of support and follow-up with discharge plans developed pre-release can contribute to unsuccessful community reintegration. Due to difficulty accessing services to meet their basic needs, many returning citizens will abandon the prosocial skills they have learned and revert to familiar mechanisms to address social and financial problems.

Preparing those incarcerated for reintegration into the community is as crucial as connecting them with prosocial support and community-based service agencies to aid in their successful reintegration. To achieve success, the NJDOC seeks to establish diverse community partnerships that provide a broad spectrum of reentry services to empower returning citizens to continue a prosocial, law-abiding path, thereby driving the NJDOC to lead the nation in combating recidivism.

¹ https://bjs.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh236/files/media/document/p21st_sumB.pdf

² https://www.nj.gov/corrections/pdf/offender_statistics/2024/Total_2023.pdf

³ https://www.state.nj.us/corrections/pdf/offender_statistics/2024/By%20Race_Ethnicity%202023.pdf

⁴ https://www.nj.gov/corrections/pdf/offender_statistics/2024/By_County_of_Commitment_2024.pdf

⁵ BJA <https://bjs.ojp.gov/content/pub/pdf/reentry.pdf>

The New Jersey Department of Corrections does not embrace a one-size-fits-all solution to reentry service provision. To that end, the NJDOC recognizes that reintegration is most successful when communities and corrections work together to share a common goal, honor mutual interests in public safety approaches, affirm their bond, and celebrate the ability of urban communities to succeed when given fair access to resources. The goal is a collaborative partnership to ensure successful reentry service delivery. Our mission is to deliver services at the local level, empowered by communities that develop the necessary resources, hold community-based agencies accountable for the services they advertise, and employ forward-thinking strategies for determining service reintegration models.

To achieve this goal, the NJDOC created the NJLEAD initiative. LEAD stands for Locally Empowered, Accountable, and Determined. NJLEAD aims to establish a coordinated and collaborative effort to ensure a continuum of care and treatment from prison to the community. Emphasizing the role of community partnerships, an effective reintegration process is most successful when returning citizens understand their right to self-determination and are empowered to choose service providers that offer resources that meet their unique needs. As a result, urban communities with a consortium of diverse service providers who have experience working with those formerly involved in the carceral system offer an opportunity for successful reentry.

Designated nonprofit community-based corporations or associations will collaborate with the NJDOC, the Division of Programs and Reintegration Services. The goal is to ensure that the rehabilitative work and academic and vocational training implemented within the correctional facility continue and expand immediately upon release, reducing the likelihood of the high recidivism rates currently seen in national statistics.

The NJDOC has received state funding through the Office of the Governor to provide the NJLEAD reentry supportive services initiative in urban communities and communities impacted by high incarceration rates in New Jersey. This funding is designed to promote evidence-informed, effective reentry initiatives for individuals returning home from prison and to provide urban communities with the resources to support and enhance the State of New Jersey's ongoing success in reducing recidivism.

B. Important Dates

- NGO release date: Monday, February 2, 2026
- End of question period: Wednesday, February 4, 2026
- All questions and answers posted on the NJDOC Website: Friday, February 6, 2026
- Proposal closing date: Wednesday, February 25, 2026, 5:00 pm.
- Award List posted on NJDOC website: Wednesday, April 1, 2026

C. Eligible Organizations

- County governments that provide specialized wraparound services for individuals who have experienced incarceration.
- Public housing authorities that permit the housing of individuals who have experienced incarceration.
- Nonprofits that have 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education, and have proven experience working with individuals who have experienced incarceration.
- Nonprofits that do not have a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education
- For-profit organizations other than small businesses specializing in emergency and transitional housing services.
- Faith-based organizations with a 501 (c)(3) entity that have proven experience working with individuals who have experienced incarceration.

D. Scope of Work

1. The NJDOC seeks proposals outlining how eligible organizations or associations will use funds for Reentry Supportive Services to enhance successful reentry outcomes and must offer emergency housing assistance. The eligible corporations or associations must use the funds to hire one full-time or up to two part-time Reentry Support Specialists to serve as case managers, providing services to returning citizens. You may hire additional

part-time staff as needed for the program; however, their time must be 100% devoted to the NJLEAD initiative. Organizations applying for less than \$50,000 may hire one part-time reentry specialist.

2. Hiring Reentry Support Specialists to provide pre-release and post-release case management services and assist with reintegration-related expenses not covered by federal or state funds or provided by other community-based agencies. Consideration will be given only to proposals that support formerly incarcerated individuals with emergency, transitional, or long-term housing needs.
3. The Reentry Support Specialist will partner with the department's Office of Community Engagement and Reintegration Initiatives (CERI) to share information regarding the availability of social service providers in the local community or contiguous counties. Proposals must meet the required standards to be eligible for funding from the NJDOC.
 - a. **The NJLEAD-funded Reentry Support Staff must have direct access to the agency Director and must attend all NJDOC monthly meetings and reentry events at NJDOC correctional facilities and at the residential community reintegration programs (RCRP). The Staff must also document all contacts with, and services provided to participants and their immediate families, and submit these documents in the NJLEAD-required monthly programmatic reporting format by the specified due dates.**
4. Proposals **shall not** be directed towards:
 - Prizes/entertainment/trinkets
 - Purchasing vehicle(s)
 - Food and beverages
 - Real estate/capital improvements
 - Other services not approved in advance by the NJDOC
 - Fringe for part-time employees
 - o Fringe benefits for part-time employees may not be charged to the grant, nor can partial payment of fringe benefits for full-time personnel assigned part-time to

grant operations. Fringe benefits should be based on actual known costs or an approved negotiated rate by GMU. If not based on an approved negotiated rate, list the composition of the fringe benefit package. Fringe benefits are available to personnel listed in the personnel section of the budget and to full-time personnel working solely on NJLEAD-ONLY; 100% of their time must be devoted to the NJLEAD project.

- Fringe benefits may include FICA, Social Security, and standard State payroll tax deductions (State withholding, Disability, Unemployment, and Workforce Dev.), and additional deductions per your initial approved Budget submission, such as your Health Benefits Package. Please note that 401K, Supplemental Life Insurance, Vacation Pay, Christmas/Vacation Club, Overtime, Comp. time, etc., are not permissible.

5. Priority Service Eligibility:

- Coordination of services for adult individuals recently released from a New Jersey state prison within the past seven (7) years and their minor children residing in New Jersey, or a member of their immediate family with whom they reside in the same household. Proof of family member eligibility is required.
- Immediate Family Member is defined as a parent, legal guardian, partner in a civil union couple, spouse, domestic partner, stepparent, sibling, or adult child with whom the client resides, or a minor-aged child. For the purpose of this grant, the immediate family member may also be defined as the person who served as the custodial person with whom the client was reared and with whom the client currently resides.
- Adult individuals under NJ State Parole supervision may be eligible for supportive services under this initiative on a case-by-case basis.
- Individuals on probation are ineligible for services under this initiative.
- Juvenile and Adult prevention work is ineligible for services under this initiative.

- Residents of New Jersey returning to the state after serving a sentence in another jurisdiction may be eligible for services on a case-by-case basis. The grantee must consult with the NJLEAD office.

E. Availability of Funds

1. Funds will be made available after the proposals are reviewed and approved. Only one award will be given to each applicant per category.

Total funding amount available: \$4,500,000

Total number of awards: 3-10

Minimum award available: \$25,000

Maximum award available:

\$200,000 (proposals with *emergency housing services only, 1 to 60 days)

\$350,000 (proposals with short-term housing services, 61 to 180 days)

\$500,000 (proposals with long-term housing services, 181 days to 365 days)

*Emergency housing is limited to an all-inclusive rate of \$99 per day for a maximum of 30 days. Clients are limited to this one-time support and may not receive this assistance across agencies. *

Period of Performance: July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2027

Planning Period: June 1, 2026, to June 30, 2026 [1 month]

Implementation Period: July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2027 [12 months]

2. Applicants must provide a budget and a narrative that specify the requested NJLEAD program award amount. Funding cannot be used to supplant any existing services and positions. Funding **shall not** be used for the following:

- Prizes/entertainment/trinkets
- Purchasing vehicle(s)
- Food and beverages
- Real estate/capital improvements
- Other services not approved in advance by the NJDOC
- Mortgage costs
- Building Improvements
- Fringe benefits for part-time staff

3. Successful applicants will be awarded a 13-month grant, with service commencement following an initial 30-day startup planning period. All services must commence July 1,

2026. The NJDOC has the sole discretion to award a one-year grant extension based on performance and funding availability. NJDOC may choose to fund applications submitted under this FY 2026 solicitation in future fiscal years, depending on, among other considerations, the merit of the application and the availability of appropriations. Awardees are funded utilizing a tiered funding disbursement algorithm.

4. TIERED FUNDING DISBURSEMENT

- a. **Bronze level:** New and previous awardees deemed inconsistent with meeting programmatic and fiscal reporting requirements shall receive quarterly funding disbursements.
- b. **Silver level:** Previous awardees who have served as NJLEAD partners for a minimum of 1 funding cycle and are deemed to have consistently met programmatic and fiscal reporting requirements shall receive bi-annual funding disbursements.
- c. **Gold level:** Previous awardees having served as an NJLEAD partner for a minimum of 2 funding cycles and deemed to have consistently met programmatic and fiscal reporting requirements, shall receive an annual funding disbursement.

5. Compliance determination is based on the number of noncompliance correspondence sent.
 - a. **Compliant:** is defined as receiving no more than one noncompliance correspondence sent from CERI or GMU per reporting period.
 - b. **Inconsistent:** is defined as receiving more than one noncompliance correspondence from the NJDOC CERI or GMU Units per reporting period.
 - c. Funding distribution is based on the agency's compliance with programmatic and fiscal reporting requirements. Failure to comply with reporting requirements will delay funding.

F. Application Format

- a. The applications shall be no less than 1.5-spaced, use a standard **12-point font (Times New Roman is preferred)** with **no less than 1-inch margins, and not exceed 10 pages**. The page limit excludes the grant application title page, the budget document, and the table of organization. Pages should be numbered "1 of 10," "2 of 10," and so on.

Section headers are required. **Submissions that exceed ten (10) pages or fail to follow the formatting guidelines will be disqualified.**

G. Proposal Outline

The application shall describe the approach to accomplishing the tasks outlined in the scope of work. Applicants must be clear and concise in presenting their proposal, ensuring agencies address the following:

Section I. APPLICANT ORGANIZATION

- Name of the organization, address of the agency/corporation, the agency's Unique Entity identifier (UEI), and category applying for and amount (COVER PAGE).
- Description of the organization, including experience with working with people who are currently or formerly justice-involved.
- Organizational commitment to diversity and inclusivity, ability to deliver culturally humble and sensitive care with a gender-responsive approach.
- Demonstrated need for the development of trauma-informed reentry services in the local community.
- Current reentry, rehabilitative, trauma services, and social services programs managed by the nonprofit community-based corporation or association, including client demographics and services that will be expanded and enhanced under this initiative.
- Disclosure of any contracts with the State of New Jersey, county government agencies, and private and federally funded reentry, rehabilitative, and social services programs.
- Include a description of the corporation or association's governance structure, including the table of organization, the Board of Directors, and the organization's administrative, management, and organizational capacity to enter a grant with the NJDOC. Indicate the total number of employees.
- State the reporting structure for the Reentry Support Specialist(s).

Section II. PROGRAM APPROACH

Please address the following:

- What is the program design, including the types of programs and services to be offered?
- What is the total number of returning citizens to be served?
- How will the agency address emergency and supportive housing assistance requests?
- Disclose any existing or proposed partnerships with educational, vocational, or employment training organizations and human and social service organizations.
- Define successful program completion and explain the criteria for transitioning participants out of services.
- Describe the initiative's planned organizational structure, including the project management, staff supervision, and oversight plan.

- How will you advertise the availability of services and conduct outreach and engagement?
- Which businesses have you worked with that have experience hiring formerly incarcerated individuals or have expressed interest?
- Did you anticipate difficulties with the tasks as described by this NGO?
- What is your agency's methodology for managing and collecting data?

Section III. REPORTING

Please describe the proposed plan for fiscal and programmatic management:

- Programmatic Management
 - ❖ How will the monthly programmatic reporting of the details of all programmatic services provided to individual participants be accomplished?
- Fiscal Management
 - ❖ Identify the fiscal agent responsible for the fiscal reporting of the details of all fiscal expenditures and agency auditing protocols.
 - ❖ What is the accounting expertise and qualifications of the fiscal agent? Include their resume in your submission.
 - ❖ How will the quarterly reporting of the details of all fiscal expenditures and agency auditing protocols be handled?
 - ❖ Identify the agency's electronic accounting system.
 - ❖ Identify the person responsible for the project's fiscal reporting.
 - *Describe their accounting experience and qualifications*
 - *Include Resume in Mandatory Documents*

Grantees may include the cost of the electronic accounting system in their indirect costs in the application. However, the proposal's indirect cost shall not exceed 15% of the requested grant amount.

Section IV. BUDGET NARRATIVE

The budget narrative must include:

- Anticipated expenditures on participant-related reintegration services.
- The budget narrative must convey the story behind the requested budget line items
- All salaries requested in the budget must be proportionate to the time spent working directly on the NJLEAD-funded project and commensurate with the employee's experience and credentials.

- If the budget includes planned consultants or contracted services, please explain the consultants' existing relationship with the applicant.
- Indirect Costs
 - Proposal's total indirect costs shall not exceed 15% of the total grant amount requested.
 - Select one of two options:
 - Percentage of Total Direct Costs or
 - Itemized Fixed and Administrative Costs
 - Ex. Accountant Costs, Brochure printing, marketing materials, flyers, video production, percentage of Executive Staff salary, accounting/grant software, etc.
 - Total Direct Costs and Indirect Costs CANNOT EXCEED SUB-AWARD AMOUNT

Section V. BUDGET WORKSHEET AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS [not counted in the 10-page limit]

The NJDOC-provided project budget worksheet must be submitted with the proposal. Submitting alternative budget worksheets or changing the worksheet in any fashion other than the provided NJDOC budget worksheet will disqualify your application.

Section VI. MISCELLANEOUS [not counted in the 10-page limit]

- Applicants must include two letters of recommendation from key community stakeholders (**EXCLUDING** state correctional staff and state elected officials) that detail the organization's character, ability, and commitment to collaborating with the applicant to promote the initiative's mission.

H. New Jersey Department of Treasury-NJSTART

1. The Division of Purchase and Property (DPP), within the Department of the Treasury, was created under N.J.S.A. 52:18A-3 and serves as the State's central procurement agency. It is responsible for ensuring that professional and ethical procurement

procedures are followed and that the best-valued products and services are obtained in a timely and cost-effective manner, in accordance with State laws and regulations, to enable client agencies to meet their objectives. To that end, the New Jersey State of the Art Requestion Technology, known as NJSTART, was created.

2. If awarded, Applicants will be required to register and become NJSTART vendors. If an applicant is a current NJSTART vendor, they must update their profile to accept Automated Clearing House (ACH) payments.
3. Applicants who are already NJSTART vendors must include copies of their NJSTART vendor number, New Jersey Business Registration, and New Jersey Affirmative Action Certificate with their application.
4. All organizations and businesses should obtain an Employer Identification Number (EIN) rather than use a Social Security number.

I. Selection Criteria

1. Selection criteria will be based upon the following, and in this order of importance:
 - Demonstration of Need..... 25%
 - Emergency Housing Assistance Plans..... 25%
 - Fiscal prudence/budget review..... 15%
 - Program service design 15%
 - Experience working with returning citizens 10%
 - Method for collection and analysis of outcome data 10%
2. Current NJLEAD-funded partners will receive priority consideration based on exceptional programmatic and fiscal standing with NJDOC. Partners who have demonstrated their capabilities and competencies in project implementation and are determined to maintain grant compliance may receive an additional 5 points toward their overall score.

J. Audit Requirements

1. The audit of the agency must be in accordance with the applicable regulations (and their subsequent revisions) as follows:
 - a. Federal OMB Circular A-133, Revised: Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations.
 - b. U.S. Government Accountability Office, Government Auditing Standards.
2. At any time during the sub-grant period, the sub-grant agency's overall operations, its compliance with specific grant provisions, and the operations of any subcontractors engaged by the sub-grant agency may be subject to audit by the NJDOC.
3. Whether such audits are conducted during the sub-grant period or not, a final financial and compliance audit of sub-grant operations, including the relevant activities of any subcontractors, may be performed after the sub-grant's termination or expiration. A sub-grant agency is subject to audit up to three years after the termination or expiration of a sub-grant. If the audit is started prior to the end of the three-year post-grant period, the sub-grant agency remains subject to audit until the audit is completed and resolved.
4. The sub-grant agency shall agree to ensure the timely and appropriate resolution of audit findings and recommendations.

K. Subgrant Award and Term

1. The sub-grant shall be awarded with reasonable promptness by written notice to the responsible applicant whose proposal meets the above specifications and is most advantageous to the State, considering price and other relevant factors. NJDOC staff may request a site visit to the applicant agency before awarding the sub-grant.
2. Agency partnerships are permissible. However, only one agency may serve as the primary applicant and receive the sub-grant funding. The other agency would be a

subcontractor to the lead applicant. Subcontractor agencies must provide fiscal documents and formalize all programming services. An NJLEAD-funded agency shall not outsource or subcontract with another NJLEAD agency or a non-NJLEAD agency to provide the required services for which they applied.

3. Upon notification of the sub-grant award, counties must obtain the necessary government resolutions to accept the award within 60 days of receiving the notification of selection.
4. All sub-grantees and subcontractors must agree to participate in the NJDOC grant database platform to submit all required grant fiscal documents.

L. Instructions for Submitting Questions

1. Questions regarding this NGO cannot be accepted via telephone. Questions must be emailed before the end of the question period to GMUNJLEAD@doc.nj.gov. All questions and answers will be posted on the NJDOC Website.

M. Mandatory Documents

The mandatory documents that must be submitted in response to the NGO are as follows:

NO SCREENSHOTS OR PHOTOS FOR SUBMISSION

- 1) Reentry Supportive Services– Title Page (Appendix)
- 2) NJLEAD Application Compliance Checklist (on webpage)
- 3) Proposal
 - a) Applicant organization
 - b) Program approach
 - c) Reporting
 - d) NJDOC-provided Budget Form (on webpage) and organization budget narrative on letterhead
 - e) NJSTART vendor number, New Jersey Business Registration, Fiscal Audit documents, proof of 501c3 status, Certificate of Incorporation, most recent tax return, Certified

Audit Report and New Jersey Affirmative Action Certificate (if applicable).

- f) A resume of the fiscal agent
- g) Recommendation letters (2)

4) Budget Worksheet (on webpage) and Budget Narrative

Do not submit documentation that has not been requested.

N. Instructions for Submitting Applications and Submission Deadline

The NGO will be posted on NJDOC's website at:

<https://www.nj.gov/corrections/pages/index.shtml>

The applicant must submit a **complete application**, including all required attachments. The applicant is responsible for submitting on time. The NJDOC must receive one completed application with all attachments by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 25, 2026, without exception. The NJDOC **will not** accept applications received after this deadline for funding consideration.

The application must be delivered via email

To: GMUNJLEAD@doc.nj.gov

The email submission subject line must indicate the “name of the agency- NJLEAD *Category B Application*.” The documents shall be in PDF format and sent in one email with two attachments: 1) the NJDOC required title page, 10-page proposal, and budget with narrative, and 2) all other supportive documents.

O. Panel Review and Award Process

The NJDOC will conduct an internal review of each grant application. A review panel will evaluate the applications in accordance with the selection criteria. The successful applicants will be notified of the subgrant award on or before Wednesday, April 1, 2026. Successful applicants must comply with the New Jersey Department of Treasury's business form requirements before receiving grant funds.

Notice of Grant Opportunity

REENTRY SUPPORTIVE SERVICES NJLEAD CATEGORY B

Appendix

**NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
REENTRY SUPPORTIVE SERVICES**

Reentry Supportive Services - Title Page		
<u>SECTION I:</u>		
TITLE OF NGO: REENTRY SUPPORTIVE SERVICES (NJLEAD CATEGORY B) DIVISION: Office of Compliance and Strategic Planning OFFICE: Grants Management Unit		
<u>SECTION II:</u>		
CONTACT NAME:		
APPLICANT AGENCY:		
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
PREVIOUS FUNDING: Has your agency received funding from the New Jersey Department of Corrections within the last two years preceding the submission of this application? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>		
PROJECT DIRECTOR: _____		
TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____ E-MAIL: _____		
FISCAL MANAGER: _____		
TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____ E-MAIL: _____		
TOTAL AMOUNT OF FUNDS REQUESTED: \$ _____		
APPLICATION CERTIFICATION: <i>To the best of my knowledge and belief, the information provided in this application is accurate and true. The governing body of this agency has duly authorized the document, and we will comply with the attached assurances if funding is awarded.</i>		_____
SIGNATURE OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER/ AUTHORIZING OFFICIAL (Please print or type name)		TITLE _____
<u>*FAILURE TO INCLUDE A REQUIRED APPLICATION COMPONENT CONSTITUTES A VIOLATION AND WILL RESULT IN THE APPLICATION BEING ELIMINATED FROM CONSIDERATION.</u>		
<u>SECTION III:</u> SEND PROPOSALS TO: GMUNJLEAD@doc.nj.gov		
APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY 5:00 pm on February 25, 2026		
<u>NO FACSIMILE SUBMISSIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED.</u>		