

Analysis

Department of Corrections

Second Chance Act Addressing Needs of Incarcerated Parents and Their Children

Analyst: Julie Neburka

Request: Approve a request from the Department of Corrections to apply for \$750,000 from the Second Chance Act Addressing the Needs of Incarcerated Parents and their Minor Children Program grant from the US Department of Justice.

Analysis: In February 2019 the US Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs' Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention made \$4.5 million available nationwide for grants to states and local governments to promote and expand services available in prisons and jails for incarcerated parents and their children under the age of eighteen. This grant program focuses on activities that foster positive family engagement between incarcerated parents and their children within prisons and jails, but funding may also be used for those programs and services for the children of incarcerated parents that provide opportunities for positive youth development in the community.

The Department of Corrections (DOC) anticipates using the grant funds, if awarded, to further its work with incarcerated parents and their children by piloting a coordinated Children of Incarcerated Parents program in collaboration with the Department of Human Services (DHS). Aspects of the program will include better equipping incarcerated parents for meeting DHS requirements by providing DHS child welfare staff at the DOC's intake center; establishing Family Advocate positions in one or more men's prisons (the Coffee Creek Correctional Facility for women currently has a Family Advocate position); and working with community-based providers to create "toolkits" for incarcerated parents, their children, and their children's caregivers to help with establishing and maintaining relationships between parents and children. Additional activities may include peer mentoring and networking in the men's prisons and the creation of parenting resource libraries.

Grant applications are due April 15, 2019, with awards announced by October 2019 for three-year periods of performance. There are no match requirements. If successful, the agency may return to the legislature or Emergency Board to request additional federal funds expenditure limitation and position authorization.

Legislative Fiscal Office Recommendation: Approve the request.

Oregon Department of Corrections McDonald

Request: Authorization to apply for a grant of \$750,000 for the Second Chance Act Addressing the Needs of Incarcerated Parents and Their Minor Children Program from the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of Justice Programs, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

Recommendation: Approve the request.

Discussion: The Department of Corrections (DOC) requests approval to apply for a federal grant from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention in order to pilot a Children of Incarcerated Parents program in partnership with the Department of Human Services (DHS) Child Welfare Division. The aim of this program is to further DOC's work in creating stronger families and reducing recidivism. This will be accomplished by better equipping incarcerated parents to meet DHS requirements. The Department anticipates a DHS child welfare staff member meeting with incarcerated parents approximately two days per month at DOC's Intake center. Additionally, DOC will pilot a Family Advocate position in one to two men's facilities. Currently, this resource only exists in the Coffee Creek Correctional Facility (CCCCF) women's prison. The Family Advocate position in CCCC has effectively assisted adults in custody by establishing communication and visitation between DHS, inmates and DOC.

The Department also plans to contract with the community-based Children of Incarcerated Parents program to create "toolkits" for DOC staff, DHS staff, men in custody with minor children, the minor children and their caregivers. These toolkits will be designed to help each party meet DHS and DOC requirements and visiting processes. The goal is to communicate and emphasize the benefits to the children in establishing and maintaining contact with their incarcerated parent.

The community-based Children of Incarcerated Parents program will provide mentoring, support groups and other resources for minors participating in the program in Clackamas County with the possibility of expanding to other counties. In concert with these efforts, DOC intends to facilitate peer mentoring inside the men's facilities through incarcerated individuals trained as peer mentors. The Department will also create parenting resource libraries. If successful in this grant application, DOC believes the combination of efforts, as described, would effectively provide men in custody with the necessary resources to positively and effectively meet their parental responsibilities and meet the child's basic needs for a supportive and positive connection with their parent.

No state match is required for this grant and the application deadline is April 15, 2019. The maximum award is \$750,000 with a 36-month period of performance to begin October 1, 2019. The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention does not plan to provide additional funding in future years to awards made under this solicitation. The Department would need to submit a policy package requesting funds or discontinue all or part of the program upon completion of the performance period.



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Oregon Department of Corrections

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March 28, 2019

The Honorable Betsy Johnson, Co-Chair
The Honorable Elizabeth Steiner Hayward, Co-Chair
The Honorable Dan Rayfield, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Ways and Means
900 Court Street, N.E.
H-178 State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301-4048

Dear Co-Chairpersons:

This is a notification letter to request approval to apply for a federal grant for the Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC). DOC respectfully requests the approval to apply for the Second Chance Act Addressing the Needs of Incarcerated Parents and Their Minor Children Program grant.

Source of Grant

U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of Justice Programs (OJP), Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP)

Amount Being Requested

\$750,000

Purpose of the Grant

DOC requests permission to apply for this grant in order to pilot a coordinated Children of Incarcerated Parents (CIP) program to support the CIP Bill of Rights and DOC's work in creating stronger families and reducing recidivism.

DOC and the Department of Human Services (DHS) Child Welfare Division anticipate collaborating on identifying means by which we can better equip incarcerated parents to satisfy DHS requirements. To ensure early identification and communication of open child welfare cases, we anticipate a DHS child welfare staff person spending approximately two days per month at DOC's Intake center to meet with parents entering DOC custody.

In continuation of DHS's presence and coordination at Intake in identifying and communicating open child welfare cases, DOC will pilot a Family Advocate position in one to two men's facilities. The Family Advocate position in our women's institution has proven extremely effective in assisting AICs in establishing mutually beneficial communication and visitation between DHS, AICs, and DOC. Currently, there is no corresponding position for the men in our custody to conduct parenting-needs triage, connect individuals with resources, and identify and coordinate with DHS on upcoming facility special visiting events.

Purpose of the Grant

We also seek to contract with a community-based children of incarcerated parents (CIP) organization to utilize the latest evidence-based best practices in creating “toolkits” for DHS staff, DOC staff, the men in our custody with minor children, and the minor children and their families or caregivers. The toolkits will be designed to assist each party in better understanding and navigating DHS and DOC requirements and visiting processes, and to communicate and stress to guardians the significant benefits to the children in establishing and maintaining contact with their incarcerated parent. We also anticipate working with the community-based CIP organization to provide mentoring, coping strategies, support groups, and other resources for the program participants’ minor children living in Clackamas County, with the possibility of expanding this to include other counties.

Lastly, we intend to facilitate peer mentoring and networking inside our men’s prisons through the creation of parenting resource libraries and AIC clerks trained to be peer mentors.

We believe the on-site presence of DHS, the addition of Family Advocates for men, and the development and use of staff and family toolkits and DOC parenting resources will prove to be an effective combination in providing the men in our custody with the resources they need to positively and effectively meet their parental responsibilities, meet the children’s basic need for a supportive and positive connection with their parent, and more effectively meet DOC’s mission, vision, and core values.

Application Deadline

April 15, 2019

State Match Required for the Grant

None

Impact the match will have on budgeted services and performance measures

No impact to General Fund services and will serve to enhance performance measures related to recidivism and successful re-entry into the community.

Additional FTE the grant will require

We anticipate the addition of two limited-duration positions, 1.5 FTE for the DOC pilot family advocate positions. We also anticipate the development and provision of evidence-based CIP services, toolkits, DOC parenting libraries and peer mentor training, etc., will be covered by CIP contract services.

How the Grant Supports the Agency Mission and Goals

Creating visiting opportunities and providing resources for establishing and maintaining positive family connections during a parent's incarceration is in line with DOC's mission, vision, and values. Building and maintaining positive connections during incarceration also supports DOC's mission to reduce recidivism.

Recent meta-analysis found about a ten-percent (10%) increased risk for antisocial behavior among children with incarcerated parents as compared to children who did not have incarcerated parents¹. Research further indicates that intervening in the lives of incarcerated parents and their minor children to preserve and strengthen positive family connections can result in reduced antisocial behaviors and improved healthy child development, which can reduce the likelihood of intergenerational criminal behavior.^{2 3}

DOC intends to use the grant funds to build a CIP model that can be replicated in other institutions. We are hopeful the grant program data collection and analysis will demonstrate the coordination of DHS and DOC resources and result in an overall cost savings to the state.

This program will assist the DOC in its efforts to support and incorporate the CIP Bill of Rights [SB 241](#) (2017) into its operations. In addition to supporting DOC's mission to promote public safety by holding offenders accountable for their actions and reducing the risk of future criminal behavior. The proposed program supports DOC's vision of Implementing Innovative Business Practices, Preparing Offenders for Re-entry, and Partnering with our Stakeholders, as well as the DOC's core values of Fact-Based Decision Making, Positive Change, and Stewardship.

¹ Turney, K. 2014. Stress proliferation across generations? Examining the relationship between parental incarceration and childhood health. *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 55.302-319.

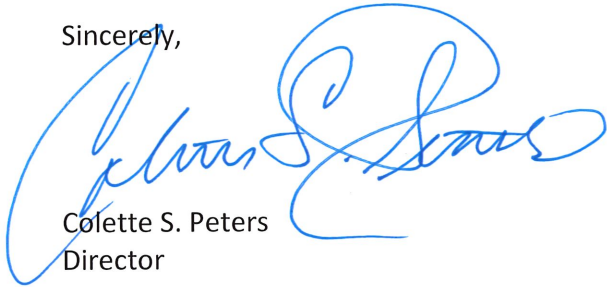
² Jarjoura, G.R. 2016. Mentoring for Children of Incarcerated Parents. National Mentoring Resource Center. <https://nationalmentoringresourcecenter.org/index.php/what-works-in-mentoring/model-and-population-reviews.html?id=127>.

³ Christian, S. 2009. Children of Incarcerated Parents. National Conference of State Legislatures.

The Honorable Senator Betsy Johnson, Co-Chair
The Honorable Senator Elizabeth Steiner Hayward, Co-Chair
The Honorable Representative Dan Rayfield, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Ways and Means
March 28, 2019
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Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Colette S. Peters", is written over the printed name and title.

Colette S. Peters
Director

cc: Ken Rocco, Legislation Fiscal Officer
George Naughton, Chief Financial Officer
Julie Neburka, LFO Senior Legislative Analyst
April McDonald, CFO Policy and Budget Analyst
Heidi Steward, DOC Assistant Director of Correctional Services
Steve Robbins, DOC Chief Financial Officer
Gail Levario, DOC Communications Administrator