

Second Chance Reauthorization Act of 2013: Possible Implications for Adult Education/Adult Literacy — Jeff Carter, February 2014

Signed into law on April 9, 2008, the Second Chance Act (P.L. 110-199) was intended to improve outcomes for people returning to communities after incarceration. It authorizes federal grants to government agencies and nonprofit organizations to provide support strategies and services designed to reduce recidivism. There are two grant programs associated with this legislation, both administered by the Office of Justice Programs in the U.S. Department of Justice: the Bureau of Justice Assistance awards Second Chance Act grants serving adults, and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention awards grants serving youth returning from the juvenile correction facilities.¹

Last November, a bill to reauthorize the Act (S. 1690) was introduced in the Senate by Sen. Portman (R-OH) and Sen. Leahy (D-VT), along with an identical bill in the House (H.R. 3465), introduced by Rep. Sensenbrenner (R-WI) and Rep. Davis (D-IL).

The Second Chance Reauthorization Act of 2013 makes more explicit language regarding the types of transitional services that may be provided by grantees funded under this grant program. It explicitly identifies education and literacy as one of the transitional services that may be provided by grantees. The revised language is in bold below:

| <p align="center">ORIGINAL LANGUAGE Second Chance Act of 2007</p> | <p align="center">CHANGES (in bold) PROPOSED S. 1690/H.R. 3465: Second Chance Reauthorization Act of 2013</p> |
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| <p>211. Mentoring grants to nonprofit organizations</p> <p>(a) Authority to make grants</p> <p>From amounts made available to carry out this section, the Attorney General shall make grants to nonprofit organizations and Indian Tribes for the purpose of providing mentoring and other transitional services essential to reintegrating offenders into the community.</p> <p>(b) Use of funds</p> <p>A grant awarded under subsection (a) may be used for—</p> <p>(1) mentoring adult and juvenile offenders during incarceration, through transition back to the community, and post-release;</p> <p>(2) transitional services to assist in the reintegration of offenders into the community; and</p> <p>(3) training regarding offender and victims issues.</p> <p>(c) Application; priority consideration</p> <p>(1) In general</p> <p>To be eligible to receive a grant under this section, a nonprofit organization or Indian Tribe shall submit an application to the Attorney General at such time, in such manner, and accompanied by such</p> | <p>211. Community-based mentoring and transitional service grants to nonprofit organizations</p> <p>(a) Authority to make grants</p> <p>From amounts made available to carry out this section, the Attorney General shall make grants to nonprofit organizations and Indian Tribes for the purpose of providing mentoring and other transitional services essential to reintegrating offenders into the community.</p> <p>(b) Use of funds</p> <p>A grant awarded under subsection (a) may be used for—</p> <p>(1) mentoring adult and juvenile offenders during incarceration, through transition back to the community, and post-release;</p> <p>(2) transitional services to assist in the reintegration of offenders into the community, including—</p> <p>(A) educational, literacy, and vocational, services and the Transitional Jobs strategy;</p> <p>(B) substance abuse treatment and services;</p> <p>(C) coordinated supervision and comprehensive services for offenders, including housing and mental and physical health care;</p> |

¹ Beginning in 2012, Second Chance Act grant programs began providing priority consideration to agencies that propose a Pay for Success model. For more information on Pay for Success, see: <http://payforsuccess.org/>.

information as the Attorney General may require.

(2) Priority consideration

Priority consideration shall be given to any application under this section that—

(A) includes a plan to implement activities that have been demonstrated effective in facilitating the successful reentry of offenders; and

(B) provides for an independent evaluation that includes, to the maximum extent feasible, random assignment of offenders to program delivery and control groups.

(d) Strategic performance outcomes

The Attorney General shall require each applicant under this section to identify specific performance outcomes related to the long-term goal of stabilizing communities by reducing recidivism (using a measure that is consistent with the research undertaken by the Bureau of Justice Statistics under section 241(b)(6)), and reintegrating offenders into the community.

(e) Reports

An entity that receives a grant under subsection (a) during a fiscal year shall, not later than the last day of the following fiscal year, submit to the Attorney General a report that describes and assesses the uses of that grant during that fiscal year and that identifies the progress of the grantee toward achieving its strategic performance outcomes.

(f) Authorization of appropriations

There are authorized to be appropriated to the Attorney General to carry out this section \$15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2009 and 2010.

(D) family services; and

(E) validated assessment tools to assess the risk factors of returning inmates; and

(3) training regarding offender and victims issues.

(c) Application; priority consideration

(1) In general

To be eligible to receive a grant under this section, a nonprofit organization or Indian Tribe shall submit an application to the Attorney General at such time, in such manner, and accompanied by such information as the Attorney General may require.

(2) Priority consideration

Priority consideration shall be given to any application under this section that—

(A) includes a plan to implement activities that have been demonstrated effective in facilitating the successful reentry of offenders; and

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(d) Strategic performance outcomes

The Attorney General shall require each applicant under this section to identify specific performance outcomes related to the long-term goal of stabilizing communities by reducing recidivism (using a measure that is consistent with the research undertaken by the Bureau of Justice Statistics under section 241(b)(6)), and reintegrating offenders into the community.

(e) Reports

An entity that receives a grant under subsection (a) during a fiscal year shall, not later than the last day of the following fiscal year, submit to the Attorney General a report that describes and assesses the uses of that grant during that fiscal year and that identifies the progress of the grantee toward achieving its strategic performance outcomes.

(f) Authorization of appropriations

There are authorized to be appropriated to the Attorney General to carry out **this section \$15,000,000 for fiscal years 2014 through 2018.**