

BOARD OF
STATE AND
COMMUNITY
CORRECTIONS

 **BSCC**
CALIFORNIA



Adult Reentry Grant Cohort 4

Request for Proposals: Requesting BSCC Board Approval

Summary

BSCC Board Approval for Adult Reentry Grant Cohort 4, as recommended by the Executive Steering Committee. This Request for Proposals will make \$108.3 Million available to eligible community-based organizations to provide warm handoff, reentry and rental assistance (housing) programs that support individuals released from state prison.

Background

- The Adult Reentry Grant (ARG) Program provides funding for Community-Based Organizations to support individuals formerly incarcerated in state prison.
- ARG was established in the 2018 Budget Act (Senate Bill 840, Chapter 29, Statutes of 2018) and receives annual appropriations through the Budget Acts.
- A total of 217 projects have been awarded more than \$221 million in funding since ARG was implemented.

Budget Act of 2023

Assembly Bill 102, Chapter 38,
Statutes of 2023, Appendix A

Budget Act of 2024

Assembly Bill 107, Chapter 22,
Statutes of 2024, Appendix A

- \$54.15 million shall be available for the **warm handoff and reentry** of offenders transitioning from state prison to communities.
- \$54.15 million shall be available for **rental assistance (housing)**.
- Priority shall be given to individuals released to state parole.
- Up to 5 percent (\$5.7 million) shall be available to BSCC for costs to administer the grant programs.

Budget language required BSCC to establish an ESC comprised of members from:

- Relevant state agencies with expertise in public health, housing, and rehabilitation
- Justice impacted individuals
- Community-based organizations focused on reentry.
- BSCC Board Member Jason Johnson served as the Chair

Key Grant Components

Legislative Guidance

- The ARG program must be guided by a Housing First approach as defined in Welfare and Institutions Code sections 8255-8257.2
- Housing First is an approach to serving people experiencing homelessness that recognizes a person must be able to first be able to access a decent, safe place to live.

Key Grant Components

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Eligibility

Only community-based organizations with 501(c)(3) non-profit status that provide direct services to the community are eligible to apply.

Grant Period

- ARG projects will be awarded for a 42-month term, from July 1, 2025, to December 31, 2028.
- The first 3 years July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2028, are for implementation and service delivery.
- The last 6 months July 1, 2028, to December 31, 2028, are for completion of an audit and final evaluation report.

Key Grant Components

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Funding Thresholds

Eligible applicants may apply for a **maximum of \$4,500,000** for the entire grant period. Within that funding threshold, applicants may request up to:

- \$2,250,000 in Warm Handoff/Reentry Services category
- \$2,250,000 in Rental Assistance Category

Eligible Grant Activities

While statutory language authorizing the ARG Program states that funds must be used for Warm Handoff/Reentry services and Rental Assistance (Housing), it does not define those terms or specify the types of services to be funded. The ESC has developed the definitions to help guide prospective applicants.

- A collaborative continuum of care that includes the participant and their support team when services transition from one provider to another.
- Multiple warm handoffs may occur during the course a client's engagement.
- Support services including barrier removal, case management, housing supports, and incentives.

Warm Handoff / Reentry Services

Direct housing costs including rent, vouchers, deposits, landlord incentives, utility payments, household furnishings, and costs required to place and/or maintain a participant in transitional and/or permanent housing.

Rental Assistance (Housing)

Change to the Structure of the Grant

- Historically, BSCC has administered separate RFP processes for the two grant components, Warm Handoff/Reentry and Rental Assistance.
- This ESC determined that the two components should not be treated as separate and distinct projects but should be used for comprehensive services that provide for a continuum of care.
- Therefore, each applicant must propose a program built on a continuum of care model that includes **both** Warm Handoff/Reentry services **and** Rental Assistance (Housing).
- Applicants may request funding from either category or both, depending on the scope of their proposal.

ARG grantees will be required to submit

- Quarterly Progress Reports
- Local Evaluation Plan (six months post-award)
- Final Local Evaluation Report

Reporting Requirements

RFP Activities and Tentative Timeline

Below is a tentative timeline of activities necessary to administer a competitive RFP for the ARG Cohort 4 grant

Activity	Date
RFP Presented for Board Approval	November 21, 2024
Release RFP to the Field	November 22, 2024
Grant Information Session for Prospective Applicants	December 17, 2024
Proposals Due to the BSCC	March 3, 2025
Proposal Rating Process and Development of Funding Recommendations	March - June, 2025
Present Funding Recommendations to Board	June 19, 2025
Grants Begin	July 1, 2025
Grants End	December 31, 2028

Recommendation/Action Needed

Staff Recommends that the Board:

- Approve the release of the Adult Reentry Grant Cohort 4 Request for Proposals as recommended by the Executive Steering Committee.

Questions?