

MEETING DATE: January 17, 2018

AGENDA ITEM: D

TO: BSCC Chair and Members

FROM: Colleen Stoner, Field Representative, colleen.stoner@bscc.ca.gov

SUBJECT: Adult Reentry Grant Program Request for Proposals: **Requesting Approval.**

Summary

This agenda item requests Board approval to release the proposed Request for Proposals (Attachment D-1) for the Adult Reentry Grant Program as recommended by its Executive Steering Committee (Attachment D-2).

Background

The Budget Act of 2018 (Senate Bill 840, Chapter 29, Statute of 2018) established the Adult Reentry Grant Program and appropriated \$50,000,000 in funding (Attachment D-3). Pursuant to SB 840, the Board of State and Community Corrections is required to award competitive grants to community-based organizations (CBOs) to support offenders formerly incarcerated in state prison.

The Adult Reentry Grant Program funds (\$50,000,000) are to be allocated as follows:

- \$25,000,000 for rental assistance;
- \$15,000,000 for the rehabilitation of existing property or buildings for housing offenders released from prison;
- \$9,350,000 to support the “warm hand-off” and reentry of offenders transitioning from prison to communities;
- \$150,000 to support the Berkeley Underground Scholars Initiative; and
- \$500,000 to the BSCC for costs to administer the grant programs and report on program outcomes.

Funds appropriated in this item are available for encumbrance or expenditure until June 30, 2023.

On July 12, 2018, the Board appointed Board Chair Penner and Board Member Tournour as Co-Chairs of the Adult Reentry Grant Program Executive Steering Committee and delegated authority to the Co-Chairs to work with BSCC staff to establish an ESC with relevant subject-matter expertise. Staff posted information on the BSCC website inviting statements of interest from stakeholders and then finalized the ESC membership to include a diverse range of subject matter experts.

The Adult Reentry Grant Program ESC met on October 11, 2018, November 1, 2018 and November 14, 2018 to develop the RFP that is now provided for the Board’s consideration.

With respect to the \$15 million component of the grant to fund rehabilitation of existing property or buildings, BSCC staff researched the numerous policy, legal and programmatic requirements and responsibilities of the BSCC as the state administering agency related to adherence to state housing laws and regulations. BSCC staff and counsel continue to evaluate the requirements and consult with state partner subject-matter experts to determine how best to move forward on the potential responsibilities and compliance issues regarding the development of one of the components of the RFP; rehabilitation of existing property or buildings. This component is therefore not included in the RFP before you today. However, to keep the project moving forward, the ESC completed their work on the development of an RFP for the other two components of the Adult Reentry Grant Program: 1) rental assistance and 2) warm hand-off and reentry.

Key Grant Components

The Adult Reentry Grant Program is subject to the provisions in Welfare and Institutions Code § 8255-8257, which requires a state agency that funds, implements, or administers a state program that provides housing or housing-related services to people experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness, to revise or adopt guidelines and regulations that incorporate the core components Housing First (Attachment D-4).

Housing First is an evidence-based model that uses housing as a tool, rather than a reward, for recovery and that centers on providing or connecting homeless people to permanent housing as quickly as possible. Housing First providers offer services as needed and requested on a voluntary basis and do not make housing contingent on participation in services.

Grantees that provide housing related services funded by the Adult Reentry Grant Program will be expected to implement a Housing First model to the extent that it applies to the specific services they offer.

The ESC has developed an RFP that is divided into two sub-applications and applicants may submit a separate sub-proposal for one or both of the following:

Sub-Application	Eligible Applicants May Request	Total ARG Program Funds Allocated to this Category
Rental Assistance	Up to \$3 million for entire 42-month grant period.	\$25 million
Warm Hand-off Reentry	Up to \$500,000 entire 42-month grant period.	\$9.3 million

The statutory language authorizing the Adult Reentry Grant Program does not specify the types of rental assistance and warm hand-off reentry services to be funded. The ESC has placed a priority on services that provide critical-time intervention and that meet the immediate needs of individuals upon their release from prison or from residential treatment if placed there by parole. Below are some examples of eligible activities and services that could be provided by a sub-applicant.

Examples of Eligible Rental Assistance Services	Examples of Eligible Warm Hand-off Reentry Services
<p>Including but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short-term emergency housing assistance • Landlord incentives • Permanent supportive housing • Rent subsidies • Transitional housing • Stipends to families willing to house target population • Vouchers • Move in costs • Credit repair 	<p>Including but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reach-in services • Case management services • Transportation • Food • Emergency services • Employment/vocational • Social services • Behavioral health care • Mentors • Transitional services • System navigation

The ESC has established that eligible CBO applicants are those organizations that are located in the State of California and have 501(c)(3) status (i.e., non-profit).

RFP Activities and Tentative Timeline

Below is a tentative timeline of activities necessary to administer a competitive RFP for the Adult Reentry Grant Program excluding the rehabilitation component.

Activity	Date
RFP Presented for Board Approval	January 17, 2019
Release Request for Proposals	January 18, 2019
Bidder's Conferences	February 6, 2019
Proposals Due to the BSCC (9 weeks)	March 25, 2019
Proposal Rating Process and Development of Funding Recommendations	April-June 2019
Present Funding Recommendations to Board	July 11, 2019
Grants Begin	August 1, 2019

Recommendation/Action Needed

Staff recommends that the Board:

- Approve and release the Adult Reentry Grant Program RFP as recommended by the ESC.

Attachments

D-1: Adult Reentry Grant Program Request for Proposals

D-2: Executive Steering Committee Roster

D-3: Senate Bill 840

D-4: Welfare and Institutions Code § 8255-8257