

**MEETING DATE:** September 8, 2022 **AGENDA ITEM:** G

**TO:** BSCC Chair and Members

**FROM:** Tanya Thompson, Field Representative, [tanya.thompson@bscc.ca.gov](mailto:tanya.thompson@bscc.ca.gov)

**SUBJECT:** Adult Reentry Grant (ARG) Program, Rental Assistance and Warm Handoff Cohort III Funding Recommendations: **Requesting Approval**

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### Summary

This agenda item requests Board approval of the Adult Reentry Grant Program awards as recommended by the Executive Scoring Committee (Attachment G-1). If the proposed list of award recommendations is approved, a total of 103 community-based organizations will be funded. Twenty-Three community-based organizations will be eligible to receive \$58,900,000 for Rental Assistance, and 80 community-based organizations will be eligible to receive \$56,615,557 for Warm Handoff and Reentry Services. Proposals selected for funding will be under agreement from October 1, 2022, through April 30, 2026. A list of applicants recommended for funding is provided in Attachment G-2 and corresponding proposal summaries are provided in Attachment G-3.

### Background

The Adult Reentry Grant (ARG) Program was established in the Budget Act of 2018 (Senate Bill 840, Chapter 29, Statutes of 2018) (Attachment G-4) and has received additional funding annually to provide funding for rental assistance and to support the warm handoff and reentry of people transitioning from state prisons to their communities. The BSCC has administered the ARG Program without interruption since its establishment.

The Budget Act of 2021 (Assembly Bill 128, Chapter 21, Statutes of 2021) appropriated \$67 million to the BSCC to administer the ARG program (Attachment G-5). This includes \$37 million in ongoing funding and a one-time increase of \$30 million. The \$67 million will be equally split between Rental Assistance and Warm Handoff and Reentry Services as prescribed by the Budget Act of 2021, with the BSCC retaining a portion of the award for administrative costs not to exceed five percent as follows:

- \$31,825,000 for Rental Assistance;
- \$31,825,000 for Warm Handoff and Reentry; and
- \$3,350,000 to the BSCC for costs to administer the grant

On July 15, 2021, Board Member Kelly Vernon was appointed as the Executive Steering Committee Chair. On February 10, 2022 the Board approved the release of the Request for Proposal with a proposal due date of April 8, 2022 (Attachment G-6). The RFP made \$63,650,000 available competitively to CBOs that proposed rental assistance and warm handoff and reentry services for people formerly incarcerated in state prison.

The BSCC received 163 proposals requesting approximately \$218 million in funding. After a technical review, 139 proposals met all submission criteria and were provided to the ESC for funding consideration. On June 13-14, 2022, BSCC staff trained the ESC on the proposal reading and rating process established in the RFP. Once all ESC scores were submitted, BSCC staff generated a ranked list of all proposals that were considered for funding.

During the grant development process, the Budget Act of 2022 (Senate Bill 154, Chapter 43, Statutes of 2022) was enacted, which appropriated an additional \$57 million to the ARG Program (Attachment G-7). The additional funding was split between Rental Assistance and Warm Handoff and Reentry Services with up to 5% available for administrative costs as shown below:

- \$27,075,000 for Rental Assistance;
- \$27,075,000 for Warm Handoff Reentry; and
- \$2,850,000 to the BSCC for costs to administer the grant

To meet the timely reentry needs of ARG participants, staff recommends that the Board allocate the additional funding appropriated in the Budget Act of 2022 in a ranked order to the Rental Assistance and Warm Handoff and Reentry proposals that met the eligibility and minimum score criteria established in the RFP.

As part of the 2022 Budget Act, Senate Bill 197 (Chapter 70, Statutes of 2022) amended state law to require that the BSCC, effective July 1, 2022, implement the core components of Housing First without allowing for exceptions for recovery housing programs, which had been allowed under prior iterations of the ARG program. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 8256, subd. (e).) (Attachment G-8). This change in law occurred after the ARG RFP was released and proposals were submitted and scored. Staff will inform ARG conditional awardees of this change in law and offer impacted grantees an opportunity to modify their proposals' scopes and/or budgets to comply with the new law.

### **Recommendation/Action Needed**

On behalf of the Adult Reentry Grant Program ESC, staff recommends the Board take the following actions:

1. Fully fund 22 Rental Assistance proposals totaling \$58,645,465;
2. Partially fund 1 Rental Assistance proposal for \$254,535 because it fell at the funding cut-off point in the Rental Assistance ranked order list;
3. Fully fund 80 Warm Handoff and Reentry proposals totaling \$56,615,557;
4. Authorize staff to continue to make awards from the rank-ordered list if any applicant is unable to accept the award or relinquishes an award, first by offering to any partial awardee and then to the next highest-ranked application(s); and
5. Authorize staff to continue to make awards from the rank-ordered list if staff determine during the follow-up award-making process that an applicant recommended for

funding is ineligible, if a grantee becomes ineligible during the grant cycle, or if the grant award is relinquished during the grant cycle.

6. Dissolve the Adult Reentry Grant Executive Steering Committee upon approval of the funding recommendations.

### **Attachments**

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- G-1: Adult Reentry Grant Executive Scoring Committee Roster
- G-2: Adult Reentry Grant Proposals Recommended for Funding
- G-3: Adult Reentry Grant Proposal Summaries
- G-4 Budget Act of 2018 (Senate Bill 840)
- G-5 Budget Act of 2021 (Assembly Bill 128)
- G-6: Adult Reentry Grant Request for Proposals
- G-7: Budget Act of 2022 (Senate Bill 154)
- G-8: Welf. & Inst. Code, § 8256