



Coordinating Council on Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention Report

MISSION

The U.S. Department of Labor's (DOL) Reentry Employment Opportunities (REO) Program, formerly RExO, continues to provide critical and focused funding for reentry. In support of positive youth development, the Department's mission is to inform and provide the public workforce system with strategies that best support youth/young adult programs serving individuals ranging from 14 to 24 years of age who have been involved in the juvenile or adult justice systems. Funded adult reentry programs focus on service to individuals 18 years and older who have



been convicted as an adult, imprisoned and are within 180 days of being released from supervision. These projects are designed to test the long-term effectiveness of models and practices found in local and state government systems as well as in community and faith-based environments. Through rigorous examination, the Department of Labor is committed to developing strategies and partnerships that will facilitate the implementation of successful programs at state and local levels that in turn will improve the workforce outcomes for this targeted population.

[What is an example of a significant program that has been implemented in coordination and collaboration with other Federal agencies?](#)

CLEARINGHOUSE DEVELOPMENT STEPS

DOL, in collaboration with the Department of Justice (DOJ), are developing a National Clean Slate Clearinghouse (NCSC) to provide online information and resources for the mitigation of criminal records.

The contract to develop this portal was competitively awarded to the Council of State Government Justice Center. Over the course of the next year, the Justice Center will:

- Convene a Technical Work Group (TWG)
- Gather content, launch and set-up hosting for the portal, develop a national website that provides, state-by-state information on sealing, expungement, and other related legal services that lessen the negative impact of having juvenile and criminal records
- Develop tools and provide technical assistance resources to reentry service providers.
- Develop additional services to assist legal aid organizations in uncovering more information about how to use and expand access to sealing, expungement, and other legal services via reentry mitigation workshops, legal aid conferences/forums

[What initial steps has the Department taken to sustain this program and the coordination and collaboration with partnering agencies?](#)

HOW

The partnership team recognizes the need for a holistic approach to record mitigation as well as effective wrap around strategies as a precursor to successful reentry. The team recognizes the need to diminish the lifelong economic and social consequences associated with having a juvenile or criminal record.

WHEN

DOL and DOJ have jointly funded the Clearinghouse under a contract that is expected to cover a period of up to three years. The first year is expected to include all necessary planning, implementation and start-up activities. In years two and three, the Justice Center will be expected to provide ongoing website maintenance and resource development as directed by DOL/DOJ staff.

DOL has developed many innovative approaches to sustain relationships with other federal agencies. Below is a brief summary of those innovations:

DOL was one of the early members of the Federal Interagency Reentry Council (FIRC), a White House initiative comprised of more than 20 federal agencies that have been working together since 2011. The FIRC focuses on reducing recidivism and improving outcomes for justice-involved individuals related to employment, education, housing, health, and child welfare this partnership has paved the way to greater success and impact at all levels of service to the targeted population. The Council was recognized in a 2014 GAO report as one of four model interagency collaborations. On April 29, 2016, President Obama issued a Presidential Memorandum that formally established the Reentry Council to help ensure the Federal government continues this important work. This strategic collaborative is proof that more federal programs can partner across agencies to impact our youth, families and communities at large.

Just to name a few of DOL collaborative efforts through the FIRC, DOL has:

- Collaborated with DOJ to develop the Face Forward Youth Reentry grants which mandate grantees provide expungement services and/or serve as a diversion program;
- Worked with the Bureau of Prisons (BOP) to design the Training to Work (T2W) grants that serve formerly incarcerated adults in work release centers;
- Allowed REO grantees to attend DOJ Second Chance Act conference for training;
- Collaborated with the Small Business Administration to roll-out the microloan lenders program to REO grantees; and
- The development of the National Clean Slate Clearinghouse.

Are there strategies or approaches that you would recommend to other Federal agencies?

Collaboration and partnerships are key to the success of programs that serve the reentry population. No agency can do this work alone. We must break down silos and come out of our comfort zones to develop new and innovative ways to serve this population.