

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security
Office of Grants and Research**



**State Fiscal Year 2025
Emerging Adult Reentry Initiative**

Report to the Massachusetts General Court
Senate and House Committees on Ways and Means

September 2025

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Introduction

Legislation – 8000-0655

The Office of Grants and Research (OGR) is pleased to submit this report on the FY25 Emerging Adult Reentry Initiative to the House and Senate Committees on Ways and Means.

OGR is a state agency that is part of the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS). EOPSS is responsible for the policy development and budget oversight of the secretariat's agencies, independent programs, and several boards which aid in crime prevention, homeland security preparedness, and ensuring the safety of residents and visitors in the Commonwealth. The agencies that fall under EOPSS are:

- Massachusetts State Police
- Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency
- Sex Offender Registry Board
- Department of Fire Services
- Department of Criminal Justice Information Services
- Department of Correction
- Parole Board
- Office of the Chief Medical Examiner
- State 911 Department
- Massachusetts State Police Crime Lab
- Municipal Police Training Committee
- Massachusetts National Guard
- Office of Grants and Research
- Massachusetts Public Safety Broadband Office

In addition to managing and administering state-funded criminal justice, homeland security, and traffic safety grant programs, OGR is the State Administering Agency (SAA) for federal grant funding received by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts from the Department of Justice (DOJ), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). In total, the agency manages more than \$279 million in grant funds annually. Additionally, OGR's Research and Policy Analysis Division (RPAD), which houses the Massachusetts Statistical Analysis Center, utilizes research and evaluation to promote public safety in the Commonwealth by informing criminal justice and public safety policy. The goals of the OGR include:

- Improving community safety and local preparedness by providing resources to communities based on need;
- Investing in evidenced based innovative programs;
- Granting awards based on national and state priorities;
- Fostering collaboration across jurisdictions by delivering grant dollars with a regional approach;
- Making funding decisions based upon research, empirical data, and best practices; and

- Ensuring the grant awarding process is transparent and in compliance with federal and state guidelines.

This document serves as the report authored by OGR regarding the FY25 Emerging Adult Reentry Initiative.

Program Overview

Pursuant to Fiscal Year 2025 General Appropriation Act, Chapter 140 of the Acts of 2024, OGR released an Availability of Grant Funds (AGF) inviting eligible nonprofits to apply for funding to deliver reentry services to individuals aged 18 to 25 who are returning to the community from incarceration. The relevant appropriation language states:

8000-0655 For a grant program to be administered by the executive office of public safety and security for emerging adults re-entry programs to reduce recidivism among individuals between the ages of 18 and 25, inclusive, who are returning to the community from state prisons and county correctional facilities; provided, that the secretary of public safety and security shall distribute funds through a competitive grant program; provided further, that grants shall be awarded to applicants that: (i) are community-based nonprofit programs; (ii) have a demonstrated commitment from the department of correction or a sheriff's office to work collaboratively to deliver services in their respective facilities; (iii) provide both pre-release and post-release services to individuals between the ages of 18 and 25, inclusive, who are returning to the community from state prisons and county correctional facilities including, but not limited to, probationers and parolees; (iv) provide a continuum of programming from state prisons or county correctional facilities into the community; (v) provide pre-release services for all participating individuals that include transition plans, education programs, workforce readiness and life skills programs and counseling; (vi) provide post-release services that include case management for not less than 12 months after participating individuals have been released; and (vii) provide a plan for ensuring that proposed programs shall be implemented with adherence to a research-based, evidence-based or evidence-informed program design; provided further, that not more than 6 grants shall be awarded; provided further, that not more than 7.5 per cent of the total appropriation in this item shall be used to provide administrative support and training to grantees, including program design, technical assistance and program evaluation, and to provide training and technical assistance to any other organization or institution working on emerging adult justice initiatives; provided further, that contracts for grantees may be awarded for periods of not more than 5 years grantee; and provided further, that not later than March 3, 2025, the executive office shall submit a report to the house and senate committees on ways and means that shall include, but not be limited to, the: (a) successful grant applications and the services they provide; (b) amount of funds awarded to each grant recipient; (c) criteria used to evaluate grant applications; (d) number of participants served by each program and the communities they are returning to; and (e) outcomes and recidivism rates of the participants in each of the programs, prior appropriation continued

The funded initiative incorporates two competitive grant programs – the Emerging Adult Reentry Initiative and the Emerging Adult Reentry Initiative Technical Assistance Provider. A separate, competitive application process was held for each grant program.

The program provides funds to support six nonprofit program sites as they deliver pre-and post-release services to eligible individuals. Each nonprofit works closely with the Massachusetts Department of Correction or a Massachusetts Sheriff's Office to identify and serve program participants. The Technical Assistance Provider assists each program site by providing strategic, analytic, technical, and research support.

New legislative language permits recipients of this grant to contract for a period of up to five years.

Applicant Eligibility

To be eligible for funding through the Emerging Adult Reentry Initiative, an applicant must be a 501(c)(3) organization working in collaboration with the DOC or a Massachusetts Sheriff's Office. Nonprofit research entities with subject matter expertise in community-based reentry services are eligible to apply to be the Technical Assistance Provider.

Preference was given to previous awardees that demonstrated specific evidence of programmatic success.

Allowable Funding Purposes

Funds were distributed for the allowable purposes of delivering research/evidence-based pre- and post-release services to individuals between ages 18 and 25 who are returning to a Massachusetts community from incarceration. Pre-release services include transition plans, education programs, workforce readiness and life skills programs, and counseling. Post-release services must include case management for not less than 12 months after participating individuals have been released.

Allowable Costs

Allowable costs fall into the following categories:

- Personnel costs
- Employer share of fringe benefit costs
- Consultants/Contract costs (not to exceed \$650 for an eight-hour day or \$81.25 per hour without prior written approval by OGR)
- Technology/Equipment
- Travel costs directly related to the purpose of the grant
- Supplies required for the program
- Administrative costs up to 7.5 percent of the total award
- Indirect costs

Application Process

Competitive application processes for the Emerging Adult Reentry Program and the Emerging Adult Reentry Program Technical Assistance Provider were held according to the following schedule:

Availability of Grant Funds (AGF) Posted: September 16, 2024

Deadline for Questions: September 27, 2024

Application Due: October 11, 2024

Award Notification: December 2024

Performance Period: January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025

OGR received eleven (11) applications for the FY25 Emerging Adult Reentry Initiative and one (1) application for the FY25 Emerging Adult Reentry Initiative Technical Assistance Provider.

Review Process

Each application was reviewed by three members of the review committee. In the application review meeting, the review team discussed the quality, feasibility, and reasonableness of each application's: (1) definition of problem, (2) proposed strategy, and (3) budget. The review form provided to reviewers detailed items to be rated and the possible point allowance for each element.

Recommendations provided by the review team were then cross-referenced with funding criteria listed within the FY25 Emerging Adult Reentry Initiative Availability of Grant Funds (AGF). These criteria included:

- Relevancy of applicant qualifications and experience.
- Justification of the partnership and collaboration
- Consistency between the proposed budget and strategy
- Justification for participant eligibility
- Preference given to previous applicants who demonstrated specific evidence of programmatic success

Awarded Funds

The following table reflects all applications received and awards distributed.

Award Recipient	Amount Requested	Award Amount	Correctional Partner
Action for Boston Community Development, Inc.	\$650,000.00	\$650,000.00	Suffolk County Sheriff's Department
Roca, Inc.	\$2,395,731.26	\$1,609,000.00	DOC, Essex County Sheriff's Department, Hampden County Sheriff's Office, Suffolk County Sheriff's Department, Massachusetts Probation
UTEC	\$1,979,114.63	\$1,200,000.00	DOC, Middlesex Sheriff's Office, Essex County Sheriff's Department

Award Recipient	Amount Requested	Award Amount	Correctional Partner
The Mission Inc.	\$2,000,000.00	\$1,300,000.00	Hampden County Sheriff's Office
Uncornered, Inc	\$819,359.28	\$691,000.00	Plymouth County Sheriff's Office
Legendary Legacies, Inc.	\$999,586.60	\$500,000.00	Worcester County Sheriff's Office
BHA / Charlestown Adult Education, Workforce, and Reentry	\$198,480	Not Funded	---
The Center for Teen Empowerment	\$135,866.82	Not Funded	---
New Beginnings Reentry Services	\$540,492.48	Not Funded	---
Out for Good Behavioral Services	\$89,100	Not Funded	---
Urban Impact Initiative Massachusetts	\$989,080	Not Funded	---
Technical Assistance Provider: UTEC Training Center for Excellence	\$525,000.00	\$525,000.00	All Program Sites
Total	\$10,322,224.47	\$6,475,000	All Program Sites & Technical Assistance Provider

Legendary Legacies, Inc., received an award through this program for the first time in FY25. The remaining five awardees and Technical Assistance Provider were repeat recipients. The total funding awarded through the grant program in FY25 was equal to the amount awarded the previous year.

Disbursement

Once a contract was executed, 100 percent of funds were made available to grant recipients. Recipients who did not expend their full FY24 award were required to revert funds to OGR prior to the release of FY25 funds.

In accordance with appropriation language, no more than 7.5 percent of total awards was set aside for administrative costs. A total of \$525,000 was initially set aside for OGR administration but subsequently reduced to \$455,000.

Contracting

In December 2024, each grant recipient was sent contracting materials. These materials included a Standard Contract, Contractor Authorization Signature Listing Form, OGR Subrecipient Grant Conditions, and additional materials.

In January 2025, each grant recipient was sent a copy of its executed Standard Contract, its formal notification to begin incurring costs.

APPENDIX A: FY24 EMERGING ADULT REENTRY REPORT

Note: The following report was compiled by the Technical Assistance Provider, UTEC's TC4E, regarding the number of participants served, the communities that participants are returning to, and the outcomes/recidivism rates of the participants as a result of the FY24 Emerging Adult Reentry Initiative.