

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



**State Fiscal Year 2026
Emerging Adult Reentry Initiative**

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

June 2026

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Introduction

Legislation – 8000-0655

The Office of Grants and Research (OGR) is pleased to submit this report on the FY26 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

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 FY26 Emerging Adult Reentry Initiative.

Program Overview

Pursuant to Fiscal Year 2026 General Appropriation Act, Chapter 9 of the Acts of 2025, 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, as well as eligible nonprofits to serve as a Technical Assistance Provider supporting grant funded program sites. 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 with options for additional renewal periods; provided further, that not later than March 3, 2026, 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.

Applicant Eligibility

Per legislative language, eligibility for the FY26 Emerging Adulthood Reentry Initiative (EARI) was limited to those nonprofits that received funding through the FY25 EARI.

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. All projects funded in FY26 were continuations of programming funded through the FY25 EARI.

Allowable Costs

Allowable costs fell 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

As this was a noncompetitive application process, only nonprofits that received awards through the FY25 EARI were invited to apply. The application process for the FY26 EARI and FY26 EARI Technical Assistance Provider programs were held according to the following schedule:

Availability of Grant Funds (AGF) Posted: October 20, 2025

Application Due: November 17, 2025

Award Notification: December 2025

Tentative Performance Period: January 1, 2026 – December 31, 2026

OGR received applications from the six nonprofits eligible to receive EARI funding and the one nonprofit eligible to serve as the Technical Assistance Provider. No other applications were received.

Review Process

Each application was reviewed by three members of the review committee. Applications were assessed for completeness, clarity, and reasonableness of all required components. The review form provided to reviewers detailed items to be rated and the possible point allowance for each element.

Awarded Funds

The following table reflects all applications received and awards distributed. Each applicant was awarded the full amount requested, which was equal to their FY25 awards. Awards totaled \$6,475,000.

Award Recipients	Program Partners	Award
Action for Boston Community Development, Inc.	Suffolk County Sheriff's Department	\$650,000
Legendary Legacies, Inc.	Worcester County Sheriff's Office	\$500,000
Roca, Inc.	Department of Correction, Essex County Sheriff's Department, Hampden County Sheriff's Office, Suffolk County Sheriff's Department, Probation Service	\$1,609,000
The Mission Inc.	Hampden County Sheriff's Office	\$1,300,000
Uncornered, Inc	Plymouth County Sheriff's Office	\$691,000
UTEC	Department of Correction, Middlesex Sheriff's Office, Essex County Sheriff's Department	\$1,200,000
Technical Assistance Provider: UTEC Training Center for Excellence	All funded programs	\$525,000

Contracting

In December 2025, each grant recipient was sent a link to access required contracting materials. These materials included a Standard Contract, Contractor Authorization Signature Listing Form, OGR Subrecipient Grant Conditions, and additional materials.

In January 2026, each grant recipient was sent a copy of its executed Standard Contract, its formal notification to begin incurring costs.

Disbursement

Once a contract was executed, 100 percent of funds were made available to grant recipients. Recipients who did not expend their full FY25 award were required to revert funds to OGR prior to the release of FY26 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.