

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



**State Fiscal Year 2024  
Emerging Adults Reentry Initiative Grant  
& Technical Assistance Provider Grant**

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

**August 2024**

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## Introduction

Pursuant to Line Item 8000-0655 of the FY24 Budget, the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS) submits this report on the FY24 Emerging Adults Reentry Initiative Grant to the House and Senate Committees on Ways and Means.

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

The Office of Grants and Research (OGR) is the agency under EOPSS that serves as the State Administering Agency (SAA) for federal criminal justice, homeland security, and highway safety funds. Additionally, OGR manages the Research and Policy Analysis Division (RPAD), which 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 FY2023 Emerging Adults Reentry Initiative Grant. Additionally, the attached Appendix A was compiled and submitted by the FY22 Technical Assistance (TA) Provider UTEC's Training Center for Excellence (TC4E).

In this report, OGR outlines the:

- Successful grant applications and the services they provide;
- Amount of funds awarded to each grantee;
- Criteria used to evaluate grant applications;
- Number of participants served by each program and the communities they are returning to; and
- The outcomes and recidivism rates of the participants in each of the programs.

### **Program Overview**

With the goal of reducing recidivism and increasing public safety for pre- and post-release offenders currently within and/or outside the prison walls, OGR allocated \$6,475,000 in funds for reentry programming. This initiative is being supported by state funds authorized in the Fiscal Year 2024 General Appropriation Act, Chapter 126 of the Acts of 2022. The legislative language is quoted below:

#### ***State Legislation governing these funds-Fiscal Year 2023 General Appropriation Act, Chapter 126 of the Acts of 2022***

*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 7 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 to grantees, including program design, technical assistance and program evaluation; provided further, that contracts for grantees may be awarded for periods of not more than 5 years; and provided further, that not later than March 1, 2024, 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 grantee; (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.....*

Funding was provided to nonprofit organizations with the proven experience providing reentry services shown to reduce recidivism amongst the 18-25 years of age cohort and demonstrated history of working collaboratively with the MA Department of Correction (DOC) and/or Sheriffs' offices serving that population.

OGR awarded funds to six (6) community reentry programs to provide pre-release and post-release services while working closely with a correctional partner to identify, serve, and monitor program participants. OGR also selected one (1) Technical Assistance Provider through this competitive process to assist the funded community reentry sites by providing strategic, analytical, technical, and research support.

### Competitive Application and Review Process

OGR awarded the appropriated funds through a competitive grant process, according to the following timeline:

AGF Posted	September 19, 2023
Deadline for Questions	October 2, 2023
Application Due	Friday, October 18, 2023 @ 4:00 p.m.
Award Notification	January 2024
Performance Period	January 1, 2024 - December 31, 2024

Each applicant was required to submit the following documentation:

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the applicant and the DOC or local Sheriff's department validating the applicant's previous collaborative relationship and attesting to such future collaboration as it relates to the submitted application;

Within the application itself, OGR required the following:

- **Program Narrative**
  - Statement of the Problem/Needs Assessment;
- **Program Description**
  - Scope of the program and how it will address the problem or need;
- **Program Goals and Objectives, Activities, Timeline, and Performance Measures**
  - Goals – Broad statements that describe the program's intentions and desired outcomes;
  - Objectives – Describe the activities that support the program's goal(s) as outlined;
  - Activities and Timeline – represent the programmatic activities to be carried out within the proposed program period; and
  - Performance Measures – are the means by which the applicant plans on collecting data and measuring their program's progress. (The purpose of developing performance measures is to determine the extent to which the program's funded activities have achieved the program's goals.)
- **Budget Detail**
  - Details the description and justification of the funds necessary to implement the proposed program and achieve its goals and objectives over a 12-month period.

OGR determined award amounts based on total amount requested, availability of funds, applicants' compliance with the application process, and review and approval of proposed projects and

requested budgets. OGR subjected applications to a competitive review process in tandem with the respective Emerging Adults Reentry Initiative Technical Assistance Provider applications. Each application was evaluated based on the following:

- **Relevancy of applicant qualifications and experience**
  - The applicant's demonstrated knowledge and past professional experience providing strategic, analytic, technical and research support relevant to providing reentry services shown to reduce recidivism amongst the 18-25 years of age population to determine the applicant's capacity to support the Emerging Adults Reentry Initiative.
- **Quality of action research**
  - The applicant's demonstrated ability to present qualitative and quantitative data was used to determine the applicant's ability to inform the Emerging Adults Reentry Initiative stakeholders of the emerging trends and program effectiveness.
- **Justification of the partnership and collaboration**
  - Evidence of existing or proposed partnerships between the applicant and community reentry programs was used to determine if the proposed partnership will result in productive and effective efforts that help reduce recidivism amongst the 18-25 years of age population. Additionally, the applicant's ability to adequately allocate resources for reporting assistance was taken into consideration.
- **Consistency between the proposed budget and strategy**
  - The proposed budget was evaluated to ensure that the approved cost categories would ensure proper implementation and maximum effectiveness of the proposed strategy.

OGR numerically assessed and scored the applications according to the point system below.

- Project Narrative including statement of the problem, needs assessment, applicant experience and agency capacity, strength of partnership with DOC and/or selected Sheriff's office, and program description: 30 points
- Realistic, thorough, and achievable goals, objectives, timelines, and activities: 15 points
- Description of proposed performance measures and data collection methods used for quarterly reporting of progress and performance metrics: 15 points
- Reasonable and cost-effective budget demonstrating allowable costs, compliance with state rules, and direct support of proposed strategy/activities: 30 points
- Submission Procedures (adherence to rules and guidelines for submitting this grant such as blue ink signatures, submitting required attachments, not exceeding page limits, completed Applicant Information and Program Information sections, etc.): 10 points

### **Awarded Funds**

OGR received a total of sixteen (16) applicants. Seven (7) applicants were recommended to receive funding through the FY24 Emerging Adult Reentry Initiative Grant.

Grant Recipient	Award	Project Description
Action of Boston Community Development, Inc.	\$691,666.67	<p><i>Number of Participants:</i> 80 young adults over the course of the grant periods based on current recruitment trends. Increased staffing would allow them to expand caseloads.</p> <p><i>Area(s) serviced:</i> Middlesex County, Suffolk County</p> <p><i>Description:</i> Action for Boston Community Development, Inc. provides workforce development and job training through their BRIDGES Returning Citizens Center within the MassHire Metro North Career Center.</p>
Roca – Hampden County	\$1,141,666.67	<p><i>Number of participants:</i> ~75-100 men per month over the course of the grant period for pre-release service as well as ~50-60 men “at any given time” for post-release services.</p> <p><i>Area(s) serviced:</i> Hampden County (Springfield and Holyoke)</p> <p><i>Description:</i> The Hampden County Emerging Adult Reentry Initiative (HC-EARI) is designed to serve the highest-risk emerging adults, those who engage in violence and substance use and those most likely to recidivate.</p>
Roca – Suffolk County	\$1,141,666.66	<p><i>Number of participants:</i> ~75-100 men per month over the course of the grant period for pre-release service as well as ~50-60 men “at any given time” for post-release services.</p> <p><i>Area(s) serviced:</i> Suffolk County (Boston and Chelsea)</p> <p><i>Description:</i> The Suffolk County Emerging Adult Reentry Initiative (SC-EARI) is designed to serve the highest-risk emerging adults, those who engage in violence and substance use and those most likely to recidivate.</p>
The Mission Inc.	\$1,141,666.66	<p><i>Number of participants:</i> ~50 low, medium, and high-risk individuals convicted as adults, as well as house ~12 individuals.</p> <p><i>Area(s) serviced:</i> Hampden County (Agawam, Blandford, Brimfield, Chester, Chicopee, East Longmeadow, Granville, Hampden, Holland, Holyoke, Longmeadow, Ludlow, Monson, Montgomery, Palmer, Russel, Southwick, Springfield, Tolland, West Springfield, Wales, Westfield, and Wilbraham.)</p> <p><i>Description:</i> This project will focus on the Elijah’s House Program, a reentry program designed to assist prior offenders with employment; improve attitudes and beliefs about crime; address substance use and mental health issues; address/prevent gang involvement; assist health and housing, provide mentoring, educational opportunities and job training, and connect participants with community resources. Elijah’s House will serve males released from the Hampden County Correctional Facility, the After-Incarceration Support Services (AISS), and the Sheriff Department’s MAGIC (Meaningful Accomplishments Gain Increased Character) Unit program.</p>

Uncornered, Inc.	\$691,666.67	<p><i>Number of participants:</i> ~15 participants who are currently incarcerated at the Plymouth County HOC.</p> <p><i>Area(s) serviced:</i> Plymouth County (Brockton)</p> <p><i>Description:</i> This project will provide intensive mentorship and case management from College Readiness Advisors (CRAs) who have lived experience, along with defined educational and career pathways, financial support, and mental health services to better position individuals for opportunity upon reentry. In partnership with the Plymouth County Sheriff's Department, pre-release and post-release services will be provided to youth, 18-25 years old, in the Brockton area.</p>
UTEC - DOC	\$1,141,666.66	<p><i>Number of participants:</i> ~ 30-40 young adults over the course of the year who are incarcerated in DOC facilities or recently released (based on numbers served over past year)</p> <p><i>Area(s) serviced:</i> Merrimack Valley (Lowell, Lawrence, and Haverhill)</p> <p><i>Description:</i> This project is designed to strengthen UTEC's programming from confinement to the community, including counseling, educational, life skills, and workforce development activities within a developmentally appropriate setting. The target population will be high-risk, emerging adults who have been incarcerated at the DOC (MCI Concord) and are returning to the <i>Merrimack Valley area</i>.</p>
Gandara Mental Health Center	--	<i>Not Selected for Funding</i>
Legendary Legacies	--	<i>Not Selected for Funding</i>
Massachusetts Scholars With A Goal (MA SWAG)	--	<i>Not Selected for Funding</i>
Out for Good Behavioral Services, Inc.	--	<i>Not Selected for Funding</i>
Roca – Middlesex & Essex County	--	<i>Not Selected for Funding</i>
Second Street Second Chance, Inc.	--	<i>Not Selected for Funding</i>
Troubled Waters, Inc.	--	<i>Not Selected for Funding</i>
UTEC – Middlesex	--	<i>Not Selected for Funding</i>
UTEC- Essex	--	<i>Not Selected for Funding</i>

<b>Technical Assistance Provider</b>	<b>Award</b>	<b>Project Description</b>
UTEC – Training Center for Excellence (TC4E)	\$525,000.00	<i>Description:</i> UTEC’s TC4E will serve as the single point of contact for the technical assistance and management of the reentry grant for all six (6) of the Emerging Adults Reentry Initiative grantees. UTEC, in partnership with Health Resources in Action and other collaborators, will provide evaluation tools, including support for data entry, collection, and analysis.

**APPENDIX A: FY23 EMERGING ADULT REENTRY REPORT**

*Note:* The following report was compiled by the Technical Assistance (TA) 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 FY23 Emerging Adult Reentry Initiative.