

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)

Reentry Employment Opportunities (REO)

REO Appropriation by Program Year:

| | |
|---------|---------------|
| PY 2026 | \$110,000,000 |
| PY 2025 | \$115,000,000 |
| PY 2024 | \$115,000,000 |
| PY 2023 | \$115,000,000 |

REO is authorized under the Evaluations and Research authority in section 169 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014 (WIOA) and tests the effectiveness of service delivery models found in community, faith-based organizations, and government systems for their adaptability in assisting the reentry population enter the workforce. REO projects also promote collaboration and coordination between community-based organizations, foundations, state and local justice agencies, community colleges, and the workforce system. REO has allotted up to \$30,000,000 based on the appropriations amount, to national and regional intermediaries for activities to improve employment outcomes for justice-involved youth and young adults and individuals who left school prior to graduating with priority given to projects in communities facing high levels of crime and poverty.

REO grant programs provide training that supports in-demand industries and funding for services that evidence-based research suggests increase the likelihood of successful employment outcomes. Such training and employment services may include but are not limited to: robust assessment of prior learning and skills; pre-apprenticeships; work-based learning through On-the-Job Training and Registered Apprenticeships; artificial intelligence (AI), financial, and digital literacy training; mentorship and leadership training; credential attainment; paid work experiences; unsubsidized employment placement; development and deployment of learning and employment records (LER) or comprehensive learner record (CLR) solutions; and credit for prior learning and acceleration solutions for rapid entry into postsecondary credentialing opportunities.

Current Initiatives:

[Growth Opportunities \(GO\)](#)

[Pathway Home \(PH\)](#)

[Partners for Reentry Opportunities in Workforce Development \(PROWD\)](#)

Previous Initiatives:

Face Forward

Job ChalleNGe

Linking to Employment Activities Pre-Release (LEAP)

Pathways to Justice Careers (PJC)

Reentry Demonstration Project

Reentry Projects (RP)

Training 2 Work Grants (T2W)

Young Adult Reentry Partnership (YARP)



Federal Bonding Program:

Through the Federal Bonding Program (FBP), the Department provides fidelity bonds to employers to help remove the risks of hiring individuals whose backgrounds pose significant barriers to securing or retaining employment. The FBP was developed in 1966 by DOL to help people in reentry gain access to private sector jobs. Fidelity bonding is insurance that indemnifies employers for loss of money or property sustained through the dishonest acts of their employees (i.e., theft, forgery, larceny, and embezzlement) with no deductible amount to become the employer's liability (100% coverage). The FBP has a 99% success rate, with only 1% of claims processed. In 2019, DOL greatly expanded the program by providing grant funds to 23 states and one U.S. territory. In April 2021, DOL announced the availability of an additional \$3.3 million to states to expand their use of fidelity bonds to cover employers hiring persons with criminal records, including individuals recovering from opioid and other addictions. The bonds cover the first six months of employment at no cost to the job applicant or the employer.

