



## Face Forward Program

Juvenile arrests can follow youth for the rest of their lives and become a major barrier to inclusion and advancement in the workforce. The Face Forward grants offered the opportunity to develop programs that provided the skills and support youth need to move forward successfully in the workforce.

The purpose of the grants were to improve the long-term labor market prospects of both court involved youth prior to adjudication and juvenile offenders. Grantees collaborated with non-profit legal services providers to assist participants with expungement actions and/or act as a designated diversion program. Diversion and expungement functions, operations and processes are under the jurisdiction of the Juvenile Justice system. However, in order to provide the best possible outcomes for youth, it is imperative to provide these additional supportive services.

In addition to providing diversion and/or expungement services, all grantees provided education and training services that directly related to increasing employment outcomes. These services included case management, mentoring, educational attainment, training that lead to industry-recognized credentials in state and local high-demand industries, service learning, workforce activities, post-program support and follow-up services.

Eligible participants were at least 14 years and not older than 24 years of age on the date of enrollment, and were at that time involved or had been involved with the juvenile justice system. Such juvenile justice system involvement included being under the supervision of the juvenile justice system, either in out-of-home placements, on probation, or in diversion programs.

Grants were awarded to non-profit organization with IRS 501(c)(3) status, units of state or local governments, or any Indian and Native American entity eligible for grants under WIA Section 166 located in communities with high-poverty and high-crime rates. 28 Face Forward grants were awarded in 2013 for \$26 million, 21 awarded in 2014 for \$44 million, and 15 awarded in 2015 for \$31 million. Grants had a 39-month period of performance that included a 6-month planning period, 24 months of program operation, and a minimum of 9 months of follow-up for each participant.

Mathematica Policy Research and Social Policy Research prepared research briefs summarizing lessons learned from the expungement and diversion efforts of Face Forward grantees. These briefs are available at:

- <https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/OASP/evaluation/pdf/Brief-FaceForwardExpungementServices.pdf> and
- <https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/OASP/evaluation/pdf/Brief-FaceForwardDiversionServices.pdf>.