



LINKING TO EMPLOYMENT ACTIVITIES PRE-RELEASE (LEAP)

The Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration (ETA) Linking to Employment Activities Pre-Release (LEAP) pilot program supported the development and implementation of specialized American Job Centers (AJCs). The purpose of the program was to increase opportunities for successful reentry into home communities by preparing transitioning offenders for employment prior to release with continued services post-release. LEAP sought to create community-based partnerships between local correctional systems and the local workforce systems by establishing specialized AJCs within county, municipal, or regional correctional facilities and linking transitioning offenders with a range of community-based workforce services.

In 2015, the Department awarded 20 grantees approximately \$500,000 each, it funded 11 grantees in June of 2016, and an additional 10 grantees in October of 2016 for a total investment of \$20,380,000. Suitable and stable employment is a critical factor in assisting transitioning offenders to remain crime free once released from incarceration. LEAP grants provided opportunities for transitioning offenders to secure services prior to release with the goals of developing career pathways, establishing stable employment and easing reentry into their communities.

Mathematica Policy Research and Social Policy Research conducted an implementation evaluation to increase knowledge about approaches that provide career development and training services to individuals before and after their release from incarceration.

The following research briefs summarizing lessons learned from the creation of jail-based AJCs to support the successful reentry of participants and their link to community-based AJCs upon release were prepared. The final report is available at:

<https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/OASP/legacy/files/LEAP-Final-Report.pdf>

The Training and Employment Notice (TEN) '*Resources for Serving Youth and Adults Involved with the Justice System*' has been posted to the ETA Advisory website and disseminated to the workforce development system. The purpose of this TEN is to provide local workforce boards and American Job Centers (AJCs) with information aimed at improving services for individuals involved with the justice system. The TEN is available at:

https://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/corr_doc.cfm?DOCN=8267