



Pathway Home grants from the U.S. Department of Labor’s Employment and Training Administration (ETA) provide states, local governments, and non-governmental organizations the resources needed to improve employability outcomes for adults during the reentry process from incarceration. The Pathway Home grants include reentry services to eligible participants while still incarcerated in prisons and jails and continue comprehensive services post-release. In 2020, ETA awarded \$64 million to 20 Pathway Home grantees; and an additional \$61 million went to 22 grantees in June 2021.

These projects eliminate the time gap between release from prison and enrollment into a reentry employment program, and build on research findings from the Linking Employment Activities Pre-Release (LEAP) implementation study in 2018.<sup>1</sup> The two-year LEAP pilots, which ended in 2018, demonstrated potential for breaking the cycle of recidivism by linking participants to an employment case manager while still in jail—and then continuing the case management connection post-release. These grants are job-driven and build connections to local employers that enable transitioning participants to secure employment.

Pre-release services begin between 20 to 180 days from participants’ scheduled release dates in preparation for returning to their communities. Pre-release services include needs assessment, individual development plans, comprehensive case management, career exploration and planning, job preparation, legal assistance, counseling, and assistance with linking inmates to the social services required to help them transition back to their communities.

Post-release activities include linking participants to employers (including apprenticeship opportunities), external service providers, skill-building services, occupational training in-demand industries, industry-recognized credentials, career services, supportive and follow-up services. Grantees ensure that occupational training provided has no federal, state, or local regulations that restrict individuals with criminal records from obtaining licenses or other necessary credentials in that industry.

Grants have a 42-month period of performance, including six months of planning, 24 months of operations, and twelve months of follow-up for each participant. Approximately 7,420 adults (18+ years old and incarcerated) are expected to benefit from the 2020 grants, and an anticipated additional 6,000+ served with grant funds awarded in 2021. This sizeable group makes possible a rigorous randomized control trial study of the program impacts. Grantees report on five of the six WIOA primary performance indicators (employment in 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarters, earnings, credentials, and skill gains), as well as recidivism outcomes for participants.

Link to the Pathway Home Funding Opportunity Announcement:

- Pathway Home – 1: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=325084>
- Pathway Home – 2: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=330958>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/OASP/legacy/files/LEAP-Final-Report.pdf>