

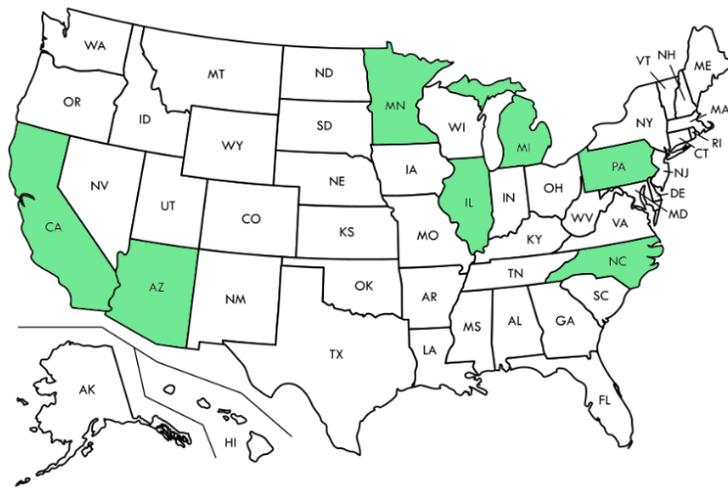
# Partners for Reentry Opportunities in Workforce Development Grant Program Fact Sheet

## Summary

The Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Department of Labor (DOL) launched a grant initiative to provide targeted employment services to federally incarcerated individuals as they approach community reentry. The Partners for Reentry Opportunities in Workforce Development (PROWD) grant program seeks to better align job training and skills development services provided to program participants to the specific labor market needs of the communities where they will live. In so doing, the program will improve both the employment outcomes of returning citizens and public safety of all community members while increasing the capacity of justice and workforce system partnerships.

## PROWD Grant Recipients

In September 2022, DOL awarded over \$42 million in First Step Act funding to seven state agencies to partner with community organizations and minimum- and low-security federal correctional institutions to provide coordinated services across three stages: during incarceration in federal prisons, during time spent in residential reentry centers (RRCs), and after release into the community. PROWD grants will operate over a 42-month period of performance, including up to six months for planning and start-up and a minimum 12 months of follow-up.



<i>Recipient</i>	<i>Amount</i>
▪ Arizona Department of Economic Security	\$1,170,341
▪ California Workforce Development Board	\$5,333,658
▪ Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity	\$10,000,000
▪ Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Opportunity - Workforce Development	\$5,741,450
▪ Minnesota Department of Employment & Economic Development	\$8,000,000
▪ North Carolina Department of Commerce - Division of Workforce Solutions	\$6,807,687
▪ Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry	\$5,000,000

*For more information, email [PROWDgrants@dol.gov](mailto:PROWDgrants@dol.gov).*

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## Program Components

Safe, prosperous communities are important to all of us, and strengthening the labor force is a key strategy to realizing that goal. Employers are struggling to find qualified workers to fill their open jobs, and the people who leave federal incarceration each year are an untapped talent pool that can help meet that need. PROWD grantees ensure program participants have the skills in demand by local employers, along with access to the supportive services necessary for success.

Key elements around which each program is tailored include:

- A coordinated three-stage program approach:
  - During incarceration in federal prisons
  - During time spent in residential reentry centers (RRCs), also known as halfway houses
  - After release from RRCs into the community
- Establishing employment labs (similar to an American Job Center) in selected participating federal facilities
- Consistent job coaching
- Novel use of technology, for example to improve continuity of training in employment labs, to facilitate mentoring and job interviews, and other approved uses by and for participants
- Peer mentoring throughout all stages of the program
- Supportive services, including during follow-up

Another central element is cross-agency, cross-systems partnership, potentially including:

- State workforce agencies
- Public safety agencies
- Federal correctional facilities
- RRCs
- State apprenticeship agencies
- State Medicaid programs
- State housing agencies
- Industry organizations & employers
- Local social service providers
- Others, as appropriate to program design and needs

Together, these partners are laying the groundwork for and launching effective reentry programs serving citizens returning from federal incarceration, with an emphasis on quality jobs.