



## RESTART Grant Program

The Reentry Employment in Skilled Trades, Advanced Manufacturing, Registered Apprenticeships, and Training (RESTART) grant initiative from the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration (ETA) provides funding to states, U.S. territories and possessions, tribes, and national/regional intermediary organizations to develop programs that increase employment and decrease recidivism among the reentry community.<sup>1</sup> RESTART grant programs serve youth, young adults, and adults involved in the criminal justice system, as well as youth and young adults at risk of involvement in the criminal justice system. RESTART grants emphasize employment and training related to in-demand, high-priority job sectors, including shipbuilding, AI infrastructure build-out, advanced manufacturing, nuclear energy, transportation, domestic mineral production, and information technology including AI. In 2026, ETA awarded a total of 22 RESTART grants. ETA awarded 12 of the 22 grants to organizations serving youth ages 15-17 and/or young adults ages 18-24; in addition, ETA awarded 10 of the 22 grants to organizations serving adults ages 25 and above. In total, organizations across 18 states received \$81,701,389.

RESTART requires that grantees establish extensive partnerships to complement efforts towards a more unified public workforce system. Required grantee partners include: the criminal justice system agencies; the State Workforce Development Board (SWDB); the State Apprenticeship Agency (SAA), when applicable; and at least three employers within the targeted industries listed above, i.e., shipbuilding, advanced manufacturing, transportation, etc. Applicants were given priority consideration for focusing on shipbuilding-related training and employment, and/or for partnering with employers that are Registered Apprenticeship sponsors.

In addition to the previously listed partnerships, states, U.S. territories, and possessions are required to partner with at least one local reentry organization. These partnerships create a system whereby expertise can be shared, and the assets, resources, and service-delivery infrastructure of the public workforce system are deliberately integrated to assist in reentry and reinforce principles and best practices that favor positive outcomes. Grantees are responsible for helping participants avoid legal barriers to success by providing participants with occupational training that allows persons with criminal records to obtain licenses or other necessary credentials and are not restricted by federal, state, or local regulations.

All RESTART programs must include:

- Training programs leading to industry-recognized credentials, including work-based learning through pre-apprenticeships, On-the-Job Training (OJT) and Registered Apprenticeships;
- Career development services, including:
  - Screening for WIOA eligibility and co-enrollment when eligible;
  - High-quality assessments of prior learning and skills to inform training and employment services;
  - Foundational skills development, including digital and financial literacy;
  - Soft skills development;
  - Workplace etiquette and professionalism training; and,
  - Job search strategies.
- Needs assessments;

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<sup>1</sup> ETA's Reentry Employment Opportunities (REO) program is authorized under Section 169 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).



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- Individual development plan (IDP) creation and implementation;
- Provision of or referral to supportive services, if necessary;
- Mentorship programs; and,
- Follow-up services for at least 12 months.

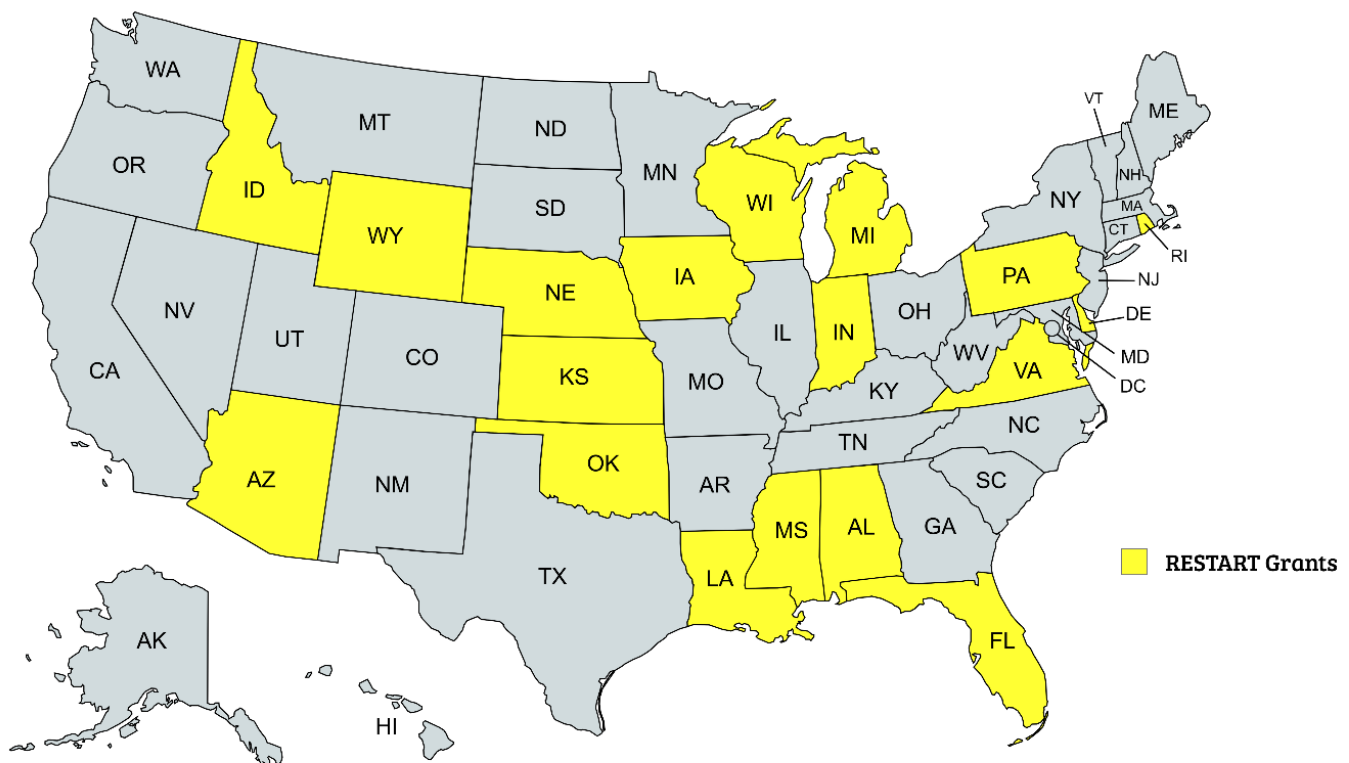
Youth-focused RESTART programs must include repeated needs assessments, and adult-focused RESTART programs must include placement in unsubsidized employment.

The RESTART grant performance period is 42 months, and includes three to six months of planning, 24 to 27 months of operations, and 12 months of follow-up for each participant. Grantees report on four of the six WIOA primary performance indicators (employment in the second and fourth quarters after exit, median earnings second quarter after exit, and credential attainment rate), as well as recidivism outcomes for participants and enrollment in Registered Apprenticeships.

An estimated 10,973 people are expected to be served and benefit from RESTART, including 5,966 youth/young adults (ages 15-24), and 5,007 adults (ages 25 and above).

For more information, please see the Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) and Amendments 1 and 2:

- [RESTART FOA-ETA-26-17](#)



**REO**

Reentry Employment Opportunities

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### RESTART Grantees Serving Youth/Young Adults

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Alabama Department of Workforce</li><li>• Epidaurus (dba Amity Foundation)</li><li>• Florida Department of Juvenile Justice</li><li>• Kansas Department of Commerce</li><li>• Keys2Work, Inc.</li><li>• Midwest Urban Strategies</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pennsylvania Department of Labor &amp; Industry</li><li>• Siouxland Human Investment Partnership</li><li>• State of Idaho Department of Labor</li><li>• Volunteers of America, Inc.</li><li>• West Jackson Community Development Corporation</li><li>• Wisconsin Workforce Development Association</li></ul> |
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### RESTART Grantees Serving Adults

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Alabama Department of Workforce</li><li>• Delaware Department of Labor, Division of Employment &amp; Training</li><li>• Indiana Department of Workforce Development</li><li>• Kansas Department of Commerce</li><li>• Louisiana Works</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Michigan Department of Labor &amp; Economic Opportunity</li><li>• Nebraska Department of Workforce Development</li><li>• Oklahoma Employment Security Commission</li><li>• Rhode Island Department of Labor &amp; Training</li><li>• State of Wyoming Department of Workforce Services</li></ul> |
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