



## **REO** Reentry Employment Opportunities

# Growth Opportunities Program

### OVERVIEW

The Employment and Training Agency's (ETA) **Growth Opportunities (GO)** grant initiative supports the placement of youth and young adults (15-24 years, in- and out- of school) with school expulsion or justice system contact who exhibit risk-factors associated with delinquent or criminal activity into paid work experiences aligned with their career and educational goals. It also provides funding for services such as mentorship, legal assistance, and transportation that support participants' participation and success. The goals of the grant include:

- ✓ Help youth avoid violence and build conflict resolution skills.
- ✓ Introduce and prepare youth for the world of work.
- ✓ Help youth identify career interests and attain skills and good work habits.
- ✓ Provide income to youth to start them on the path of earning living wages.

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The GO program contributes to the Biden-Harris Administration's comprehensive strategy to combat gun violence and other violent crime, in part, with preventative measures proven to reduce violent crime. The program is administered by the Reentry Employment Opportunities (REO) unit of ETA and is authorized under WIOA's demonstration grant authority in Section 169(b).

Per appropriations language and direction from the Education and Labor Committee, grant awards prioritize projects serving high-crime, high-poverty areas, as well as communities where students of color have disproportionate rates of expulsions and suspensions.

### PROGRAM IMPACT

The GO program anticipates over 25 grant awards, with approximately 2,100 young adults served by intermediaries and 2,400 young people served by direct service providers—4,500 in total. Grants will operate for 42 months, including 3 to 6 months of planning. Each young adult will receive at least 200 paid hours of work experience, as well as conflict resolution and leadership training.

### PROGRAM STRUCTURE

Justice-involved youth and young adults will be prepared for and introduced to the world of work through placement into paid work experiences. In addition, the program encompasses occupational education and training in in-demand industries, leadership development,

mentorship, and post-program placement into employment and/or education. These grants focus on youth and young adults most impacted by and associated with community violence, particularly in areas of concentrated crime, poverty, and significant recent community unrest.

GO grantees must have a violence prevention partner with significant experience in outreach to individuals with a high risk of committing violence (and/or becoming a victim) to interrupt the cycle of violence. Grantees must also have a regional or local justice system partner that collaborates with the violence prevention partner.

### ELIGIBILITY

Eligible grant applicants include nonprofit organizations, local and regional government entities, federally recognized Indian and Tribal governments, and independent school districts.

Eligible participants:

- Are at least 18 years old and not older than 24 years of age on the date of enrollment;
- Reside in the targeted geographic area, or plan to return to the area upon release from incarceration;
- Have been expelled from a school OR had juvenile or adult justice system contact; and
- Have one or more risk-factors associated with delinquent or criminal activity.

### AWARDEES

REGION 1	REGION 2	REGION 3	REGION 4	REGION 5	REGION 6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ New York, NY</li> <li>▪ Rochester, NY</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Philadelphia, PA</li> <li>▪ Pittsburgh, PA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Birmingham, AL</li> <li>▪ Miami, FL</li> <li>▪ Tampa, FL</li> <li>▪ Durham, NC</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Houston, TX</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Sioux City, IA</li> <li>▪ Indianapolis, IN</li> <li>▪ Ogema, MN</li> <li>▪ Milwaukee, WI</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Los Angeles, CA</li> <li>▪ Santa Barbara, CA</li> </ul>