



Partners for Reentry Opportunities
in Workforce Development

Summary

In 2022, the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Department of Labor (DOL) partnered and launched the Partners for Reentry Opportunities in Workforce Development (PROWD) grant program. PROWD's vision is to align job training and skills development services provided to federally incarcerated individuals to the labor market needs of the communities where they will live. PROWD goals seek to:

- To improve employment outcomes among program participants.
- To strengthen communities where grant programs operate by reducing recidivism among program participants.
- To increase capacity of justice and workforce system partnership.

First Step Act (FSA) funds are used during the first two stages, and Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) funds are used in stage 3, when individuals are no longer in the care of the BOP. This allows states to support people throughout their transition to the community.

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.

Building the [reentry evidence base](#) underpins DOL's reentry employment portfolio. PROWD builds upon existing evidence and seeks to identify whether and which strategies proven successful in state and local corrections settings yield similar results in the federal correction system. The PROWD-funded states will participate in an independent evaluation to increase knowledge of what works in returning citizens to their homes and families.

Program Design

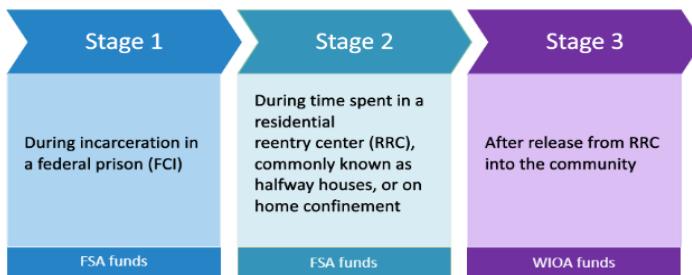
PROWD programs offer skills-building and job training services including apprenticeships in growing industries like chip making, along with opportunities for financial and digital literacy learning, and peer mentoring. Importantly, consistent case management follows and supports participants through all program stages.

Key program elements include:

1. A coordinated multi-stage program approach:



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2. Services:

- Skill building
- Training services
- Financial and digital literacy
- 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

3. Cross-agency, cross-systems partnership including:

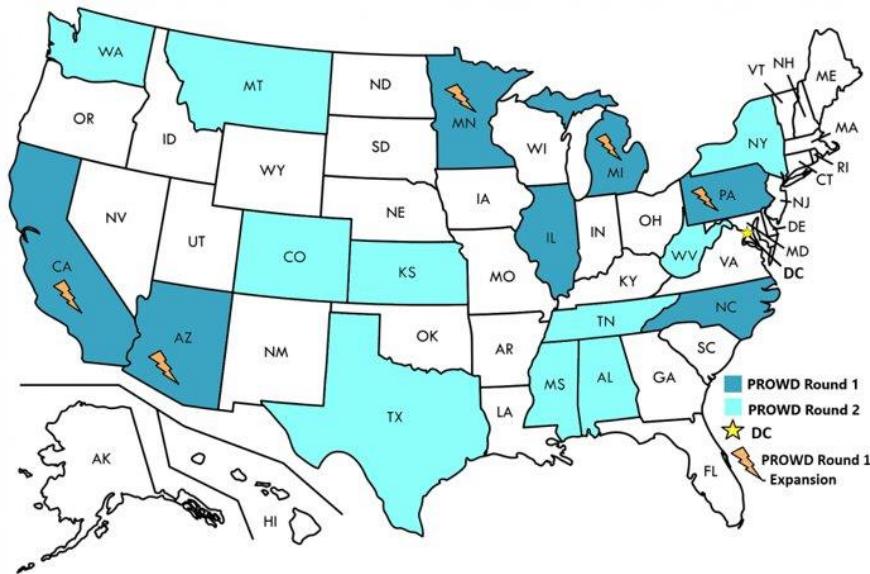
- State workforce agencies
- Public safety agencies
- Federal correctional facilities
- RRCs
- U.S. Probation Offices
- State apprenticeship agencies
- State Medicaid programs
- State housing agencies
- Industry organizations & employers
- Unions & other labor organizations
- Local social service providers
- Others based on program 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.



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PROWD Grant Awards and Recipients



To date, 18 workforce agencies received \$105,279,538.56 in FSA funding to partner with community organizations and federal correctional institutions to provide coordinated services throughout the reentry process.

In 2022, DOL awarded over \$42 million to seven state agencies, and in 2023 the program grew to include 10 new states and the District of Columbia, which collectively received \$48.7 million in PROWD round 2 awards.

In 2023, five round 1 states received nearly \$14.5 million to expand to additional BOP facilities and provide peer mentoring.

In 2024, DOL awarded two Stage 3 awards and in 2025, DOL awarded seven Stage 3 awards to workforce agencies to continue training, employment services (including apprenticeships and other work-based learning opportunities), supportive services, peer mentoring, and follow-up services related to participants successfully transitioning from Stage 2 to Stage 3. Collectively, Stage 3 received \$27,320,067.



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2022 Awards

<i>Recipient</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<u>PROWD Round 1</u>	
▪ 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

2023 Awards

<i>Recipient</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<u>PROWD Round 1 Expansion</u>	
▪ Arizona Department of Economic Security	\$3,994,496
▪ California Workforce Development Board	\$4,000,000
▪ Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Opportunity - Workforce Development	\$2,000,000
▪ Minnesota Department of Employment & Economic Development	\$3,000,000
▪ Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry	\$1,500,000
<u>PROWD Round 2</u>	
▪ Alabama Department of Commerce	\$6,507,557
▪ Colorado Department of Labor and Employment	\$4,235,032
▪ District of Columbia Department of Employment Services	\$852,446
▪ Kansas Department of Commerce	\$3,834,170
▪ Mississippi Department of Employment Security	\$8,300,667
▪ Montana Department of Labor and Industry	\$1,834,832
▪ New York Department of Labor	\$4,103,310
▪ Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development	\$4,448,464
▪ Texas Workforce Commission	\$4,639,713

For more information, email PROWDgrants@dol.gov.



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▪ Washington Department of Employment Security	\$6,256,524
▪ Workforce West Virginia	\$3,254,249

2024 Awards

<i>Recipient</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<u>Stage 3</u>	
▪ Arizona Department of Economic Security	\$236,089
▪ Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry	\$5,000,000

2025 Awards

<i>Recipient</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<u>Stage 3</u>	
▪ Washington State Department of Employment Security	\$3,250,000
▪ Montana Department of Labor & Industry	\$943,097
▪ Kansas Department of Commerce	\$3,250,000
▪ North Carolina Department of Commerce, Division of Workforce Solutions	\$3,163,627
▪ Minnesota Department of Employment & Economic Development (DEED)	\$2,000,000
▪ Colorado Department of Labor & Employment	\$3,150,000
▪ Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity	\$1,880,483