



Reentry Projects Grant Evaluation

SUMMARY

In 2017, the Chief Evaluation Office (CEO) partnered with Employment and Training Administration (ETA) to fund contractor Mathematica Policy Research, with Social Policy Research Associates to conduct the *Reentry Projects Grant Evaluation*. This implementation and impact evaluation aims to identify and evaluate promising practices used in reentry employment programs which are comprehensive strategies to address the range of challenges formerly incarcerated adults and young adults who have been involved in the juvenile or adult justice system face in making a successful transition back to the community.

This Department of Labor-funded study was a result of Section 169 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) as well as the annual process to determine the Department's research priorities for the upcoming year. It contributes to the labor evidence-base to inform employment and training programs and policies and addresses Department strategic goals and priorities.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Researchers found most prior studies of adult employment reentry programs do not consistently show effects due to variation in program models, implementation quality, and study designs.
- Reentry programs specifically tailored to young adults were found to often include job training or employment support, but evidence of employment impacts is limited.
- According to researchers, cognitive-behavioral therapy interventions reduce recidivism for justice-involved adults but impacts on young adults and on employment outcomes are unknown.
- The ongoing REO evaluation has the potential to provide evidence on strategies to reduce recidivism and increase employment for justice-involved individuals.

[SEE THE FULL STUDY](#)

TIMEFRAME: 2017-2019

PARTNER AGENCIES: Employment and Training Administration

SUBMITTED BY: Mathematica

DATE PREPARED: May 2021

SPONSOR: Chief Evaluation Office

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The Department of Labor's (DOL) Chief Evaluation Office (CEO) sponsors independent evaluations and research, primarily conducted by external, third-party contractors in accordance with the [Department of Labor Evaluation Policy](#). CEO's research development process includes extensive technical review at the design, data collection and analysis stage, including: external contractor review and OMB review and approval of data collection methods and instruments per the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA), Institutional Review Board (IRB) review to ensure studies adhere to the highest ethical standards, review by academic peers (e.g., Technical Working Groups), and inputs from relevant DOL agency and program officials and CEO technical staff. Final reports undergo an additional independent expert technical review and a review for Section 508 compliance prior to publication. The resulting reports represent findings from this independent research and do not represent DOL positions or policies.

