

## Promising Practices

### How States Use Byrne JAG Funding to Support Successful Reentry

Reentry back into society following a period of incarceration is a critical time for justice-involved individuals. Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne JAG) funds can help states pilot or support programs that focus on reentry planning and providing the guidance and support necessary to aid successful reentry.

This promising practices brief highlights several reentry programs that work to reduce recidivism. These programs often begin during the final months or weeks of an individual's period of incarceration and employ risk and needs assessments to determine how best to support successful reentry.

Some programs focus on specific, at-risk populations such as women or people with substance use disorders who have been incarcerated. Others provide educational and training opportunities.

All of the programs below are either currently funded by Byrne JAG or were historically Byrne JAG funded and are now supported by other sources of funding. Programs were collected as part of NCJA's biannual data collection. To learn more about how states are investing Byrne JAG dollars we encourage you to visit the [NCJA website](https://www.ncja.org).

### Reentry Support for Special Populations

Programs that address the needs of women who have been incarcerated recognize the unique barriers women face upon reentry. They must often balance employment, motherhood and other expectations while working to overcome substance use or behavioral health disorders.



The WORTH (Women Overcoming Recidivism Through Hard Work) unit in Connecticut's York Correctional

Institution gives young women the opportunity to prepare for reentry in a segregated housing unit. Participants live alongside older mentors who help them plan for life after release and learn skills necessary for them to succeed. The program was started in 2018 with Byrne JAG funds and is still going strong. The WORTH unit was featured on The NCJA Podcast. [Listen here](#).



In Illinois, Byrne JAG funds provide support for the Females in Transition (FIT) program through the Illinois Department of Corrections. The program aims to reduce recidivism by fully engaging women who are, or have been, incarcerated with supportive services in affordable housing, treatment, health care, childcare, employment and other areas. The program provides individualized support services in a continuum from pre-release services in the facility through post-release programming in the community. A team of program staff and service partners link women to available service networks and community-based programs.



In the District of Columbia, Byrne JAG funds support [Community Family Life Services \(CFLS\)](#), a non-profit organization that provides housing and case management

services to individuals housed at the DC Correctional Treatment Facility and U.S. Bureau of Prisons facilities. CFLS offers a broad range of services, including housing, employment, mentoring, medical case management and specialized programming for women who are victims of trauma and who have co-occurring substance use and mental health disorders. Read some of CFLS's success stories



In Minnesota, Byrne JAG funds support four jail-based reentry programs that integrate mental health and substance use assessment, referral, case management and services. One of these initiatives, operated by the Sherburne County Sheriff's Office, implements a [Release Advance Planning \(RAP\)](#) program using case planners to provide pre-release and reentry services. The program has demonstrated an 80 percent reduction in jail bed days—just one of the program's success measures—for those that had been out of the program for one year.

Do you have a Promising Practice from your jurisdiction you want to share?

Contact us at

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## Job Training and Other Reentry Supports

Other reentry programs focus more on the “hard” skills that improve an individual's chance at successful reentry, such as job-seeking strategies and vocational skills.



In Alabama, the J. F. Ingram State Technical College's (ISTC) Education to Employment initiative helps incarcerated students overcome barriers to employment. ISTC job placement specialists match graduates to available jobs, building a network of employment opportunities for those workers who have traditionally been viewed as hard to place. The program is essential to help reducing high recidivism rates in Alabama and removing barriers to successful reentry.



The Baltimore City District Court's Re-Entry Services program (DCREP) offers willing criminal case defendants a chance to participate in job training as a condition of probation or in lieu of short jail sentences. The training periods range from two weeks to one year and prepare candidates for jobs in a variety of fields, including renewable energy installation, automotive repair, construction, catering and maritime transportation.



Finally, the Building Capacity for Performance Measurement and Evaluation (BCPME) Project in the District of Columbia used Byrne JAG funds to provide process evaluation services to District of Columbia Reentry Coalition (DCRC) grantees. The project implemented a web-based case management system for reentry grantees to better enable them to serve specific target populations.