



Policy

Allowable Uses for Second Chance Act Program Grant Funds

May 17, 2012

This guidance has been issued to inform Second Chance Act grant recipients that a wide range of legal services may be an appropriate use of funds where such services further the Second Chance Act's purpose to "break the cycle of criminal recidivism, increase public safety and help States, local units of government, and Indian Tribes, better address the growing population of criminal offenders who return to their communities and commit new crimes."

The Office of Justice Programs, through a number of its bureaus, is working to reduce recidivism and its attendant fiscal and social costs and increase the safety of our communities. One of the largest efforts is the administration of the Second Chance Act of 2007. The Second Chance Act Programs are designed to help communities develop and implement comprehensive and collaborative strategies that address the challenges posed by offender reentry and recidivism reduction.

The Second Chance Act anticipates the provision of a comprehensive range of services to help men, women and youth reenter the community after incarceration or other involvement with the criminal justice system. Civil legal assistance can often play a critical role in addressing barriers to successful reintegration. This guidance clarifies that an allowable use of Second Chance Act funds for reentry services includes referral to and payment of legal services related to the purpose of the grant,¹ such as: securing a driver's license, expunging criminal records, litigating inappropriate denials of housing or employment and violations of the Fair Credit Reporting Act, creating and/or modifying child support orders and other family law services that help stabilize individuals and families.

Second Chance Act Programs include:

- Second Chance Act Adult and Juvenile Offender Reentry Demonstration Projects (Section 101)
 - Web Link www.bja.gov/grant/SecondChance.html
- Second Chance Mentoring Program (Section 211)

¹ Consistent with the cost principles outlined in Office of Management and Budget circulars A-87, which applies to state, tribal, and local governments, and A-122, which applies to non-profit organizations. Proposals by the grantee to directly provide legal services to program participants, or contract with a third-part legal provider to deliver services, and where the legal assistance furthers the purpose of the grant, is reasonably cost-effective, and does not run afoul of any laws or any prohibitions outlined in the circulars, are allowable under the OMB cost principles. See 2 C.F.R. Section 225 App. A, pt. C; 2 C.F.R. Section 230, App. A, pt. C. 2 C.F.R. Section 225 is the codification of OMB Circular A-87 and Section 230 codifies OMB Circular A-122. Circulars are also available at http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/circulars_default/.

Department of Justice Office of Justice Programs



- Web Link www.bja.gov/grant/SecondChance.html
- Second Chance Act Family-Based Prisoner Substance Abuse Treatment Program (Section 113)
 - Web Link www.bja.gov/BJA/grant/SecondChance.html
- Second Chance Act Technology Careers Training Demonstration Projects for Incarcerated Adults and Juveniles (Section 115)
 - Web Link www.bja.gov/BJA/grant/SecondChance.html
- Second Chance Act Co-Occurring Substance Abuse and Mental Health Disorders (Section 201)
 - Web Link www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/SecondChance.html
- Second Chance Act Demonstration Field Experiment: Fostering Desistance through Effective Supervision
 - Web Link www.bja.gov/grant/SecondChance.html

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