

MEETING DATE: August 13, 2020 **AGENDA ITEM:** C

TO: BSCC Chair and Members

FROM: Tanya Hill, Field Representative, tanya.hill@bscc.ca.gov

SUBJECT: Adult Reentry Grant Program, Rental Assistance Funding Recommendations: **Requesting Approval**

Summary

This agenda item requests Board approval of additional rental assistance awards as recommended by the Executive Steering Committee (ESC) of the Adult Reentry Grant Program (Attachment C-1). In an effort to expedite the release of funds to help with early state prison releases due to COVID-19, this item requests the Board consider awarding grantees on the ranked list from the previous round of ARG recipients.

If the proposed list of additional award recommendations is approved, the grant period would begin September 1, 2020 and end February 28, 2023. Proposals recommended for award will be funded from the FY 20-21 budget allocation and will go to approximately eight Community-Based Organizations. A list of all proposals recommended for funding is provided in the tables below.

In September, staff will return to the Board to establish a timeline for consideration of the “warm handoff” portion of the grant.

Background

The Budget Act of 2018 (Senate Bill 840, Chapter 29, Statutes of 2018) established the Adult Reentry Grant Program and appropriated \$50,000,000 in funding (Attachment C-2). Pursuant to SB 840, the Board of State and Community Corrections was required to award competitive grants to community-based organizations (CBOs) to support persons formerly incarcerated in state prison and funding was to be allocated as follows:

- \$25,000,000 for rental assistance;
- \$15,000,000 for the rehabilitation of existing property or buildings for housing offenders released from prison;
- \$9,350,000 to support the “warm hand-off” and reentry of offenders transitioning from prison to communities;
- \$150,000 to support the Berkeley Underground Scholars Initiative; and
- \$500,000 to the BSCC for costs to administer the grant programs and report on program outcomes.

The Budget Act of 2019 (Assembly Bill 74, Chapter 23, Statutes of 2019) provided an additional \$32,950,000 for the Adult Reentry Grant, to be split 50/50 between Rental Assistance and Warm Hand-Off (Attachment C-3). Appropriations from the Budget Act of 2019 increased available funds as follows: Warm Hand-Off/Reentry--\$25,001,250; Rental Assistance--\$40,651,250.

On July 12, 2018, the Board appointed Board Chair Linda Penner and then-Board Member Francine Tournour as Co-Chairs of the Adult Reentry Grant Program ESC, and delegated authority to the Co-Chairs to work with BSCC staff to establish an ESC with relevant subject-matter expertise to develop a Request for Proposal (RFP). The RFP was divided into three components; Rehabilitation of Existing Property, Rental Assistance, and Warm Hand-off. On January 17, 2019, the RFP for the Rental Assistance and Warm Hand-off was released to the field (Attachment C-4).

The RFP was divided into two sub-applications and applicants could submit a separate sub-proposal for one or both of the following:

Sub-Application	Eligible Applicants May Request
Rental Assistance	Up to \$3 million
Warm Hand-off Reentry	Up to \$500,000

The statute authorizing the Adult Reentry Grant Program does not specify the types of rental assistance and warm hand-off reentry services to be funded. The ESC placed a priority on services that provide critical-time intervention to meet the immediate needs of individuals upon their release from prison or from residential treatment if placed there by parole. Below are some examples of eligible activities and services that could be provided:

Examples of Eligible Rental Assistance Services	Examples of Eligible Warm Hand-off Reentry Services
<p>Including but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short-term emergency housing assistance • Landlord incentives • Permanent supportive housing • Rent subsidies • Transitional housing • Stipends to families willing to house target population • Vouchers • Move in costs • Credit repair 	<p>Including but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reach-in services • Case management services • Transportation • Food • Emergency services • Employment/vocational • Social services • Behavioral health care • Mentors • Transitional services • System navigation

The ESC read and rated a total of 147 proposals, which included 58 proposals for the Rental Assistance Program and 89 proposals for the Warm Hand-Off Program (Attachment C-5).

On July 11, 2019 a total of 69 awards were approved by the Board for these two components with 16 awards to Rental Assistance applicants and 53 awards to Warm Hand-Off applicants (Attachment C-6).

The Budget Act of 2020 (Assembly Bill 89, Chapter 7, Statutes of 2020) appropriated additional funding for the Adult Reentry Grant Program in the amount of \$37,000,000, to be divided equally between Rental Assistance and Warm Hand-Off Programs (Attachment C-8) and allocated as follows:

- \$17,575,000 for Rental Assistance Programs;
- \$17,575,000 for Warm Hand-Off Programs; and
- \$1,850,000 to the BSCC for costs to administer the grant

Recent increases in the number of individuals released from state prisons due to the COVID-19 crisis is increasing the urgency for CBOs to respond quickly to the growing needs of the reentry population for housing resources. To help expedite the issuance of funds to the field, staff recommends that the existing list of ranked-order proposals, as developed by the ESC for the Adult Reentry Grant Rental Assistance component, be used to award the funding allocated in the FY 2020 Budget Act for this purpose. A total of 42 Rental Assistance proposals remain unfunded from the initial ranked-order list developed by the ESC which would easily allow for approximately eight of the next highest ranked proposals to be awarded swiftly and resources implemented quickly. Project summaries for these Rental Assistance projects are included as Attachment C-9.

The award process for the Warm Hand-Off Program will require additional consideration as the funding allocated in the FY 2020 Budget Act exceeds the amount requested in the existing ranked-order list of unfunded proposals and a competitive-bid process will need to be developed. Given the importance of accelerating the Rental Assistance component, staff recommends temporarily setting aside the Warm Hand-Off component until the September board meeting.

Recommendation/Action Needed

Staff recommends the Board award funding the ranked-order list of proposals as recommended by the ESC for the Adult Reentry Grant Rental Assistance Program. Staff recommends the Board take the following actions:

- Fund the ranked-order list of proposals (#16-22) in the table below as recommended by the ESC for the Adult Reentry Grant Rental Assistance Program.
- Offer a partial award to Time for a Change Foundation (#23) which falls at the funding cut-off point as listed in the table below for Grant Proposals Recommended for Funding.
- Authorize staff to continue to make awards from the proposal ranked-order lists if any applicant is unable to accept the award or relinquishes an award, first by offering to any partial awardee(s).

- Authorize staff to continue to make awards, as noted above, if staff determine during the follow-up award-making process that an applicant recommended for an award is ineligible or if a grantee becomes ineligible during the grant cycle.

**Grant Proposals Recommended for Funding
Rental Assistance in Ranked Order**

Rank	Applicant	Main Office	County	Amount Requested	Recommended Allocation
16	St. John's Well Child and Family Center	Los Angeles	Los Angeles	\$2,985,000	*\$998,932
17	The Catalyst Foundation	Lancaster	Antelope Valley	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000
18	Brilliant Corners	San Francisco	San Francisco	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000
19	Life Moves	Menlo Park	San Mateo	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000
20	Homeboy Industries	Los Angeles	Los Angeles	\$1,000,360	\$1,000,360
21	Family Assistance Program	Victorville	San Bernardino	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000
22	Men of Valor Academy	Oakland	Alameda	\$2,881,368	\$2,881,368
23	Time for a Change Foundation	San Bernardino	San Bernardino	\$2,976,729	**\$694,340
				Total	\$17,575,000

*St. John's Well Child and Family Center received partial funding in the amount of \$1,986,068 in the 18-19 funding cycle and can be fully funded with the 2020 funding cycle.

**Partial Funding Recommended for Time for a Change Foundation.

Attachments

C-1: Adult Reentry Grant Executive Steering Committee Roster

C-2: Budget Act 2018 – Senate Bill 840

C-3: Budget Act 2019 – Assembly Bill 74

C-4: Adult Reentry Grant Program Request for Proposals Rental Assistance and Warm Hand-Off

C-5: List of All Adult Reentry Grant Program Applicants

C-6: List of awards for Rental and Warm Hand-Off proposals funded with FY 2018 and 2019 Budget Acts

C-7: Adult Reentry Grant Request for Proposals for Rehabilitation of Existing Property and Buildings

C-8: Budget Act 2020 – Assembly Bill 74

C-9: Project Summaries for Proposals Recommended for Funding