

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3529

To direct the Director of the Bureau of Justice Assistance to establish a grant program to promote re-entry training programs and reduce recidivism, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 25, 2021

Mr. NEHLS (for himself, Mrs. DEMINGS, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. BABIN, Mr. CARTER of Texas, and Mr. SESSIONS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To direct the Director of the Bureau of Justice Assistance to establish a grant program to promote re-entry training programs and reduce recidivism, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Second Chance Oppor-
5 tunity for Re-Entry Education Act of 2021” or the
6 “SCORE Act of 2021”.

1 **SEC. 2. GRANT TO PROMOTE RE-ENTRY TRAINING PRO-**
2 **GRAMS AND REDUCE RECIDIVISM.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
4 date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Bu-
5 reau of Justice Assistance shall establish a grant program
6 called the “Second Chance Opportunity for Re-Entry Edu-
7 cation Grant Program” (in this Act referred to as the
8 “Program”) to promote re-entry training programs and
9 reduce recidivism to county jails for qualified non-violent
10 inmates.

11 (b) GRANT AUTHORITY.—In carrying out the Pro-
12 gram, the Director may award a grant on a competitive
13 basis in accordance with this section.

14 (c) ELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Director may award a
16 grant under the Program to a county with a county
17 jail inmate population of 500 or more inmates, de-
18 termined by the Director to have the authority and
19 capability to carry out a project described in sub-
20 section (d).

21 (2) COUNTY COORDINATION.—The Director
22 may award a grant under the Program to two or
23 more counties, as a group, with a county jail inmate
24 population of less than 500 inmates if the combined
25 inmate population of these counties is 500 or more
26 inmates and together these counties are determined

1 by the Director to have the authority and capability
2 to carry out a project described in subsection (d).

3 (d) ELIGIBLE PROJECTS.—Grant funds awarded
4 under the Program may only be used to develop or manage
5 an existing career training program at a county jail to pro-
6 vide training in welding, heating ventilation, and air condi-
7 tioning (HVAC), plumbing, or any other career training
8 program determined to be an eligible project by the Direc-
9 tor.

10 (e) APPLICATIONS.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible for a grant
12 under the Program, a county with a county jail in-
13 mate population of 500 or more inmates may submit
14 to the Director an application in such form, at such
15 time, and containing such information as the Direc-
16 tor determines to be appropriate.

17 (2) COUNTY COORDINATION.—To be eligible for
18 a grant under the Program, two or more counties
19 with a combined county jail inmate population of
20 500 or more inmates may submit to the Director an
21 application as a group, in such form, at such time,
22 and containing such information as the Director de-
23 termines to be appropriate.

1 (f) PRIORITY.—In making a grant under the Pro-
2 gram, the Director shall give priority to an eligible recipi-
3 ent that—

4 (1) has career training programs and facilities
5 for such programs;

6 (2) coordinates with local or adjacent civilian
7 trade schools, technical or vocational institutes, or
8 community colleges that can provide paid instructors
9 for inmate classroom instruction;

10 (3) as county owned or leased land that can
11 support construction of classroom and vocational
12 training space;

13 (4) has county assets so that the county can
14 transport, feed, and secure inmates during inmate
15 classroom instruction and traveling to and from such
16 classroom instruction;

17 (5) has administrative support from a county
18 sheriff, county judge, or county commissioners court
19 members, as applicable; and

20 (6) coordinates with non-profit organizations
21 and unions that have expertise and experience in ca-
22 reer training programs.

23 (g) LIMITATION ON GRANT AMOUNTS.—The amount
24 of a grant under the Program shall not exceed \$500,000,
25 including if a grant is made to two or more counties with

1 a combined county jail inmate population of 500 or more
2 inmates.

3 (h) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the cost
4 of a project assisted with a grant under the Program shall
5 not exceed 75 percent.

6 (i) EVALUATION OF PROGRAM.—Not later than 365
7 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annu-
8 ally thereafter, an eligible recipient who is awarded a
9 grant under the Program shall submit to the Director a
10 report on the Program, including:

11 (1) The number of inmates that entered career
12 training programs developed pursuant to the Pro-
13 gram.

14 (2) The number of inmates that completed or
15 graduated career training programs developed pur-
16 suant to the Program.

17 (3) The number of inmates that completed or
18 graduated career training programs developed pur-
19 suant to the Program and re-entered the county jail
20 after their release from jail.

21 (4) The number of inmates that completed or
22 graduated career training programs developed pur-
23 suant to the Program who found employment after
24 release and what career field they are employed in.

1 (j) QUALIFIED NON-VIOLENT INMATES DEFINED.—

2 In this section, the term “qualified non-violent inmates”

3 means—

4 (1) a non-violent individual who has not been
5 convicted of an offense during the course of which—

6 (A) the individual used a firearm or other
7 dangerous weapon; or

8 (B) there occurred the death of, or serious
9 bodily injury to, any person;

10 (2) a non-violent individual who has not been
11 charged or convicted of any offense under Federal or
12 State law, punishable by imprisonment for a term
13 exceeding one year, that is murder, voluntary man-
14 slaughter, kidnapping, aggravated assault, a forcible
15 sex offense, robbery, arson, extortion, or the use or
16 unlawful possession of a firearm described in section
17 5845(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1968 (26
18 U.S.C. 5845(a)) or explosive material as defined in
19 section 841(c) of title 18, United States Code.

20 (k) FUNDING OF PROGRAM.—Section 506 of the Om-
21 nibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 198 (34
22 U.S.C. 10157) is amended by inserting the following new
23 subsection:

24 “(c) Of the total amount made available to carry out
25 this part for a fiscal year, the Attorney General shall re-

1 serve not more than 3 percent to be granted to 1 or more
2 county for the grant program established pursuant to the
3 ‘SCORE Act of 2021’ for each of the fiscal years 2022
4 to 2027.”.

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