

Second Chance Act: Youth Reentry Fact Sheet

Background

Approximately 27,000 youth (ages 18 and under) are confined in juvenile facilities across the United States.¹ The majority of these youth will eventually return to their communities. However, their ability to live productive and crime-free lives often depends on their continued education, preparation for future employment, and access to appropriate reentry services. While recidivism rates are not tracked nationally, states that measure youth rearrest, re-adjudication, and reincarceration have seen rates as high as 75% in the three years following release or placement on community supervision.² Youth who are reentering their communities after incarceration face a tremendous number of challenges, including secondary and post-secondary education, family re-integration, medical and mental health, substance use disorders, gang involvement, housing, employment, transportation, court, and probation requirements. Successful, coordinated systems of reentry depend on each of these pieces working within the unique context of each youth's life.

Key Facts

- On any given day, there are more than 27,000 youth in residential placements (out-of-home facilities where youth live under various types and levels of restrictive control and programming) across the United States.³
- In 2019, juvenile courts ordered residential placement in 27% of the cases in which the youth was adjudicated delinquent. Community supervision was the most severe disposition ordered in 65% of these cases.⁴
- Youth face numerous obstacles during the reentry process, including the collateral mental and physical health effects of incarceration, reconnecting with family, and finding stable housing and employment.^{5,6,7}
- States that measure youth recidivism have seen rates as high as 75% in the three years following release or placement on community supervision.

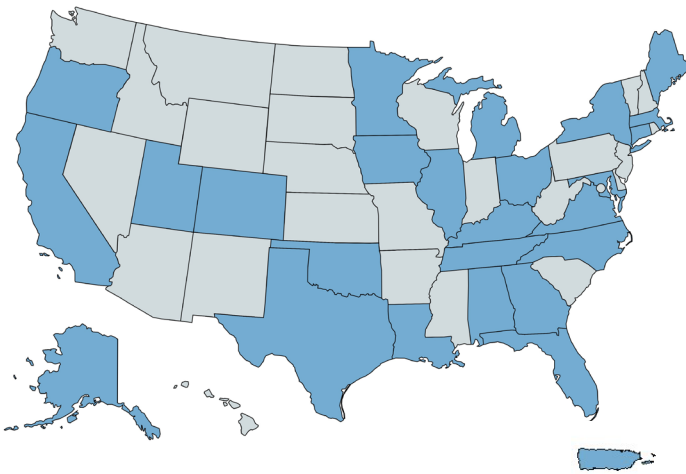
ABOUT THE SECOND CHANCE ACT AND ITS GRANT PROGRAM

In April 2008, Congress passed the Second Chance Act, first-of-its-kind legislation enacted with bipartisan support and backed by a broad spectrum of leaders in law enforcement, corrections, courts, behavioral health, and other areas. The Second Chance Act represents a federal investment in strategies to reduce recidivism and increase public safety, as well as to reduce corrections costs for state and local governments. The bill authorized up to \$165 million in federal grants to state, local, and tribal government agencies and nonprofit organizations.

The Office of Justice Programs funds and administers Second Chance Act (SCA) grants, with the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention awarding SCA grants serving youth. Since 2009, 231 SCA grants have been awarded to agencies and organizations that serve juvenile justice populations. SCA grantees provide critical services—including case management, education, substance use and mental health treatment, family therapy, housing, and mentorship—to ensure that the reentry process is safe and successful for youth. The grants also support the improvement of corrections and supervision practices that aim to reduce youth recidivism rates.

Second Chance Act Youth Reentry Landscape: Programs and Funding

States and territories with active SCA youth reentry grants: FY18-24⁸



Funding Spotlight

The Interagency Agreement between the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of Justice Programs (OJP), Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) and Corporation for National and Community Service (AmeriCorps) supports opportunities for young people who have been involved with the justice system to serve as AmeriCorps members by connecting them with organizations that address a multitude of challenges faced by communities across the nation. **This partnership currently supports 12 organizations and nearly 4,000 youth who are or were involved in the juvenile justice system, engaging them in service projects while offering them educational and professional development opportunities.**¹⁰

Fiscal Year	SCA Youth Reentry Grant Funding ⁹
FY09	\$3,660,172
FY10	\$6,457,146
FY11	\$11,811,819
FY12	\$5,262,354
FY13	\$9,726,429
FY14	\$5,380,148
FY15	\$9,121,197
FY16	\$8,814,955
FY17	\$9,277,803
FY18	\$8,653,345
FY19	\$6,729,900
FY20	\$6,721,782
FY21	\$9,970,249
FY22	\$13,614,860
FY23	\$15,751,817
FY24	\$7,995,329
TOTAL	\$138,949,305

Youth Reentry Grantee Highlight



PROJECT REWIND: SOUTH FLORIDA (FY22)

Gang Alternatives' Project ReWIND (Returning with Initiative, Networks, and Determination) serves youth across Broward, Dade, and Palm Beach counties. The program's primary goal is to ensure successful reentry by addressing the barriers and risk factors associated with youth recidivism, through academic and occupational skills training coupled with case management, mental health supports, and connection to essential social services (e.g., housing, transportation, food). Recently, three ReWIND participants successfully graduated from high school, two of

them a year ahead of schedule. They are all well on track to pursuing either post-secondary degrees or vocational licenses.

Innovative Approaches to Youth Reentry Technical Assistance

YRTTAC YOUTH FELLOWS

The Youth Reentry Training and Technical Assistance Center (YRTTAC), administered by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) and housed at the American Institutes for Research (AIR), supports capacity-building efforts among 50+ Second Chance Act Reentry grantees. YRTTAC's **Youth Fellows** program trains and mentors young people with direct experience to become changemakers in the field of youth reentry. The Youth Fellows provide technical assistance to SCA grantees, facilitate community of practice meetings for grantees, and develop resources focused on youth engagement and their own unique areas of expertise.

References

¹ Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. (2024). *OJJDP statistical briefing book*. <https://ojjdp.ojp.gov/statistical-briefing-book/corrections/faqs/qa08201>.

² Seigle, E., Walsh, N., & Weber, J. (2014) *Core principles for reducing recidivism and improving other outcomes for youth in the juvenile justice system*. Council of State Governments Justice Center. <https://csgjusticecenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Juvenile-Justice-White-Paper-with-Appendices-.pdf>.

³ Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. (2024). *OJJDP statistical briefing book*. <https://ojjdp.ojp.gov/statistical-briefing-book/corrections/faqs/qa08201>.

⁴ Puzzanchera, C., Hockenberry, S., & Sickmund, M. (2022). *Youth and the juvenile justice system: 2022 national report*. National Center for Juvenile Justice. <https://www.ncjfcj.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/2022-national-report.pdf>.

⁵ Barnert, E. S., Dudovitz, R., Nelson, B. B., Coker, T. R., Biely, C., Li, N., & Chung, P. J. (2017). *How does incarcerating young people affect their adult health outcomes?* *Pediatrics*, 139(2). <https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2016-2624>.

⁶ Mears, D. P., & Travis, J. (2004). *Youth development and reentry*. *Youth Violence and Juvenile Justice*, 2(1), 3–20. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1541204003260044>.

⁷ Bondoc, Christopher & Meza, Jocelyn & Ospina, Andrea & Bosco, John & Mei, Edward & Barnert, Elizabeth. (2021). *“Overlapping and intersecting challenges”: Parent and provider perspectives on youth adversity during community reentry after incarceration*. *Children and Youth Services Review*. 125(3). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2021.106007>.

⁸ Based on SCA youth reentry grant award data for FY09-24, provided directly to YRTTAC by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

⁹ E-map created using <https://www.mapchart.net/usa.html>. Based on SCA youth reentry grantee lists from FY18-24, provided directly to YRTTAC by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

¹⁰ *Justice Department AmeriCorps Partner | Office of Justice Programs*. (2024). Office of Justice Programs. <https://www.ojp.gov/archives/pressreleases/2024/justice-department-ameri-corps-partner>.

