

# BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE FACT SHEET

## SECOND CHANCE ACT IMPROVING SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER TREATMENT AND RECOVERY OUTCOMES FOR ADULTS IN REENTRY

Signed into law in April 2008 and reauthorized in 2018, the Second Chance Act (SCA) aims to enhance public safety by reducing recidivism and improving outcomes for youth and adults leaving detention and incarceration to return to their communities. The SCA authorizes the awarding of federal grants, aligned with the requirements of the legislation, to eligible entities to provide reentry services and programs, including employment and housing assistance, victim support, and substance use treatment. Additionally, SCA funds may be used to support general system improvements. The U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs funds and administers SCA grants for adults via the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) and for youth via the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

### Purpose of Program

Launched in FY 2020, this program aims to improve outcomes for adults with substance use disorders (SUDs) or co-occurring substance use and mental health disorders who are reentering communities following a period of incarceration. The objectives of the program are to support eligible government agencies and nonprofit community-based organizations working with a corrections agency to:

- Use validated screening and assessment tools to identify SUDs and co-occurring substance use and mental health disorders;
- Provide evidence-based SUD treatment services during incarceration and upon return to the community; and
- Provide recovery support services that start pre-release and continue through the reentry process.

### Eligibility

The following entities are eligible to apply:

- State governments
- Units of local government
- Federally recognized Tribal governments
- Nonprofit community-based organizations

### Allowable Uses of Funds

- Improvement of SUD treatment programs, including medication-assisted treatment (MAT), provided in a correctional facility.
- Provision of prison-based family treatment programs to incarcerated parents of minor children and pregnant/postpartum women.



- Development and implementation of supervised programs for people with long-term SUD, including assessment, case management, and coordinated and continuous treatment.
- Provision of addiction recovery support services for people in the criminal justice system.
- Payment of salaries, personnel costs, facility costs, and others directly related to the operation of the program.

## Featured Grantee Highlights

The **Helen Ross McNabb Center** (FY 2021) is providing a jail reentry program for women in Tennessee focused on SUD treatment, Moral Reconation Therapy, MAT, and workforce development. The center partners with several community-based employers assisting the women in locating permanent employment following program completion.

**Guara BÍ** (FY 2021) is a community-based organization providing SUD treatment to individuals in Puerto Rico reentering the community after a period of incarceration. Key aspects of the program include MAT, therapeutic services, housing support, education and employment support, and holistic case management.

## Learn More

For more information, please contact:

National Reentry Resource Center  
[info@nationalreentryresourcecenter.org](mailto:info@nationalreentryresourcecenter.org)

Or visit us at: <https://nationalreentryresourcecenter.org>

## ABOUT BJA

BJA helps America's state, local, and tribal jurisdictions reduce and prevent crime, lower recidivism, and promote a fair and safe criminal justice system. BJA provides a wide range of resources—including grants, funding, and training and technical assistance—to law enforcement, courts and corrections agencies, treatment providers, reentry practitioners, justice information sharing professionals, and community-based partners to address chronic and emerging criminal justice challenges nationwide. To learn more about BJA, visit [bja.ojp.gov](https://bja.ojp.gov) or follow us on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/DOJBIA](https://www.facebook.com/DOJBIA)) and X (@DOJBIA). BJA is a component of the Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs.