



REENTRY DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS FOR YOUNG ADULTS

Reentry Demonstration Projects for Young Adults (RDP) provides the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration (ETA) the ability to give organizations the chance to improve employability outcomes for young adults between the ages of 18 to 24 that have been involved in the juvenile or adult justice system, residing in high-poverty, high-crime communities. The RDP project will blend evidence-based and informed interventions in order to increase placement in education and employment prospects for justice involved young adults. These RDP grantees will identify the largest possible target area to recruit in order to successfully meet their targets. All RDP grantees agree to participate in a rigorous evaluation of their projects. The Department intends to award these grants to a combination of rural- and urban-serving organizations.

Through this grant project, ETA seeks to prevent and reduce crime and enhance young adult reentry strategies through collaboration with the field to identify, define, and respond to emerging or chronic youthful offender reentry challenges and issues. ETA seeks strategies to address these issues, including trying new approaches, addressing gaps in services, building or translating research knowledge, or building capacity. ETA funded field-initiated grant programs will provide opportunities to support a small number of multi-site projects that bring fresh perspectives and ideas to enhance practice and prevent recidivism of youthful offenders.

The Employment and Training Administration (ETA) plans to use approximately \$30,250,000 in grant funds authorized by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) to fund seven RDP grant projects. Grantees will be Intermediary organizations that have an affiliate network or offices in at least three communities and across at least two states.

The intent of this initiative is to protect community safety through the successful reintegration of offenders returning to the community by ensuring that offenders become productive, responsible, and law-abiding citizens; are provided with positive opportunities to engage in pro-social activities such as employment or education; maintain long-term employment; sustain a stable residence; and successfully address their substance abuse issues and mental health needs.

In general, demonstration projects are designed by organizations in the field with minimal parameters to meet specific goals; the design and methods for these ETA projects will be based on current evidence and research of "what works" as well as promising practices. These projects will support the improvement and effectiveness of services, and the Department supports the testing of new services and existing services in new combinations.