



## Summary

In 2022, the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Department of Labor (DOL) partnered and launched the Partners for Reentry Opportunities in Workforce Development (PROWD) grant program. PROWD aligns job training and skills development services provided to federally incarcerated individuals to the labor market needs of the communities where they will live. In so doing, the program improves both the employment outcomes of returning citizens and public safety of all community members while increasing the capacity of justice and workforce system partnerships.

## Program Design

Safe, prosperous communities are important to all of us, and strengthening the labor force is a key strategy to realizing that goal. Employers are struggling to find qualified workers to fill their open jobs, and the people who leave federal incarceration each year are an untapped talent pool that can help meet that need. PROWD grantees ensure program participants have the skills in demand by local employers, along with access to the supportive services necessary for success.

PROWD programs offer skills-building and job training services including apprenticeships in growing industries like chip making, along with opportunities for financial and digital literacy learning, and peer mentoring. Importantly, consistent case management follows and supports participants through all program stages.

Key elements around which each program is tailored include:

- A coordinated multi-stage program approach:
  - During incarceration in federal prisons
  - During time spent in residential reentry centers (RRCs), also known as halfway houses
  - After release from RRCs into the community
- Consistent job coaching
- Novel use of technology, for example to improve continuity of training in employment labs, to facilitate mentoring and job interviews, and other approved uses by and for participants
- Peer mentoring throughout all stages of the program
- Supportive services

Another central element is cross-agency, cross-systems partnership including:

- State workforce agencies
- Public safety agencies
- Federal correctional facilities
- RRCs
- U.S. Probation Offices
- State apprenticeship agencies
- State Medicaid programs
- State housing agencies
- Industry organizations & employers
- Unions & other labor organizations
- Local social service providers
- Others based on program needs

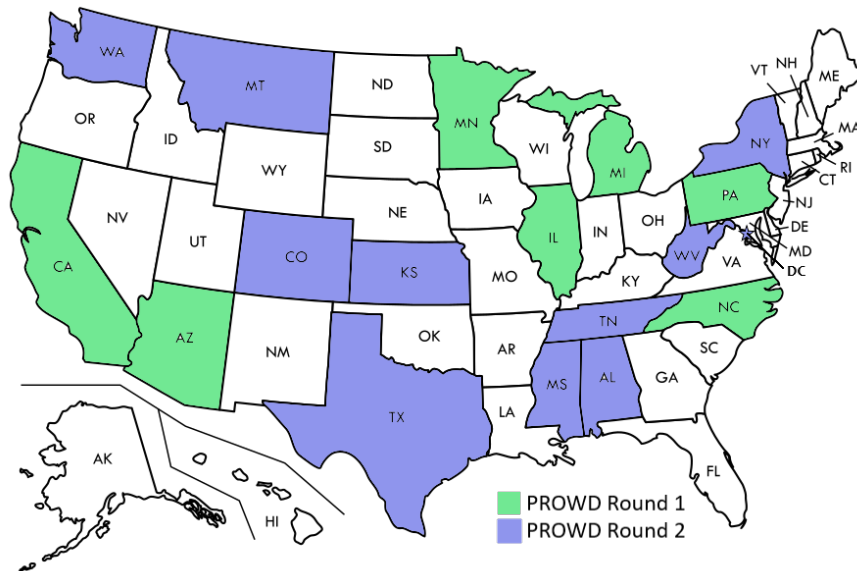
Together, these partners are laying the groundwork for and launching effective reentry programs serving citizens returning from federal incarceration, with an emphasis on quality jobs.

First Step Act (FSA) funds are used during the first two stages, and Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) funds pick up in stage 3, when individuals are no longer in the care of the BOP. This allows states to support people throughout their transition to the community.

### Evaluation

Building the [reentry evidence base](#) underpins DOL’s reentry employment portfolio. PROWD builds upon existing evidence and seeks to identify whether and which strategies proven successful in state and local corrections settings yield similar results in the federal correction system. The PROWD-funded states will participate in an independent evaluation to increase knowledge of what works in returning citizens to their homes and families.

### PROWD Grant Awards and Recipients



To date, 18 workforce agencies received \$105,279,538.56 in FSA funding to partner with community organizations and federal correctional institutions to provide coordinated services throughout the reentry process. In 2022, DOL awarded over \$42 million to seven state agencies, and in 2023 the program grew to include 10 new states and the District of Columbia, which collectively received

\$48.7 million in PROWD round 2 awards. Also in 2023, five round 1 states received nearly \$14.5 million to expand to additional BOP facilities and provide peer mentoring.

## 2022 Awards

<i>Recipient</i>	<i>Amount</i>
▪ Arizona Department of Economic Security	\$1,170,341
▪ California Workforce Development Board	\$5,333,658
▪ Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity	\$10,000,000
▪ Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Opportunity - Workforce Development	\$5,741,450
▪ Minnesota Department of Employment & Economic Development	\$8,000,000
▪ North Carolina Department of Commerce - Division of Workforce Solutions	\$6,807,687
▪ Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry	\$5,000,000

## 2023 Awards

<i>Recipient</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<u>PROWD Round 2</u>	
▪ Alabama Department of Commerce	\$6,507,557
▪ Colorado Department of Labor and Employment	\$4,235,032
▪ District of Columbia Department of Employment Services	\$852,446
▪ Kansas Department of Commerce	\$3,834,170
▪ Mississippi Department of Employment Security	\$8,300,667
▪ Montana Department of Labor and Industry	\$1,834,832
▪ New York Department of Labor	\$4,103,310
▪ Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development	\$4,448,464
▪ Texas Workforce Commission	\$4,639,713
▪ Washington Department of Employment Security	\$6,256,524
▪ Workforce West Virginia	\$3,254,249
<u>PROWD Round 1 Expansion</u>	
▪ Arizona Department of Economic Security	\$3,994,496
▪ California Workforce Development Board	\$4,000,000
▪ Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Opportunity - Workforce Development	\$2,000,000
▪ Minnesota Department of Employment & Economic Development	\$3,000,000
▪ Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry	\$1,500,000