



# Pathway Home Reentry Evaluation

## SUMMARY

In September 2020, the Chief Evaluation Office (CEO) partnered with the Employment and Training Administration (ETA) and commissioned contractor Mathematica, and their subcontractors Social Policy Research Associates and Council of State Governments Justice Center, to conduct the Evaluation of the Pathway Home Grant Program. The implementation and impact evaluation aims to build the knowledge base about reentry employment programs by (1) describing how the grantees implemented programs and who they served, (2) identifying successes and challenges of implementation as reported by the grantees, and (3) assessing the impact of services on participant employment, recidivism, and other outcomes.

Individuals released from incarceration face substantial obstacles to successful reentry and self-sufficiency once in the community. The [Pathway Home Grant program](#) seeks to help mitigate these obstacles by providing linked pre- and post-release employment services to improve individuals' chances of finding meaningful employment and avoiding recidivism. In 2020 and 2021, DOL awarded nearly \$113 million in Pathway Home grants to two cohorts of 42 grantees across 21 states and Washington, D.C. with the goals of increasing the provision of workforce services to eligible incarcerated individuals and strengthening the continuity of pre-release and post-release employment and other support services.

This Department of Labor-funded study was a result of the annual process to determine the Department's research priorities for the upcoming year. It contributes to the labor evidence- base to inform [Reentry](#) and [Employment and Training](#) programs and policies and addresses Departmental strategic goals and priorities.

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- The report presents designs for three evaluations of Pathway Home grant implementation: (1) Evaluation of Cohort 1 implementation during the COVID-19 pandemic (June 2020 –December 2021); (2) Start-up and early implementation of Cohort 2 grants (June 2021 – July 2022); and (3) In-depth implementation of the Cohort 2 grants (August 2022 – December 2023). The designs include research questions, data sources, methods, and reporting plans.
- The report includes a conceptual framework for the evaluation, which was informed by a literature review, consultations with an advisory group and other partners, and a review of grant documents.
- The contractors will provide findings on a rolling basis throughout the course of the evaluation and will develop a mix of topical briefs or reports that are shorter



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and tailored for specific purposes. The final report will present more detailed findings from the in-depth implementation evaluation of the Cohort 2 grants.

- The report provides an overview of initial design considerations for the impact study of the Pathway Home Cohort 2 grants, including options for a randomized control trial or quasi-experimental design. The final impact evaluation design will be described in detail in a future report.

[SEE FULL STUDY](#)

**TIMEFRAME:** 2020-2025

**SUBMITTED BY:** Mathematica

**DATE PREPARED:** September 2022

**PARTNER AGENCY:** Employment and Training Administration (ETA)

**SPONSOR:** Chief Evaluation Office

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*The Department of Labor's (DOL) Chief Evaluation Office (CEO) sponsors independent evaluations and research, primarily conducted by external, third-party contractors in accordance with the [Department of Labor Evaluation Policy](#). CEO's [research development process](#) includes extensive technical review at the design, data collection and analysis stage, including: external contractor review and OMB review and approval of data collection methods and instruments per the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA), Institutional Review Board (IRB) review to ensure studies adhere to the highest ethical standards, review by academic peers (e.g., Technical Working Groups), and inputs from relevant DOL agency and program officials and CEO technical staff. Final reports undergo an additional independent expert technical review and a review for Section 508 compliance prior to publication. The resulting reports represent findings from this independent research and do not represent DOL positions or policies.*