

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security  
Office of Grants and Research

**Questions Submitted FY22 Emerging Adult Reentry Initiative**

Q1. On page 2, Section 2.2 Program Duration - it states "applicants must apply for up to 10 months of funding" but the period listed is a 12-month period here and in the budget section (Section 3.2.2). Please confirm it is a 12-month project period.

A. The grant period is a 12-month period from January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022.

Q2. On page 7, Section 3.2.2 Budget, Table 1 Approved Cost Categories - it states "out-of-state travel not allowed." Some of our employees live in other states who would be doing this work. Please confirm if, in this case, travel from out-of-state to attend in-person meetings/ trainings directly related to the purposes of the grant would be allowable.

A. We understand that out-of-state travel may be necessary to cover expenses for commuters from out-of-state. Please fully explain this expense in the budget narrative and it will be considered. While mileage may be considered, overnight accommodations, meals and other travel expenses will not be allowed.

Q3. Have the grants been awarded to the six reentry programs? If so, is it possible to share the names of the programs?

A. Yes, the FY21 Emerging Adult Reentry funded programs are:

Roca: Suffolk County partnership

Roca: Hampden County partnership

UTEC: Essex County partnership

UTEC: Middlesex County partnership

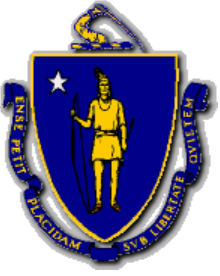
UTEC: Department of Correction partnership

South Shore Workforce Development: Plymouth County partnership

Q4. Do participants have to complete a training or education program before being placed in a job?

A. Data suggests that training prior to job placement is beneficial to the participants, but it is not required.

Q5. Are training cohorts required?



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- A. Training is not mandatory, but may be offered if it is a part of your program. It is suggested that applicants propose their own measures based on their usual program policies and practices.

Q6. Does the program include both males and females?

- A. State legislation dictates that the grant is to “*reduce recidivism among individuals between the ages of 18 and 25*”. Individuals include both male and female participants.

Q7. Can the age range be expanded to include older adults?

- A. The age range of Adults 18-25 in the FY22 Emerging Adult Reentry AGF was determined by the legislative language, which cannot be changed for this year.

Q8. Are we limited to individuals within the South Shore SDA?

- A. Awardees are required to work with the partner/partners with which MOUs partnerships were established.

Q9. Can we partner with correctional facilities (Sherriff’s and DOC) outside the South Shore SDA?

- A. Awardees can partner with agencies, regardless of location, in which an MOU partnership has been established.

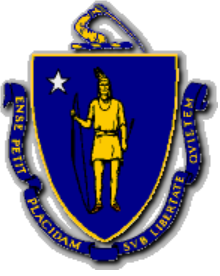
Q10. Can we include training stipends for participants?

- A. Training stipends will be considered as they relate to the applicant’s goals and objectives.

Q11. Is there a job placement measure? Such as days in the job?

- A. All job placement data is required with each quarterly report, including days on the job and other job placement metrics. Quarterly reports will reflect the progress of the awardee’s goals and objectives in relation to their application.

Q12. Can we provide transportation to employment for participants after they have successfully completed training?



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- A. Participant transportation to employment will be considered as it relates to the applicant's goals and objectives.

Q13. Has OGR staff prepared any summaries or assessments of work funded by this grant program in prior periods (beyond initial press releases summarizing the recipients) that can inform applicants for this upcoming period?

If so, what have you learned? For instance, are there emerging "best practices" in the Massachusetts context for programming, data collection, tracking progress and reporting outcomes and performance?

How can we access this material?

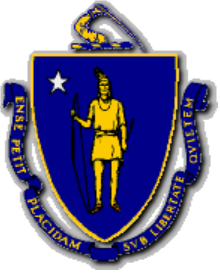
- A. Please see the posted FY2020 Emerging Adult Reentry Final Report submitted by the FY20 TA Provider, UTEC Training Center for Excellence. This report details short and long term recommendations, new innovations during Covid, various challenges, accomplishments as well as outcomes and activities during the FY2020 grant period.

Q14. Having worked as a community reentry program for five plus years, we have discovered that legal and institutional/bureaucratic barriers exist between courts, Sheriff's, the DOC and Probation / Parole officers and Reentry Programs with respect to sharing information essential to monitoring recidivism. One of the hardest things to do as a community-based reentry program is keeping track of returning citizens who go off the grid. We lose track of them. There is resistance on the part of the Courts and Sheriff.

Has the requirement for MOU's improved collaboration between the above-mentioned governmental elements of the criminal justice system and non-profit community reentry program with respect to sharing recidivism status information on inmates and reoffenders?

- A. Since this is a relatively new program, sites are currently working with their MOU's to collect this data. If issues arise, the TA Provider may provide suggestions on best practices to collect this data.

Q15. How does, or can, the OGR/EOPSS influence the collaborative atmosphere to soften these historical barriers and better facilitate collaboration? What worked during the last round? Can we propose to help advocate for needed changes? If so, how? What would OGR like to see us do?



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- A. To assist with collaboration an award is also available to a TA Provider, who assists with grant programs, sharing of data, feedback and collaboration. It is essential for each awardee to build a relationship with the TA Provider.

Q16. What leeway do recipient programs have in using these grant funds to work with returning citizens beyond the 18-25 age range?

- A. The FY22 Emerging Adult Reentry Grant only allows for participants to be within the 18-25 age range.

Q17. Can the funding be used for rent in a sober house?

- A. As a part of the release program, funds may follow the participants and be used for post-release services, such as rent for a limited time in a sober house. This would be considered as a startup expense, if this is a part of the applicant's proposed program.

Q18. Can funds be used to purchase food gift cards for returning citizens at Stop & Shop or bus passes from the Regional Transit Authority?

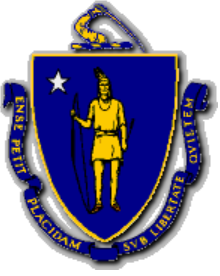
- A. As a startup expense, gift cards are allowable for food and transportation, but cash incentives/gift cards are not allowed. Gift cards should not be an ongoing expense. If a food allowance is needed on an ongoing basis, participants should be referred to other state and federal resources.

Q19. Can funding be used to support the salary/cost of social workers, addiction counselors or other professionals?

- A. Yes, these salary costs can be included within the Contracts/Consultants cost category in your Budget Worksheet.

Q20. Can funding be used to support the installation of wifi and tablet computers, or services necessary for the use of this technology, for program participants inside county or state jails and prisons?

- A. This would be an allowable expense as long as the purpose of the expense is in line with the project goals and objectives.



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Q21. Can funding support the cost of needed Uber rides to mandated court appearances or family visits through programs like Community Access to Rides which our Reentry Program is involved in under a federal grant managed by Mass DOT?

- A. Funding may be used towards transportation, if transportation is a required part of the project goals and objectives.

Q22. Can funding support the cost of court-mandated learning programs such as Anger Management, Defensive Driving and the like which are often short term barriers to requalifying for a MDL? What about accumulated fees and fines by RMV? Is the administration (RMV / DOT) also to be considered one of our collaborative partners in terms of easing conflicting barriers to stable reentry/return to work?

- A. Funding may be used for court-mandated programs if this is a part of your proposed plan to service participants and if non-attendance in these programs is a barrier to achieving your goals and objectives.

As this is a relatively new program, contracts to partner with RMV/DOT have not been established by OGR. Applicants are welcome to pursue these partnerships with the DOT/RMV as a part of their proposed program.

Q23. Is the OGR able to share insights into which best practices and evidence-based approaches, from among those suggested in the resources referenced, seem to work best with county and state incarceration systems operating today in Massachusetts?

Another way of putting this is, is there an emerging package of best practice approaches to reentry intervention in the Massachusetts continuum of "corrections" that could inform applicants and their partners in adapting or modifying their existing methodologies in ways that would benefit this emerging field of practice?

- A. OGR does not recommend one program over another. Applicants should select program(s) that fit with their own mission and vision. OGR always recommends evidence-based programs.

This grant program is too new to determine best practices. OGR has not yet compiled recidivism results from this funding.