

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION  
MASSACHUSETTS PROBATION SERVICE  
ARPA 2048 Solicitation for Supporting Successful Reentry  
Questions and Answers**

**Note to Applicants:** Forum answers are provided for the sole purpose of assisting the applicants in responding to this Solicitation. Forum answers are not intended to modify or interpret the terms of the Solicitation and shall not be used to modify or interpret the terms of this Solicitation, either before or after the award of funds.

The complete Applicants Questions and Answers Forum are contained in this document. This Report reflects 24 questions and answers.

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1. In reviewing the RFP for supporting successful reentry, I have a question about the award amounts. I saw the information below and wonder if those numbers are per year or an overall, three year total grant amount.  
While determinations of awards will be made by the Strategic Sourcing Team based on the proposal, the following are guidelines for the potential grant award amounts:  
\$10,000 to \$100,000  
\$100,000 to \$500,000  
\$500,000 and above Maximum 5 awards

**Answer:** The numbers are an overall total grant amount.

2. Is there a working definition of a non-profit that supports state reentry initiatives?

**Answer:** No.

3. Is medically billable residential programming eligible for funding?

**Answer:** Yes.

4. "Funds shall be made available for multi-year grants" – in what year/fiscal year does the funding availability expire?

**Answer:** State Fiscal Year 2026.

5. Can you confirm the definition of "re-entry" population? Does this only include individuals formerly incarcerated in the MA DOC system? Do individuals incarcerated in the MA County jail system, or those with previous involvement in probation or community corrections qualify?

**Answer: Any individual reentering the community from March 10, 2020 forward from any state or county facility, and/or on parole or probation. This includes detainees, inmates and civil commitments.**

6. On the signature page of the solicitation, it states, “this signature page must be signed and mailed with your Hard copy application.” Does the Commonwealth require a hard copy of the application or this page or will a signed copy of this page as part of an electronic submission be sufficient?

**Answer: The Commonwealth will accept hard copy as well as electronic submissions.**

7. Since there is no bidders conference, I’m wondering if it is possible to ask and receive answers to questions prior to the Q&A deadlines of the 19th and 25th? We need to be thinking about this now, and there are a lot of unanswered questions in the NOFO. Is it possible to communicate via email or have a phone conversation? Or do we need to wait until 7/25 to receive any specific information??

**Answer: All questions must be submitted as directed in Solicitation.**

8. Some top of mind questions have to do with the contract period, the referral process/eligibility requirements, and allowable expenses. Please let me know if we can get any general clarifications in advance or if our only option is to formally submit questions to the Q&A period. I have several questions related to the Solicitation for Supporting Reentry NOFO?

**Answer: All questions must be submitted as directed in Solicitation.**

9. Can you confirm the anticipated contract period?

**Answer: 11/1/2022-10/31/2025.**

10. Are you looking for the entire multi-year project budget, or an annual budget for the first year?

**Answer: This is up to the applicant.**

11. Do you anticipate awarding grants under \$500,000??

**Answer: Yes**

12. Can you confirm which of the following expenses are allowable:

transportation (returning citizens and/or staff),

- job readiness skills training (the step before a training program with certification),
- temporary housing,
- tuition for training programs (as applicable),
- stipend for living expenses (e.g., for clothing, food, etc.)
- self-paced computer training modules (e.g., financial literacy, basic computer skills, customer service skills, ServSafe, etc.)?

**Answer: We cannot confirm at this time.**

13. Can you confirm if there is any other criteria for participant eligibility beyond being a returning citizen since March 10, 2020?

**Answer: No.**

14. I have a few questions about the NOFA solicitation for supporting successful reentry, funded with ARPA dollars.

I represent a community-based, not-for-profit career center with a long history of services and programs for justice involved citizens. As such, we have been approached by two different entities to partner with them in their proposed applications, possibly as the lead applicant. While we are currently in the process of determining whether it makes sense for these two projects to be combined into one, we are preparing for the possibility that our community might be better served keeping them separate. It's clear in the NOFA that more than one application is allowable, as long as we identify our priorities between the two submissions. Taking this a step further, we wish to confirm our assumption that we could serve as the lead partner on both?

We also want to know if the budget allows for paid (via stipends) work experience and/or occupational training, especially for emerging adults. If the answer is yes, do WIOA rules have any bearing on how the funding is spent?

Finally, we were hoping you could clarify the following:

"...reentry services that prioritize communities with high concentrations of individuals who returned to the community from a state prison or county correctional facility during the governor's March 10, 2020 declaration of a state of emergency."

Does this statement include everyone, including those not yet sentenced and awaiting trial?

How does the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, the Department of Correction, and the Massachusetts Probation Service define "high concentrations?" Is there any other information that would be helpful in understanding these basic criteria?

**Answer: Yes, you can serve as lead partner on both. Yes, budget may allow for such, however further discussion is necessary regarding WIOA rules. Yes, that statement includes everyone. Please refer to the Solicitation for further information.**

15. Should we submit two separate submissions, one for the "housing regional reentry centers" and case management inside the program and one for our job readiness and placement programs; if we submit two, does this mean we have to still fall under the cap of \$500k, or can we ask for a separate budget?

**Answer: Yes; please see terms of Solicitation**

16. Is there a cutoff or percentage for how much can be spent on staffing?

**Answer: No.**

17. As it reads, this is for a rotating grant funding opportunity that we would not find out if we would be getting or not until 8/31, and I assume funding would not get disbursed for some time. So it's

safe to say I will write the grant for on fiscal year starting 1/1/2023-1/1/2024 as project start and end dates?

**Answer:** Please refer to the terms of the Solicitation.

18. Can state agencies (ie. Sheriff's departments) with community based reentry centers apply for this funding?

**Answer:** No.

19. Should we be submitting a multiyear budget or a single year budget? If for multiple years should it be 3 years or 5 years?

**Answer:** Please refer to the terms of the Solicitation.

20. Could you please define "pay-go capital project", which is mentioned throughout the RFP as a funding priority?

**Answer:** Please refer to the Solicitation for description.

21. I am reaching out from the District Attorney's Office regarding the Solicitation for Successful Reentry. We are very interested in this funding and partnership opportunity. Are DA's offices or other state agencies eligible to apply?

**Answer:** No.

22. We currently have a program that operates both behind the wall and post-release. Would we be able to direct this funding towards the post-release section of this program?

**Answer:** Yes.

23. What is the maximum annual award?

**Answer:** There is no maximum amount.

24. If you are awarded a grant in year one, is it awarded as a multi-year grant in year one, or do you need to reapply based on success with the grant in years two and onwards?

**Answer:** Multiyear.