

Analysis
Department of Corrections
Parenting Inside Out

Analyst: Julie Neburka

Request: Approve a request from the Department of Corrections to apply for \$750,000 from the Second Chance Act Addressing the Needs of Incarcerated Parents and their Minor Children Program grant from the US Department of Justice.

Analysis: In December 2020, the US Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs' Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention made \$5 million available nationwide for grants to states and local governments to promote and expand services available in prisons and jails for incarcerated parents and their children under the age of eighteen. This grant program focuses on activities that foster positive family engagement between incarcerated parents and their children within prisons and jails, but funding may also be used for those programs and services for the children of incarcerated parents that provide opportunities for positive youth development in the community.

The Department of Corrections (DOC) anticipates using the grant funds, if awarded, to further its work with incarcerated parents and their children by extending its Parenting Inside Out Phase 2 pilot program. The Parenting Inside Out program is a therapeutic, enhanced-visiting program designed to increase positive family engagement both before and after release from prison. Designed by the non-profit Pathfinders Network, the program has been piloted at several DOC institutions and has shown promise in strengthening connections between incarcerated adults and their minor children. Program enhancements under consideration by the Department include providing travel vouchers for children and their caregivers; providing no-cost technology for communications between adults in custody and their children; creating an engagement workshop for children's caregivers; and providing training for DOC staff.

Grant applications are due March 19, 2021, with awards announced by October 2021 for a three-year period of performance. There are no match requirements. If successful, the agency may return to the Legislature or Emergency Board to request additional Federal Funds expenditure limitation.

Legislative Fiscal Office Recommendation: Approve the request.

Department of Corrections McDonald

Request: Authorization to apply for a grant of \$750,000 from the U.S. Department of Justice (USDOJ), Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), to extend the 2018 Parenting Inside Out Phase 2 (PIO2) pilot program.

Recommendation: Approve the request.

Discussion: The Department of Corrections (DOC) seeks approval to apply for the competitive Second Chance Act Addressing the Needs of Incarcerated Parents and Their Minor Children grant through the USDOJ. This grant is aimed at assisting states and localities in developing or expanding services to meet the needs of incarcerated parents and their minor children, with the intent of preventing violent crime, reducing recidivism, and providing support and services for children of incarcerated parents. DOC would apply for \$750,000, the maximum grant award, to extend and augment the PIO2 pilot program. The PIO2 program, developed by the Pathfinders Network, is an evidence-based, therapeutic, enhanced-visiting program designed to increase positive family engagement before and after release. This PIO program was developed in 2008 and has been successfully used in DOC for many years. However, Oregon is the first state to provide Phase 2 to adults in custody. The enhanced program includes virtual participation and coaching to overcome barriers created by COVID-19 and the 2020 wildfires. If awarded sufficient funding, DOC intends to provide the following through the PIO2 program:

- Travel vouchers for children and caregivers;
- No-cost communications technology (e.g. texting and video calls) for the participants;
- Trauma-informed, mindfulness training for DOC visitation staff and other key staff; and
- An engagement workshop for the children's caregivers.

The program is designed to increase and enhance communication between the child and incarcerated parent, reduce recidivism and intergenerational criminal activity, and promote healthy child development. Evidence shows parents who maintain family ties while incarcerated have improved behavior, resulting in safer facilities, and are more successfully reintegrated into communities upon release.

There is no state match requirement and no additional positions are needed, as full support will be provided through contracted services with the Pathfinders Network. The application deadline is March 19, 2021 and although there is no specified award date, the grant performance period starts on October 1, 2021. This is a one-time grant. DOC reports when the grant runs out they will end the program if additional funds cannot be identified. However, if the Department is successful, this would be the fourth year DOC has received similar OJJDP grant funding.



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Oregon Department of Corrections

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February 3, 2021

The Honorable Betsy Johnson, Co-Chair
The Honorable Elizabeth Steiner Hayward, Co-Chair
The Honorable Dan Rayfield, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Ways and Means
900 Court Street, N.E.
H-178 State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301-4048

Dear Co-Chairpersons:

The Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC) respectfully requests approval to apply for the **Second Chance Act Addressing the Needs of Incarcerated Parents and Their Minor Children** grant.

Source of Grant U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of Justice Programs (OJP), Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP)

Amount Being Requested \$750,000

Purpose of the Grant DOC requests permission to apply for this grant to continue and extend the 2018 Parenting Inside Out Phase 2 (PIO2) pilot program. PIO2 is a therapeutic, enhanced-visiting program designed to increase positive family engagement before and after release. The program was designed by the Pathfinders Network and has been piloted at DOC institutions. Oregon is the first state to provide PIO2 to adults in custody (AICs). Program staff have modified the program to overcome the visiting barriers created by the COVID-19 pandemic and 2020 wildfires. The enhanced program includes virtual participation and coaching. DOC intends to contract with the Pathfinders Network to continue providing these valuable services and qualified facilitators for the program.

In addition, if sufficient funds are awarded, DOC would seek to augment the program by providing travel vouchers for the children and their caregivers; no-cost communications technology (e.g., texting, video calls) for the participating AICs and children; develop and provide trauma-informed, mindfulness training for DOC visitation and other key staff; and develop and provide an engagement workshop for the children's caregivers (e.g., discussing the potential emotional impacts on the children, "grounding" post-visit activities, communicating with school officials, etc.).

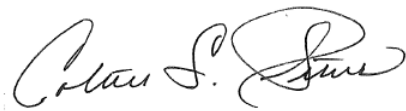
Application Deadline	March 19, 2021
State Match Required for the Grant	None
Impact the match will have on budgeted services and performance measures	N/A
Additional FTE the grant will require	<p>No additional DOC Full Time Employee (FTE) will be required. All FTE will be provided through contracted services with the Pathfinders Network.</p> <p>If sufficient funds are received, DOC will use grant funds to cover potential overtime costs for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Trauma-informed emotional intelligence training to visiting room security staff and other key staff at the impacted facilities.• Security staff necessary to host enhanced visiting events for parent and child(ren) interactions.
How the Grant Supports the Agency Mission and Goals	<p>Because research has demonstrated that positive family engagement before release reduces the risk of recidivism, DOC has been providing enhanced visiting opportunities. These include family picnics and pow wows at its institutions. DOC plans to resume these visiting opportunities once it can return to normal (post-COVID-19) operating conditions.</p> <p>PIO is an evidence-based program that has been successfully used in DOC for many years. PIO was originally designed to include a therapeutic family engagement module through enhanced visiting, and its development was completed (i.e., Phase II) by the Pathfinders Network prior to DOC's 2018 grant application. It is too early to collect quantifiable data from the ongoing pilot program, but both AIC and family participants have expressed significant benefits from the program in making meaningful connections with their minor children, and because of their efforts, they are being recognized as viable parents for reunification with their children in the foster care system.</p>

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DOC intends to use these grant funds to implement the PIO2 coached-family engagement and enhanced-visiting program using the latest research available to create stronger families and prepare AICs for successful parenting and reintegration into our communities. Reducing recidivism through the proposed use of these grant funds supports the agency's mission to promote public safety by holding offenders accountable for their actions and reducing the risk of future criminal behavior. It also promotes [Preparing Offenders for Reentry](#), which is a component of the agency's vision.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Colette S. Peters
Director

cc: Laurie Byerly, Legislative Fiscal Officer
George Naughton, Chief Financial Officer
Julie Neburka, LFO Principal Legislative Analyst
April McDonald, CFO Policy and Budget Analyst
Steve Robbins, DOC Chief Financial Officer
Rem Nivens, DOC Communications Administrator
Nathaline Frener, DOC, Assistant Director, Correctional Services