

# INFOCUS



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## Youth Reentry and Family Engagement

The **Second Chance Act** authorizes federal grants for comprehensive reentry planning, direct pre- and postrelease services, and sustainable justice system improvements that promote positive youth and family outcomes, reduce recidivism, and increase public safety.

On any given day, there are **approximately 36,500 youth** in residential placement. Most of these youth will eventually return to their communities and need support to make the transition successfully. Children of incarcerated parents also need support to mitigate the unintended consequences of parental incarceration. Parents may have difficulty maintaining meaningful contact with their children and children may lose critical supports such as consistent caregiving and housing. Youth involved in the juvenile justice system and children of incarcerated parents are both more likely to have experienced **other traumatic events** than their peers.

Through its Second Chance Act programs, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) helps to strengthen families and provide youth with educational and vocational opportunities, employment and housing assistance, mental and physical healthcare, family programming, and substance use treatment to help them overcome barriers to successful reentry.

### Programs

#### Second Chance Act: Youth Reentry Program

OJJDP grants help communities plan, implement, and sustain juvenile justice system improvements, direct services, and evidence-based programs for youth. Projects emphasize comprehensive planning for reentry while youth are confined, individualized pre- and postrelease services, and program evaluation.

#### Second Chance Act: Addressing the Needs of Incarcerated Parents and Their Minor Children

OJJDP supports programs in correctional facilities that encourage prosocial family engagement between parents in secure confinement and their minor children, when it is in the best interest of the child. The grants also fund reentry services for parents and programs that support positive youth development.

### For More Information

Learn more about OJJDP's reentry programs at [ojjdp.ojp.gov/programs/reentry](https://ojjdp.ojp.gov/programs/reentry).

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### Funding

Between fiscal years 2019 and 2021, OJJDP awarded \$36.8 million to help justice-involved youth and parents build brighter futures and achieve long-term success.

- ▶ Fiscal Year 2021—\$14.4 million
- ▶ Fiscal Year 2020—\$11.2 million
- ▶ Fiscal Year 2019—\$11.2 million

### From the Field

Based in Oakland, CA, the WE RISE Project serves youth with gang affiliations who are returning to their community after confinement. A dedicated probation officer and a life coach help youth meet the terms of their probation, reintegrate into school, secure employment, strengthen relationships with family and prosocial groups, and disengage from gang activity. Services begin prerelease and continue postrelease.

Staff leverage their knowledge of the community's strengths to provide opportunities and improve outcomes for youth. WE RISE recently helped a youth facing homelessness gain admission to a school that provides room and board. The youth had a voice and a choice in every step of the process.

remarking on the project's youth-centered approach, another former participant said, "My probation officer made me feel like I could come to him with anything. He learned what I'm all about, what matters to me, and what my goals are."



Office of Juvenile Justice and  
Delinquency Prevention  
[ojjdp.ojp.gov](https://ojjdp.ojp.gov)