



## Support HB18-1176: Sunset Offender Reentry Grant Program

Representatives Lee & Wist and Senator Cooke

### Background

In 2014, the General Assembly enacted HB14-1355 establishing a grant program within the Department of Corrections (DOC) to fund eligible community-based organizations that provide reentry services to people on parole in the community. The Offender Reentry Grant Program is administered on behalf of the DOC by the Latino Coalition for Community Leadership. There are currently seven organizations offering reentry services through the Offender Grant Program in 8 locations across the state and \$1.7m was allocated in FY17-18. HB14-1355 required a sunset review of the grant program in 2018.

### Sunset Review Recommendations

The House Judiciary Committee conducted the sunset review hearing and the Department of Regulatory Affairs (DORA) made two recommendations: 1) Continue the WAGEES grant program for an additional 5-years at which point another sunset review will be conducted; and 2) Authorize DOC to release up to one quarter of grant funds to community partners at the beginning of the fiscal year.

In its written review, DORA recommended continuation with another sunset review in 5 years and concluded that:

*Since the WAGEES program's inception in January 2015, it has shown remarkable growth and served over 1,700 people. The potential of the program in reducing recidivism over the long-term is clear.*

DORA's report also indicated that the programs are meeting or exceeding the performance measures:

Performance Standard	Target	Actual
<b>Enrollment rate:</b> The number of enrollment participants should meet or exceed the number stated in the community partner's enrollment plan.	1,250 participants	1,699
<b>Placement rate:</b> Participants placed in employment, short-or long-term occupational training or post-secondary education.	60% of participants	63%
<b>Employment retention rate:</b> Participants receiving an employment-related placement as described above should remain in such placement for at least 90 days	50% of participants	57%
<b>Credential attainment rate:</b> Participants receiving a high school equivalency diploma, occupational training credential, or certificate	50% of participants	72%
<b>Recidivism rate:</b> Participants who are arrested for a new crime or have their parole revoked for technical violations while enrolled in the program.	No more than 20%	9%

The House Judiciary Committee unanimously voted to accept DORA's recommendations and also asked CCJRC and the Latino Coalition for opportunities to expand the grant program, particularly in more rural communities.

Contact: Christie Donner: 303-956-9603 or Terri Hurst: 303-825-0122

**Expansion Opportunities**

CCJRC and the Latino Coalition developed the following expansion opportunities in consultation with the DOC that includes three opportunities: (1) expand funding for current grantees so that they can maximize their ability to serve parolees; (2) add additional grantees, with an emphasis on more rural communities, and (3) develop a gender-specific reentry model that better serves the higher needs of women on parole.

	Clients Currently Serving Annually	FY17-18 Funding	Expanded Capacity Clients Served Annually	FY18-19 Expansion Increased Cost
Expansion of Current Grantees	496	\$1,733,971	844	\$1,094,109
Expansion – New Locations	0	0	565	\$1,364,475*
Expansion – High Needs Women’s Pilot	0	0	225	\$828,000
Totals:	496	\$1,733,971	1,634	\$3,286,584

\* FY 18/19 costs for the expansion sites are prorated for 9 months in the first year. Expansion sites include: Alamosa, Durango, La Junta, Sterling, Longmont, Montrose, Craig, Akron and adding another community partner in Denver-metro and Colorado Springs.

With these three expansion options, the total investment for the DOC reentry grant program would be \$5,020,555 in FY18-19 and \$5,475,380 for each successive year until the follow-up sunset review in 2023.