



## About the Evaluation of the Pathway Home Grant Program

Individuals released from incarceration face substantial obstacles to successful reentry and self-sufficiency once in the community. The Pathway Home Grant pilot program, funded by the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), seeks to help mitigate these obstacles. In 2020 and 2021, DOL awarded nearly \$113 million in Pathway Home grants to two cohorts of grantees across 27 states and Puerto Rico with the goals of increasing the provision of workforce services to eligible incarcerated individuals and strengthening the continuity of pre-release and post-release employment and other support services. DOL's Chief Evaluation Office has partnered with the Employee and Training Administration to conduct an independent evaluation of the Pathway Home grants.

### What prior research is the Pathway Home grant program based on?

Prior research has shown that educational and vocational training programs can reduce recidivism (Davis et al. 2013; MacKenzie 2006; Aos et al. 2006; Saylor and Gaes 1997) and improve employment outcomes (Drake et al. 2009; Wilson et al. 2005; MacKenzie 2006) for individuals released from incarceration. However, reentry programs often do not show consistent effects, likely because of variation in their program models or challenges in implementation quality and study design (Lacoe et al. 2018). More evidence is needed on programs providing other supportive services, such as housing.

The Pathway Home grant program is based on and builds off existing evidence of promising practices. The program is designed to (1) offer a stronger link between pre- and post-release case management, (2) provide skills-based training that leads to industry-recognized credentials, and (3) connect participants to social services and transition supports before release.

### What is the focus of this study?

This study will evaluate the implementation and impact of Pathway Home models and strategies. DOL's Chief Evaluation Office is working with an evaluation team led by Mathematica, along with its partners Social Policy Research Associates and the Council of State Governments Justice Center.

The study aims to build the knowledge base about reentry employment programs by (1) describing how the grantees implemented programs and who they served, (2) identifying successes and challenges of implementation, and (3) assessing the impact of services on participant employment, recidivism, and other outcomes.

### What data will the study collect?

The implementation study will include the following data sources:

1. Review of grant documents (quarterly performance reports, quarterly narrative reports, etc.) and program data from the Workforce Integrated Performance System
2. Interviews and focus groups with program staff to understand structure, partnerships, services, and sustainability
3. Brief, online surveys of program and correctional facility leaders
4. Site visits to a subset of grantees to conduct interviews with program staff and participants before and after release

The impact study will include the following data sources:

1. Background information on participants collected at study/program enrollment
2. Follow-up survey of participants
3. Administrative data on participant service receipt and outcomes from DOL, grantees, and national databases

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When will the study happen?

The study began in September 2020 and will continue until September 2025.

What will the study produce?

For the implementation study, the evaluation team will develop a design report, briefs on early and in-depth implementation of the grants, a report on in-depth implementation, and profiles of the grantees. For the impact study, the evaluation team will develop a design report and an impact evaluation report.

What do we know so far about Pathway Home grant implementation?

From grant materials and conversations with Pathway Home Cohort 1 grantees during their planning phase, the following themes emerged:

- The 2020 grantees partnered with a range of facilities, including jails, prisons, and community-based facilities. Each grantee is working with 1 to 13 facilities.
- Of the 95 facilities that partnered with Pathway Home grantees, 55 percent of facilities served men, 13 percent served women, and 26 percent served both.
- Because of COVID-19 disruptions, more pre-release services took place virtually (15 grantees) and staff at correctional facilities provided more services (7 grantees) across the 2020 cohort.
- Grantees have shared that supportive services such as help securing stable and safe housing are important facilitators of successful reentry and employment.
- Grantees consider case management and coordination of pre- and post-release services to be critical for delivering effective services.

To find out more:

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