

Q&As and Open Discussion

Please note that all questions and answers have been paraphrased. If your questions have not been answered after reviewing the responses below, please send them to the Grants Services Resource Account at RA-LI-BWDA-GS@pa.gov.

Q: Regarding letters of support from a corrections entity, can you please clarify what type of facilities?

A: We would like a support letter from an entity related to criminal justice and can be a really wide range of organizations. For example, it could be an organization like PACTT, probation, parole offices, justice programs you work with such as county prisons and/or organizations that has a justice forward approach. Really what we want to know is that you have support from the community we are trying to serve.

Q: Regarding pre-release services in low to minimum security facilities, are camps included?

A: It would be minimum and low-risk camps, yes. For a list of those camps a link is provided in the NGA. Pennsylvania has a partnership with the Bureau of Prisons to determine which prisons we will work with, which also includes all minimum and low-security prisons in Pennsylvania. So, you want to map out your project not only by time, but by geography. For example, instructors will only go into prisons once or twice per week. You may want to map out if you want to use one instructor per facility or cover more than one, and also what are they doing the other days. Are they prepping for future classes? Are they doing job club instruction for those who might be transitioning to a halfway house? You might want to map that geographically as well as by timeline as well.

Q: I am interested in learning more about the funding opportunity. How our company might be able to get more involved in this initiative?

A: If your company is interested in getting involved with the First Step Act Initiative, they have the following options:

- Attend the Bidders' Conference to find out more information on the Notice of Grant Availability (NGA). For more details on Bidders' Conference, please see NGA found on our [website](#).
- Eligible applicants may submit a proposal due on March 20, 2023, by 4 P.M. ET.
- We may also refer your interest in participation to the awardee. If interested, please email me a letter expressing your collaboration interest, and we will provide this letter to the awarded entity.

Q: Do the rules that come from the federal grant program limit it to former federal inmates and if not, why is it not expanded to former state and county inmates?

A: This project is being funded with grant dollars from the federal departments of Labor (DOL) and Justice (DOJ). Per stipulations set by the federal agencies, funds distributed through the First Step Act Initiative must be used for services to support individuals residing in a minimum- or low-security federal Bureau of Prisons facility or residential re-entry center.