



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. Through this program, DOL awarded nearly \$65 million in grants to 20 grantees across 15 states 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 is the focus of this study?

This study will produce design options for rigorous evaluations of the implementation and impact of Pathway Home models and strategies. DOL's Chief Evaluation Office will work 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 includes an initial knowledge development phase to understand the grant models and recent evidence for reentry strategies. The evaluation team will also convene an advisory group of people with lived experience in reentry programs to inform the evaluation designs. Based on the initial phase, the team will design options for evaluations of (1) start-up and early implementation, (2) in-depth implementation, and (3) the impact of the grants. Design options reports will explore the feasibility of the options presented. Upon review of the design options, DOL will decide whether to move forward with any of the evaluations to contribute to the growing evidence base for reentry employment programs.

What data will the study collect?

The knowledge development phase will include the following data collection efforts:

1. A meeting to gather input on evaluation priorities from staff in DOL's Reentry Employment Opportunities program office
2. A scan of recent literature on reentry models and strategies
3. A review of Pathway Home grant applications and related documents
4. Clarifying calls with each Pathway Home grantee to confirm details of their plans
5. Three meetings with an advisory group of people with lived experience in the justice system and reentry employment programs

When will the study happen?

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

What will the study produce?

During the first year of the study, the evaluation team will deliver a knowledge development memo, design option reports for both the implementation evaluation and impact evaluation, profiles for the 20 grantees, a final briefing for DOL, and a webinar about the evaluation for Pathway Home grantees.

To find out more:

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