



CITY OF RICHMOND
OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF
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ANTIONETTE V. IRVING - SHERIFF



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THE COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs provided seven awards totaling nearly \$5.4 million to assist local jurisdictions, American Indian tribes, and Alaska Native villages with the resources and technical assistance necessary to build partnerships, capacity, and reentry systems to prevent recidivism, reduce crime, and improve public safety. The Richmond City Justice Center was one of the seven agencies to receive funding under the BJA's *Innovations in Reentry Initiative: Reducing Recidivism Through Systems Improvement*.

These awards represent the Administration's commitment to assisting people in America's prisons and detention facilities who have earned the opportunity to take their places back in society.

"High rates of recidivism impact both public safety and the lives of offenders who are unable, unwilling or ill-equipped to break out of the cycle of repeated offenses," said the Office Justice Program's Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General Matt M. Dummermuth. "These awards are an important component of the Department's ongoing attempts to reduce recidivism and promote successful reentry of formerly incarcerated individuals into communities."

The Richmond Sheriff's Office is using the funding to expand its reentry services for inmates, particularly in the areas of education, vocation, job-readiness, substance abuse counseling, and therapeutic services placing an emphasis on individuals who will be released within six months. According to Sheriff Irving, the re-entry process begins as soon as an inmate comes into the facility. We immediately begin to match them to services and programs. Their participation is voluntary; however, we encourage them to take advantage of what we offer to help them better themselves and end the cycle of incarceration. This funding allows us to obtain additional resources, such as the training materials, vocational certifications programs, and human resources we need to offer more comprehensive services. We cannot do it alone. We need the community's support, especially employers who are willing to hire individuals who complete our programs. We also need affordable housing to be available to these individuals as they reentry our community. Fortunately, we have several community organizations, with long standing programs that have the capacity to provide the high-level tracking and reporting that will be required to partner with us in providing services. We are currently working with the Office of Justice Programs to (OJP) develop our execution plan. There will be a lot of scrutiny with this grant; however, OJP is ensuring that we have what we need to be successful and we are structuring ourselves appropriately to maximize the support we are receiving."

April has been declared as National

Second Chance Month. The Richmond City Sheriff's Office (RCSO) concluded the month by hosting its second Annual Reentry Resource Fair on Tuesday, April 30, 2019. This event featured multiple community agencies, organizations, and employers to assist residents with transitional challenges for reentry back into the community. The RCSO's Reentry Resource Fair provides incarcerated individuals with



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resources and referrals in the areas of employment, financial literacy, health care, transitional living assistance, substance abuse support, and social service benefits. The goal is to eliminate any barriers that may exist, and to assist in a successful transition back into society to help our residents begin a new purpose filled life.

The list of the seven recipients of the U.S. Department of Justice’s Office of Justice Programs grant funding is as follows:

<i>Initiative: Reducing Recidivism Through Systems Improvement.</i>	Awardee	Amount Awarded
Recipients include: Awardee State		
California	Alameda County Probation Department	\$997,967
Florida	Broward Sheriff’s Office	\$414,504
Florida	City of Fort Myers Police Department	\$1,000,000
Massachusetts	City of Holyoke Police Department	\$979,057
Ohio	Cuyahoga County Office of Reentry	\$997,080
Texas	Bexar County Commissioners Court	\$500,000
Virginia	City of Richmond, Virginia, Sheriff’s Office	\$500,000

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