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Navajo Nation Probation & Parole Services Awarded 2018 Second Chance Act Grant to Improve Job Readiness for People Leaving Incarceration

Navajo Nation Probation and Parole Services was awarded a \$200,000 federal grant to improve employment outcomes for people returning to their communities from prison or jail. The award is a part of the 2018 Second Chance Act grant program funded and administered by the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs.

People who have criminal records encounter many barriers as they attempt to return to the workforce. Improving employment outcomes for this population may contribute to recidivism reduction and increased public safety.

As a 2018 Second Chance Act grantee, Navajo Probation and Parole Services will develop a comprehensive strategic plan that will enhance community supervision practices in an effort to improve public safety, reduce recidivism and increase job readiness for relatives returning from tribal, state and federal incarceration. The Navajo Nation will work closely with the National Reentry Resource Center—the nation's primary source of information and guidance on reentry—throughout the planning and implementation of the grant program.

Several years ago, the Bureau of Justice Assistance initiated a pilot project called *Integrated Reentry and Employment Strategies*, which tested an innovative approach to reducing recidivism and increasing job readiness for people returning to their communities after incarceration. The Second Chance Act Adult Reentry and Employment Strategic Planning grant program provides funding for strategic planning to replicate the framework developed in the pilot project.

Navajo Probation and Parole Services is dedicated to positively advancing community wellness and the restoration of *hozho* by ensuring the rehabilitation of the client-offender in community-based supervision, and by ensuring the involvement of families, communities and relevant agencies.

Second Chance Act grants support state, local, and tribal governments and nonprofit organizations in their work to reduce recidivism and improve outcomes for people returning to their communities from state and federal prisons, local jails, and juvenile facilities. Since 2009, more than 840 awards have been made to grantees across 49 states, which have served an estimated 164,000 people to date.

To learn more about the Second Chance Act and read other information and resources related to reentry, visit NationalReentryResourceCenter.org.

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