Second Chance Reauthorization Act Introduced

On November 12, in honor of the 15th anniversary of the Second Chance Act, Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT) and Congressmen Jim Costa (D-CA), Dave Joyce (R-OH), Spencer Bachus (R-AL), and Steve Chabot (R-OH)—introduced legislation to reauthorize the second Chance Act. The bill expands the number of eligible jurisdictions and provides increased accountability and outcomes from grants.

Prior to the Second Chance Act, 10 states and 3 Tribal nations had already enacted similar reentry and reintegration programs involving partnerships among state agencies, parole officers, health care providers, and faith-based and community organizations to improve public safety and reduce recidivism. The bill builds on this foundation by helping states, localities, and Tribal Nations develop comprehensive and sustainable reentry and reintegration plans.

The reauthorization bill includes language to explicitly recognize the key role Tribal Nations play in our justice system. "Tribal justice systems are a critical part of our justice system and we must do our part to support them," said Senator Leahy, the bill’s lead sponsor. "I applaud the leadership of Tribal nations and Tribal organizations, including the National Congress of American Indians, the National Tribal Judges Association, the Tribal Law and Order Association, and others for their determination in working toward a system that provides more opportunities for those who have made mistakes to become productive members of our communities."

Laws, Regulations, and Policies

At the Second Chance Act Reauthorization event, the Council of State Governments’ (CSG) Center for Justice and Accountability (CJA) released the next edition of the CSG’s report, "Enhancing State and Tribal Justice Through the Reauthorization of the Second Chance Act." The report analyzes data and lessons learned from the first five years of the program and provides guidance for states and Tribal nations to adapt the program to their unique needs. It also highlights best practices from jurisdictions participating in the program.

The report is available at: .../resource/07/findings-from-second-chance-act-reauthorization-event

For more information, visit: http://www.csg.org/second-chance-act

News You Can Use

Week's Calendar: CBOMB Notification Period Open Soon

The notification period for the Law Enforcement and Community-Based Organizations (LECBOM) program will open from December 12, 2013 to January 14, 2014. This program is designed to improve federal, state, local, or Tribal law enforcement agencies' access to case information about constitutional rights violations, hate crimes, police misconduct, and violent crimes in order to provide better service to victims and assist in law enforcement investigations.

For more information, visit: http://www.ojp.gov/...

Tribal Training and Technical Assistance Center (TTAC) NTTAC Offers Targeted TTA

Since 2009, the TTAC has targeted training and technical assistance (TTA) to address the critical needs of tribal, state, and local criminal justice agencies. The TTAC has identified Crime Analysis as a key area of need and has helped law enforcement agencies better collect and use data to more effectively prevent and respond to crime. Crime Analysis is defined as one example of TTA assistance (TTA/NTTAC) provides. If you know of an organization seeking TTA services, please encourage them to complete an online TTA request form on the TTAC website.

For more information, visit: http://nttac.ojp.gov

Family Drug Abuse Prevention

In December 2012, the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) released the results of its first ever Drug Abuse Victims Survey. The survey, conducted in partnership with the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, is the first of its kind to gather information on the unique needs of drug abuse victims. The national survey was administered to all Tribal, state, and local criminal justice agencies with any substance abuse treatment programs serving justice-involved populations. The survey will provide valuable information to help drug abuse victim advocates, researchers, and government officials better understand the needs of drug abuse victims.

For more information, visit: http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/.../Drug_Abuse_Victims_Survey_Report.pdf

NTTAC’s Focus on Opioid Use

The TTAC has identified opioid use as a critical area of need and has provided states and localities with TTA to address this issue. The TTAC’s emphasis on opioid use includes providing training and technical assistance in the areas of evaluation, data collection, and treatment planning. The TTAC has also developed a series of opioid-specific webinars that are available on the TTAC website.

For more information, visit: http://nttac.ojp.gov

Gun Lake Tribe Tribal Court Program

The Gun Lake Tribe’s Tribal Court is the first in the nation to receive a Targeted Technical Assistance Program grant for its development of its own tribal justice system. The project was developed with the assistance of BJA and technical assistance providers, the state of Minnesota, the Minnesota Judicial Branch, and the state of Arizona. The tribal Court provides speciality courts, including domestic violence, drug court, and mental health court.

For more information, visit: http://www.ojp.gov/.../nttac

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In-Person Training:

• Drug Court: The Role of Judges and Courthouse Staff (December 9, 2013 in Fort Worth, TX) [...]

Online Training & Webinars:

• Tribal Justice: A Collaborative Approach to Criminal Justice Issues (November 26, 2013) [...]

• Tribal Training for Public Safety (December 4 in Phoenix, AZ and December 5, 2013 in Tucson, AZ)

For more information, visit: http://nttac.ojp.gov

Grants & Funding

BJA’s Smart Policing Program

BJA is accepting applications through a solicitation entitled "BJA’s Smart Policing Program." The solicitation seeks applications from States, Tribal Nations, local law enforcement agencies, and non-profit organizations to implement, enhance, or maintain smart policing initiatives. The goal of smart policing is to provide police departments with the opportunity to implement, enhance, or maintain evidence-based crime prevention strategies that improve situational awareness of offender activities and criminal events in their communities.

For more information, visit: http://www.ojp.gov/.../BJA’s_Smart_Policing_Program

In Focus: Tribal

Justice Under Challenge

Federal law enforcement agencies have the authority to investigate criminal offenses committed on or affecting Indian reservations. However, Tribal Nations do not have police departments and are solely responsible for providing public safety services to their communities. This means that Tribal Nations have to work closely with federal and state law enforcement agencies to investigate crimes that violate federal laws.

For more information, visit: http://www.ojp.gov/.../BJA’s_Smart_Policing_Program

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Public Safety Officers’ Benefits (PSOB)

The PSOB program provides death, disability, and education benefits to federal, state, local, and Tribal public safety officers for their acts of bravery. For further information, visit: http://www.ojp.gov/.../Public_Safety_Officers_Benefits

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BJA’s Justice Today

Visit the BJA’s Justice Today blog at http://www.ojp.gov/blog for more information about the Justice Department and its mission.