

# Fact Sheet on Second Chance Act Grant Program Accomplishments



*October 2009–September 2013*

## Introduction

The Second Chance Act of 2007 (SCA)<sup>1</sup> was enacted to break the cycle of criminal recidivism, improve public safety, and help state, local, and tribal government agencies and community organizations respond to the rising populations of formerly incarcerated individuals who return to their communities. SCA authorized \$165 million in grants to state, local, and tribal government agencies and community organizations. SCA grant funds provide employment and housing assistance, substance abuse treatment, family programming, mentoring, victim support, and other services that help people returning from prison and jail to safely and successfully reintegrate into the community.

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) has funded six separate SCA grant programs for formerly incarcerated people and their families:

- Targeting Adults with Co-Occurring Substance Abuse and Mental Health Disorders
- Family-Based Prisoner Substance Abuse Treatment
- Adult Mentoring
- Technology Careers
- Adult Offender Reentry Demonstration
- State, Tribal, and Local Reentry Courts Program.

BJA collaborates closely with the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) on SCA implementation. OJJDP, for instance, funds three complementary categories of SCA grant awards focusing on juveniles returning home—Juvenile Reentry Programs Planning, Juvenile Reentry Programs Implementation, and Reentry Programs for Juveniles with Co-Occurring Substance Abuse and Mental Health Disorders. BJA and OJJDP also work with the National Institute of Justice to fund several empirical evaluations of adult and juvenile offender SCA programs.<sup>2</sup>

A crucial component of BJA-funded SCA programs is the Performance Measurement Tool (PMT). Through PMT, BJA collects quarterly grantee-reported participant- and program-level data to enhance public accountability and to demonstrate the effectiveness and efficiency of SCA programs. This fact sheet provides PMT data from all six of BJA's SCA programs, from their creation in the PMT system through September 30, 2013.

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<sup>1</sup> Pub. L. 110–199

<sup>2</sup> For information about SCA programs administered by OJJDP, see the following report: [Fact Sheet on OJJDP Second Chance Act Grant Program Accomplishments](#).

## Program Accomplishments

Since 2009, BJA has made 493 awards totaling \$243,610,817 to 48 states and U.S. territories, and more than 77,000 individuals have participated in SCA programs. As Table 1 shows, the largest numbers of program participants have been enrolled in either the Mentoring Program or the Reentry Demonstration Program.

Note that PMT data collection for the Reentry Demonstration Program and the Mentoring Program began in October 2009, while data collection for the Co-Occurring, Family-Based, Reentry Court, and Technology Careers programs began in July 2011. Totals are calculated from the beginning of PMT data collection for each respective program. Total calculations include participants who have received both pre- and post-release reentry services.

**Table 1. Participants Served by SCA Program<sup>3</sup>**

SCA Program	Number Served
Co-Occurring	5,574
Family-Based	5,896
Mentoring	20,510
Technology Careers	5,311
Reentry Demonstration	37,905
Reentry Court	2,097
<i>Overall</i>	<i>77,293</i>

<sup>3</sup> Note that these numbers should be interpreted with caution. The number of participants served for each program is calculated using the total number of enrolled participants—both pre- and post-release—in the first reporting period, plus the number of new enrollees in subsequent reporting periods. Since participants are expected to receive both pre- and post-release services over the life of the grant award, some program participants may be double-counted in this total. Efforts have been made to minimize the double-counting. Grantees are now given explicit instructions detailing how to avoid reporting that a program participant received both pre- and post-release services in the same reporting period. Specifically, grantees should report participants as new only in the quarter in which they begin receiving either pre- or post-release services. However, since grantees report aggregate data, double-counting of participants over time could still happen.

## Program Services

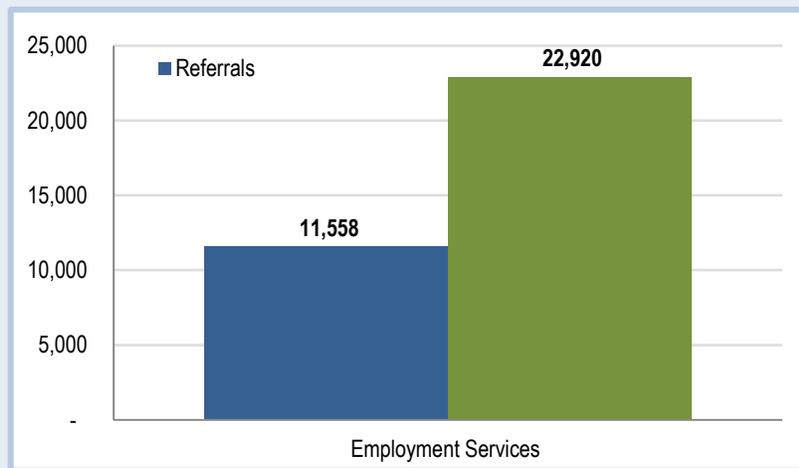
Successful reentry programs and services can help decrease an offender’s likelihood of recidivating.<sup>4</sup> SCA grantees provide a range of services to individuals to help facilitate their successful reentry into society, including employment, education, housing, mental health treatment, substance abuse treatment, and cognitive-based programming. (See Figures 1–5.) All treatment services can be provided either directly by the agency receiving an SCA grant award or via referral to an external service provider.

### Employment Services

Employment services help formerly incarcerated individuals find employment opportunities, obtain gainful employment, and stay employed by providing job assistance and job training. Obtaining and retaining employment increases the likelihood of participants successfully transitioning from incarceration back into the community.

**Figure 1. Participants Receiving Employment Services**

Since 2009, 34,478 SCA program participants (45%) have received employment services. Of the 22,920 participants who received direct employment services, 45% (10,398) obtained employment since 2011.<sup>5,6</sup>

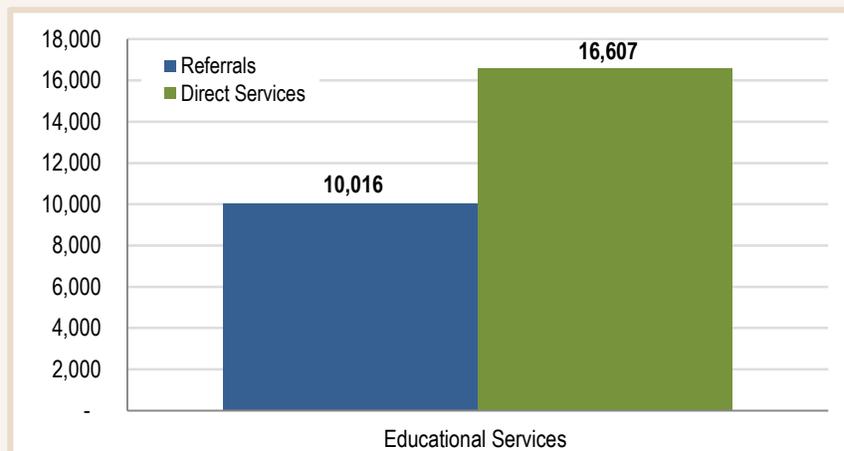


### Educational Services

Educational services foster knowledge and help participants obtain a GED, a vocational certificate, or higher education. By increasing their educational attainment, individuals improve their likelihood of obtaining legitimate employment and of succeeding in the community following their release.

**Figure 2. Participants Receiving Educational Services**

Since 2009, 26,623 participants have received educational services. Of the 16,607 participants who received direct educational services since 2011, 2,023 (12%) obtained a GED, 2,552 (15%) obtained a vocational certificate, and 1,198 (7%) completed higher education.



<sup>4</sup> For more information on the state of empirical evidence for each program service area, visit the *What Works in Reentry Clearinghouse* on the Council of State Governments web site at [whatworks.csgjusticecenter.org](http://whatworks.csgjusticecenter.org).

<sup>5</sup> SCA grantees are not required to provide any information on employment retention or employment type within the PMT system.

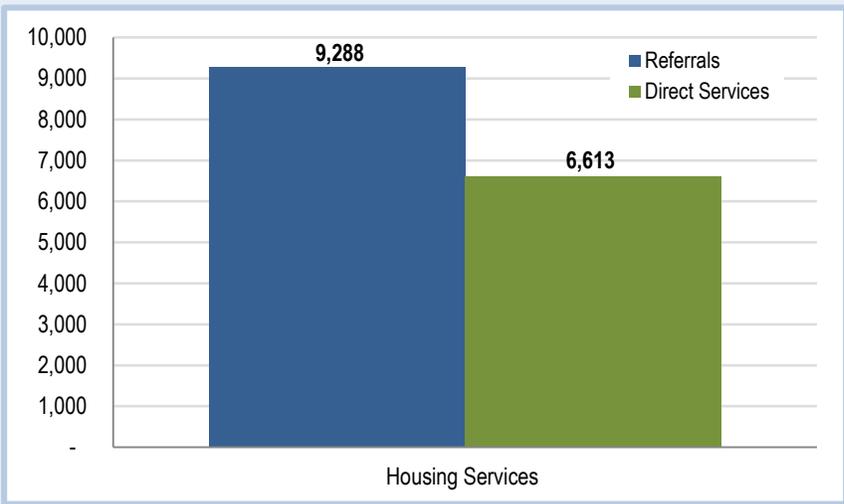
<sup>6</sup> SCA grantees that refer clients to other agencies to receive specific services are required to just provide the PMT with the number of clients referred each reporting period. Grantees that offer direct services to clients are also required to provide data on program outcomes in addition to the number of clients served.

### Housing Services

Upon reentry, formerly incarcerated individuals are immediately faced with the challenge of obtaining suitable housing. Housing services help participants and their families locate and obtain or retain stable, affordable housing.

**Figure 3. Participants Receiving Housing Services**

Since 2009, 15,901 SCA program participants (21%) have received housing services. Of the 6,613 participants who received direct services, 5,089 (96%) obtained housing.

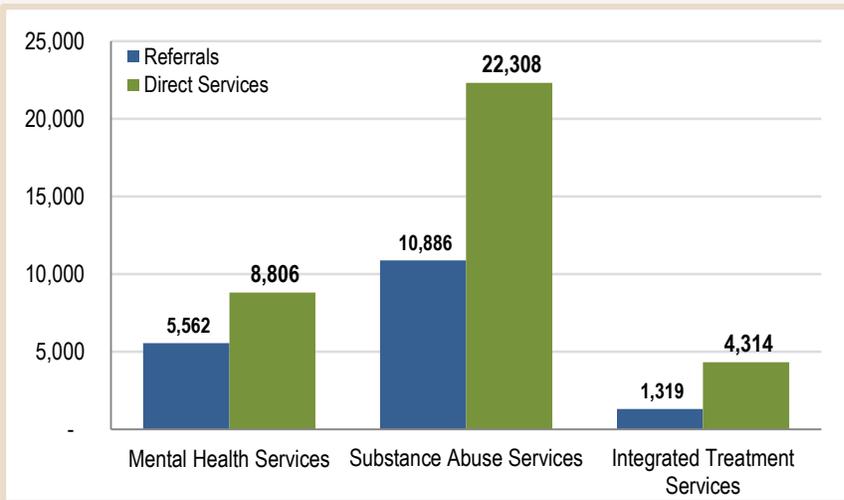


### Treatment Services for Mental Health, Substance Abuse, and Co-Occurring Disorders

Recipients of five of six SCA grant awards provide mental health and substance abuse treatment services. Mental health services focus on helping participants overcome issues that have adversely affected their socialization, learning, and development. Substance abuse services are designed to deter, reduce, or eliminate substance abuse and chemical dependency among program participants. Recipients of Co-Occurring Disorders grants provide integrated treatment services that focus on treating mental health and substance abuse dependency together.

**Figure 4. Participants Receiving Treatment Services**

Since 2009, 13,628 participants (18%) have been provided with mental health services, and 33,194 participants (43%) have been provided with substance abuse services. Since 2011, 5,633 participants (7%) have been provided with integrated treatment for co-occurring disorders.

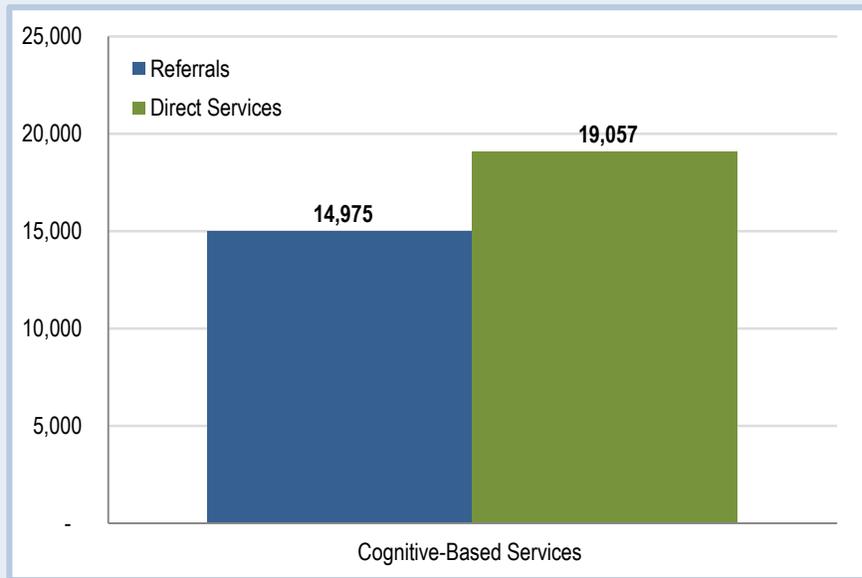


### Cognitive-Based Services

Cognitive-based services aim to address the thought patterns, feelings, and behaviors of program participants. These program services aim to help individuals change how they think and act, subsequently reducing their likelihood of recidivating.

**Figure 5. Participants Receiving Cognitive-Based Services**

Since 2009, 34,482 participants (45%) have received cognitive-based treatment services. The majority of participants (56%) received cognitive-based services directly provided by SCA grant recipients.



### Conclusion

Since 2009, SCA grant recipients have provided employment, educational, housing, mental health, substance abuse, and cognitive-based services to more than 77,000 participants. These services have undoubtedly contributed substantially to the safe and successful reintegration of program participants into the community. With continued funding, SCA programs can further facilitate successful reentry while increasing public safety and reducing correctional spending.